



Kensington Presbyterian Church
Growing in faith and sharing God's love
since 1786

Where is Jesus?

October 27, 2024

WELCOME, we come to you from the un-ceded lands of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation.

We are offering a variety of ways for people to gather. We are welcoming people to worship in person (with singing), as well as through Zoom, YouTube, and this printable PDF.¹ If this is how you are worshipping, know that you are not alone... and if you like, you can invite those who live with you to join you, or connect with others through the phone or outside.

If you have any prayer requests, ideas, or just want to talk, please reach out to your elder or Rev. Peter (Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca).



Announcements

Clicking on or tapping blue text will take you to a web-site

Choir: Sunday mornings at 9:45.

Zoom Prayer Group: Wednesday at 6:30 a.m.

[us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107?pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNIUrUT09)

[pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNIUrUT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107?pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNIUrUT09)

Jesus & Java: Join us as we share the joys and questions of faith.

Thursday, 3:30 pm at Beetz, 5914 Sherbrooke @ Clifton

Bible Study: pizza at 6:30, episode of *The Chosen* & discussion

Drop Box: Food donations are welcome for the local Food Pantry, diapers for young mothers through Head & Hands.

¹ note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.



Shin Maeng

Danish Christmas Bazaar at St. Ansgar's Sat., Nov. 2nd, 10-3
4020 Grand Blvd (corner NDG Ave / Grand Blvd)
Danish Christmas theme with food, new and vintage items,
Christmas decorations, and many more treasures...
(please bring your own bags...or tupperware for take-out)

Funerals

Elisabeth Seignette: Nov 2nd, here at 1:00pm and over zoom

Therese Tollette: November 16th, more details to follow.

Contacts

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Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor).....Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca
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Zoé Dupont-Foisy (music director).....zoedupontfoisy@hotmail.com

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Approaching God



Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship

Come, Christians, join to sing -

hallelujah, amen!

Loud praise to Christ our King -

hallelujah, amen!

Christ calls his people friends,

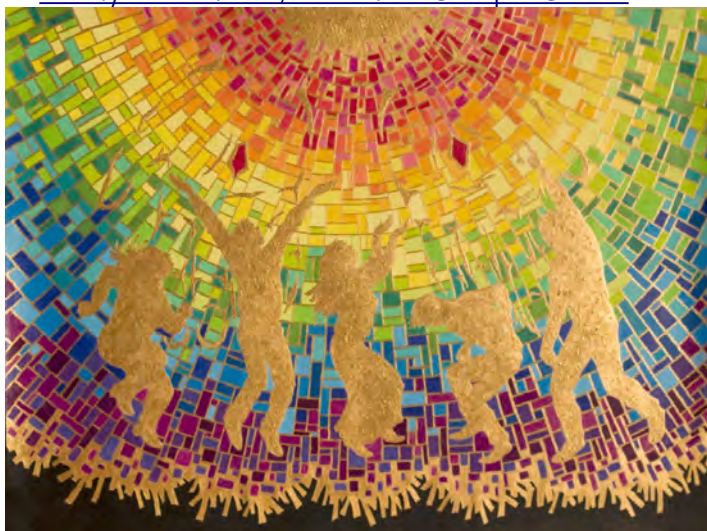
Lost, outcast he defends

with love that never ends -

hallelujah, amen!²

♪ Hymn: Come, children, join to sing.....pg 9 (377)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Owqj33Ounns



there is joy in the presence of Jesus - Rebecca Brogan

2 from ♫ Come, children, join to sing



Prayer of Approach

Creator of the universe,
and of us.

You know us outside and in,
and still you came.

Dear Jesus,

you became one of us

to give us a glimpse of God

You saw people at their best,

and at their worst.

You see us at our best, and at our worst.

You see us try and fail.

And you don't leave.

You don't reject us,

you keep coming to where we are.

Joining our lives

and inviting us to join yours.

But we are afraid of what that might mean.

What will the changes be?

Will it be too much?

Will you ask us to do what we can't?

Will we fail?

Dear Jesus,

Please forgive our doubts,

and help our belief.

Please forgive us when we let you down,

but clinging to our security, and not trusting yours.

Please forgive us when we let your Kingdom down

through our actions, and when we don't act.

Please forgive us.

...and help us to remember that you don't leave us.

Help us to feel your Spirit working inside us,
building our faith,
so we can accept your forgiveness
and share your future.

As we live into your future,
we sing together the pray you teach your students:



The Lord's Prayer (please use a version you are comfortable with)

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
Amen.



Listening to God



Children's Time

The Bible is an important book because it tells us about people's experiences with God. By reading it we can learn about God... and this can teach us to see the world like God does.

It's good to read big chunks of the Bible to get a bigger picture, but let's hear a short story. It's about Jesus and children.

Afterwards I'm going to ask what Jesus thinks of children - and

what that means about how we should live.

Some people brought children to Jesus for him to place his hands on them, but the disciples scolded the people. When Jesus noticed this, he was angry and said to his disciples, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, because the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I assure you that whoever does not receive the Kingdom of God like a child will never enter it." Then he took the children in his arms, placed his hands on each of them, and blessed them.³



Jesus blesses children - Annie Vallotton

What Jesus thinks of children? (*likes them, important, ...*)

If that's true,

then is it okay for you to talk to God?

Does God want you to be a part of the church?

(to be listened to? to help out? ...)

Should other people think you're important?

Now the challenge is to live like this.
Perhaps we can help each other?

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for inviting children to join you.

Help us to invite others to get to know you.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Breathe on me breath of God.....pg 10 (389)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=1N_EXkWA-qM

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
so that our faith will grow to match your dreams.

Amen.

Intro to the readings

We're leaving the lectionary this week because I want to share with you a bit of what I've been doing as a part of a national committee that's been asked to find stories of hope and possibilities for the future of the denomination.

We started by getting to know each other and sharing stories that brought us hope. We felt it was important that anything we were to propose be based on the Bible - a bit like what we did in the children's time. We shared various passages from the Bible that spoke to the denomination now, and decided on the end of the Gospel According to John. This led to us spending time with this passage and considering what it was telling us. You'll hear it soon.

Leading into this passage Jesus was crucified. Peter, another disciples, and Mary Magdalene discovered the tomb was empty. Mary then talked with a couple of angels, and then Jesus. She tells the disciples. That was in the morning, the passage starts in the evening.


You'll hear that the disciples were afraid of the Jews. This is odd as they were Jews. Most likely they were afraid of a group of people, such as those who had arranged for Jesus to be killed. Broadening this to include all Jews likely reflects when the gospel was written 60-90 after the events when the early Christians were separating from their Jewish roots.

As you listen, think about

- Who do you relate to?

- Where is God?
What is God doing?
- What's it saying to us?

Even if you've never heard anything from the Bible before, I think the Holy Spirit will bring things to your attention. As it's a long passage we'll give her two chances. After which you'll have a chance to share your thoughts, and I'll share some thoughts we had.

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁴ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[John 20](#): 19-29

[John 21](#): 1-17



Appearance to Thomas - Butler

⁴ If you'd like a new Bible with helpful notes, I recommend the 'Life with God Bible' NRSV from Renovaré. ISBN 0061834963
or for the more academically inclined, The New Oxford Study Bible NRSV

✦ Sermon: Where is Jesus

*Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts. Amen.*

- Who do you relate to?
- Where is God?
What is God doing?
- What's it saying to us?

The first thing we noticed is that this passage includes us. It's not just a nice story of the original disciples. After Thomas declares he believes Jesus includes all who believe.

We then noticed that the disciples were afraid. There's lots of reasons they had, and lots of reasons we can have, to be afraid. This passage acknowledges that, and provides hope.

For example: Jesus appears with the disciples in unlikely, even impossible, places. Jesus goes to where they are (such as the locked room)... and is out in the world ahead of them (he already has fish on the fire). For us this would have Jesus showing up at church, in your home, and everywhere you go (grocery store, the bus, ... Take a moment and think of some places that you go during the week - and think about Jesus being there.)

Jesus gives them peace. Jesus gives us peace. Do you feel it? I expect that you do sometimes, but not all the time - neither did they. A week later they're still afraid in the locked room. I encourage you to notice when you feel peace, and to practice leaning into Jesus/God when you don't - because Jesus is there - no matter how much you've locked yourself away from what is disturbing you.

Jesus breathes into them *the Spirit* - like God breathing into humans in the creation story. This gives them life and power. You

and I also have this power.⁵ You may or may not feel powerful, but when working with God's Spirit... impossible things can happen.

We liked that Jesus had breakfast ready for the disciples. They'd worked hard doing what they knew, and Jesus fed them. God, our creator, recognizes our needs.

Jesus is compassionate. The disciples keep not getting things right. On that first night Jesus sends them to share God's amazingness. A week later they are still in the room with the door locked. That said, they did have a chance. Thomas came to them. Someone who was one of them. He should be the easiest person on the planet to convert - and they are total failures. Still, Jesus comes to them. And later Jesus finds they've gone back to their old ways - and still not caught any fish. (did he mean people?) And so he feeds them. Don't worry about failing. Jesus gives compassion and forgiveness to all who want to do better.



Breakfast on the Beach - Peter Koenig

What is Jesus interested in? What should the focus be one, if not success and failure? Belief. Faith. Inviting the world to grow in faith, and sharing God's gifts of love, hope and healing. Part of

⁵ and many others too. This may water-down the impact, but it doesn't. This is a multiplying not a thinking.

this story is that Jesus (not a fisherman) tells the professionals (who know what they're doing) to do something that is silly/ridiculous - to throw the nets on the other side. They do what Jesus says, and the ridiculously impossible happens. Success beyond their imagination. What sort of crazy ideas can you imagine? Perhaps we should pray & talk about them. It seems that God can do wonders.

Which makes this a story of hope and possibility (the mandate of the committee⁶). It acknowledges the fear that is in the denomination. It also reminds us that Jesus is with us when we gather, when we go out, and that Jesus sends us out. When we go engage outside, God's Spirit will give us strength and Jesus will nourish us. We will fail, but God will not leave us. We 'just' need to focus on following & believing - and incredible things will happen.

and we believe this will help the denomination (and Kensington) have a future... but that it's not about us - it's about Jesus.

*and to God be all the glory
Amen.*



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: Come to us beloved stranger.....pg 10 (262)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjU9CkSEAEU

☞ FaithTalk: These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies.

Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Memories: When have you felt at peace? What did it feel like?

Values: How can you lean into Jesus/God/Spirit for peace?

Wonder: Where will you be today? tomorrow? What appointments do you have this week? Think about each of these events, and that Jesus is already there.

Visions: Consider what God wants and ignore all logic or practicality - what would Kensington be like? Then pray for this (and that God's will be done)

Actions: Consider how you could gather (possibly the conversation you're having now), and be sent out. Remember to respect how God made you (interests, gifts, nature, and current abilities)... and to allow God to help you grow.

Prayer: ...thank God for your belief, and to help with your unbelief.⁷

✦ Spirit Sightings

This week I heard a number of stories at the meeting. One of them is about a congregation that was vacant and wondering about their existence. In the midst of this an immigrant or refugee showed up among them - unexpectedly, even improbably appears. They decided to drop the examination of vision and finances and committees. Instead they started a group that shared a meal, a study on one of the gospels, and prayed. They build community and relationships - and more people have appeared. They focused on Jesus and something is happening.

This is the Holy Spirit at work.

⁶ Also in the mandate is suggesting pathways and institutional change. We're still working on these parts.

⁷ Jesus said to him, 'If you are able!—All things can be done for the one who believes.' Immediately the father of the child cried out, 'I believe; help my unbelief!' - Mark 9: 23-24



Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on our **website**: kensingtonchurch.ca. Just click the '**Donate Now**' button, and then the pretty button. It gives you various options that are easy to follow.

You can also donate through **interac e-transfer**. Our name is Kensington Presbyterian Church and the e-mail address is info@kensingtonchurch.ca.

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) are also good options.



Prayers of the people

Our prayer this morning was led by Sybil. You may use this to guide your own prayer.

We praise you, God our creator, for your handiwork
in shaping and sustaining your wondrous creation.

We especially thank you for:

the miracle of life and the wonder of living . . .
particular blessings coming to us in this day . . .
the resources of the earth . . .
gifts of creative vision and skillful craft . . .
the treasure stored in every human life. . . .

We pray for others, God our Saviour,
claiming your love in Jesus Christ for the whole world
and committing ourselves
to care for those around us in his name.

We especially pray for
those who work for the benefit of others . . .
those who cannot work today . . .
those who teach and those who learn . . .

people who are poor . . .
the church in persecution. . . .

God our creator,
yours is the morning, and yours is the evening.
Let Christ, the sun of righteousness,
shine forever in our hearts
and draw us to the light of your radiant glory.

We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.
Amen. ⁸

♪ Hymn: The love of God comes close.....pg. 11 (474)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyZZFS1njGo



Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:13)

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.*
Amen.



MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, October 27

In Guatemala, gender-based violence has been and continues to be one of the most obvious forms of gender inequality. To address this, PWS&D is supporting a project that



speaks to the problem of violence against women. Adolescents and young women participate in workshops where they learn about their rights and build their self-esteem and dignity. In addition, the project raises awareness among young men through workshops where they learn about machismo, identify what violence against women looks like and promote commitments to eliminate it.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, October 27 (Reformation Sunday) Strengthen our hearts, O God; make them eager to serve you and your purposes.

Monday, October 28 We pray for Knox College students as they step away from scheduled classes for their Reading Week (Oct 28-Nov 1), for refreshment and renewal as they prepare to return for the final assignments and commitments of the Fall 2024 semester.

Tuesday, October 29 We pray for the Indigenous leaders and ministers of the PCC's Indigenous ministries as they cope with the stress and grief of caring for people affected by poverty, illness and premature death through drug overdose.

Wednesday, October 30 We pray for guests from Taiwan and Japan who participated in the Global Ecumenical Learning Community and *uplift 2024: Audacious Hope* as they share their experiences with their home churches.

Thursday, October 31 (Reformation Day) We give thanks for God's grace and guidance and pray that we will not become complacent but rather open to the guidance of God's Spirit.

Friday, November 1 (All Saints Day) We thank God for knitting us into one fellowship; for the people who have gone ahead of us in the faith and who loved us, formed our faith and served God with joy and grace.

Saturday, November 2 We pray that God will strengthen those displaced by conflict in Gaza as they receive support from PWS&D's partners, including food assistance, health care and psychological support.

377

Come, children, join to sing

MADRID 6 6 6 6 D

Bb F/C Bb/D Eb /G Bb /Ab Eb/G Eb6 Bb/F F Bb

1. Come, chil- dren, join to sing—
2. Come, lift your hearts on high— hal - le - lu - jah, a - men—
3. Loud now our voic - es raise—

Bb F/C Bb/D Eb /G Bb /Ab Eb/G Eb6 Bb/F F Bb

praise to our Ser- vant King,
let prais- es fill the sky— hal - le - lu - jah, a - men!
no power can still our praise—

F Bb/D F7/C Bb F F Bb F7/A Bb F

Let all with heart and voice saved by God's gra- cious choice,
Christ calls his peo- ple friends; lost, out- cast he de- fends
On heav- en's bles- sed shore, God's good- ness we'll a- dore

Bb F/C Bb/D Eb /G Bb /Ab Eb/G Eb6 Bb/F F Bb

now in this place re- joice—
with love that nev- er ends— hal - le - lu - jah, a - men!
sing - ing for - ev - er- more—

389

Breathe on me, breath of God

TRENTHAM 6 6 8 6 SM

F Bb/F Bbm/F F /A C7/GF Bb6 Dm/BbC F Bb/FGm6

1. Breathe on me, breath of God; fill me with life a - new, that I may
 2. Breathe on me, breath of God; un - til my heart is pure, un - til with
 3. Breathe on me, breath of God; till I am whol - ly thine, un - til this
 4. Breathe on me, breath of God; so shall I nev - er die, but live with

F/A F Bbmaj7 Bb6 Gm /Bb F/C (C F/C) C7 F

love what thou dost love and do what thou wouldst do.
 thee I will one will to do and to en - dure.
 earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
 thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

Words: Edwin Hatch (1835–1889) Music: Robert Jackson (1840–1914)

Words: public domain Music: public domain



Pentecost - Kelly Latimore

Come to us, beloved Stranger

BEACH SPRING 8787D

Unison

F Gm/F F Gm/F F/E Bb/D Bbmaj7 C

1. Come to us, be - lov - ed Stran - ger, as you came that
2. Stay with us and give us bless - ing, that our hopes a -
3. We would nev - er fail to see you as you walk with

Bb Gm7 F C7/E F /A Bb6 Dmsus4-3

East - er day. Walk with us to our Em - ma - us,
gain may rise. Of - fer us your bro - ken bo - dy;
us each day. As a friend and not a stran - ger

Gm7 Am7 Bb6 F (Dm) C7 F/C Bb C

for we need you still to - day. Come to us when we are
o - pen our un - see - ing eyes. Come to us, God's love em -
you would join us on our way. Help us trust that through your

F /E Dm Am 7 Dm Gm7 Bb/C Gm6

bro - ken, when our dear - est hopes are lost, speak to
bod - ied; touch our hearts with burn - ing flame. Ris - en
mer - cy we can doubt and fear tran - scend, and to

F /E Dm 7 Gm Dm/F Gm7 Am Bb Gm7 F

us the pro - phets' mes - sage you ful - filled up - on the cross.
Christ, once dead, now liv - ing, come to us through joy, through pain.
oth - ers be a bless - ing. Keep us faith - ful till life's end!

Words: Edith Sinclair Downing (1922-) Music: attributed to Benjamin Franklin White (1800-1879) from Sacred Harp 1844; harmony, James H. Wood CCLI #4440603

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Christ's is the world

DREAMANGUS 8999

Unison Bm Em C Dsus4 - 3

1. Christ's is the world in which we move;
 2. Feel for the peo - ple we most a - void—
 3. Feel for the par - ents who've lost their child,
 4. Feel for the lives by life their con - fused,

Em Bm G Em (C/E)

Christ's are the folk we're sum-moned to love;
 strange or be - reaved or nev - er em - ployed.
 feel for the wom - en whom have de - filed.
 rid - dled with doubt, in lov - ing a - bused;

G Bm Em D Bm

Christ's is the voice which calls us to care, and
 Feel for the wom - en and feel for the men who
 feel for the ba - by for whom there's no breast,
 feel for the lone - ly heart, con - scious of sin, and which

Em C Dsus4 - 3

Christ is the one who meets us here.
 fear that their liv - ing is all in vain.
 feel for the wea - ry who find no rest.
 longs to be pure but fears to be - gin.

Refrain
Harmony

G (/F#) Em Am 6 G/B C Dsus4 - 3

To the lost, Christ shows his face;

Em 7 Bm G Am C6 Em (C/E)

to the un - loved, he gives his em - brace;

G (C6/E Bm/D) D/C G/B D7 G Am Em D Em

to those who cry in pain or dis - grace, Christ

D (Cmaj7) Bm7 Em C6 Am7 Cmaj7 Dsus4 - 3

makes, with his friends, a touch - ing place.

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