



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

Whale of a tale

November 17, 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

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

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

Nov 29: Arthur Christmas (with Santa played by: James McAvoy, Bill Nighy, Hugh Laurie & Jim Broadbent)

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.



National Presbyterian book club for advent

reading *Ponder these things* by Rev. Rowan Williams (previous archbishop of Canterbury). You could join the national discussion, and/or we can have our own group.

presbyterian.ca/2024/11/07/ponder-these-things-an-advent-study

Contacts

Church Office: 514-486-4559.....info@Kensingtonchurch.ca

Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor).....Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca
 514-773-4620

Zoé Dupont-Foisy (music director).....zoedupontfoisy@hotmail.com

Rose Ngo Mbenoun (Clerk of Session).....admin@Kensingtonchurch.ca



Approaching God



Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship²

God sees the potential good in everyone

God's compassion knows no limit.

The Lord is gracious and merciful

slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Let this soak in

**letting whatever holds you back float away
and simply accept—**

**God loves,
and so we worship.**

♪ Hymn: God of mercy, God of grace.....pg 8 (39)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=60gxtlo2-i4



Prayer of Approach³

Creator of all, lover of all:

unstintingly generous,

unfailingly gracious,

abounding in steadfast love,

O Lord, our God,

we praise you.

When we have heard your call

and gone running in the opposite direction,

forgive us.

² adapted from *Spill the Beans* #20

³ adapted from *Spill the Beans* #20



Jonah - Lyuba Yatskiv

When we have focused upon ourselves,
sought comfort in everything else but you,
forgive us.

When we have ignored the suffering of others,
and slept through storms of our own making,
forgive us.


When our actions drag others down.
forgive us.

When we hold to our ideas
and denied your love and grace to others,
forgive us.


Free us to be your people.
Created in your image,
you call us to reflect your loving-kindness,
generosity, compassion, and grace to all.

May your Spirit help us widen the boundaries of our
imagination;
help us be slow to anger,
slow to judgement,
and swift to mercy.

And may she help us to live the prayer you teach . . .

 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.**

 Assurance of Pardon
Hear the good news...
All who turn from sin in sorrow,
All who turn to God in hope,
this is God's word of grace:
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Amen.



Listening to God

♪ Hymn Sing: This is a time when we sing several hymn requests.


You can join in on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/channel/UC_EPsf2FuWoeen7j1iGcz_w

 Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
so try to follow your way of living.

Amen.

 Intro to the readings

Today we're going to tell the entire story of Jonah. Before you get too worried, it's about the same length as our normal readings.


Jonah is the main character and God tells him to go to the capital of the Assyrian Empire. People in Israel, where Jonah lived, didn't like Assyrians. Are there people you don't like?

Some people in Montreal don't like Argos fans because they beat the Alouettes. This is worse.

Maybe there's somebody at school you don't like - or even a group of people. Apparently there are some elected people in the government who are blaming immigrants, people with a religion, and people who aren't white for the problems in Québec. Is this right? Today's story will tell us.

If you're wondering how bad the relationship was, think about present day Israel and their neighbours - except that there were no wars at the time.

Jonah isn't your typical prophetic book. It's written like a story - and a bit of a silly one. As we tell it to you, listen for things that might be funny (ridiculous or exaggerations). Notice what Jonah does, and what those evil outsiders do. What could the lesson be?

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁴ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.
[Jonah](#) - the whole book



Jonah - J A Swanson

✧ Sermon: Whale of a tale

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

Let's brainstorm what was silly or an exaggeration.

- Jonah running from the creator of everything
 - and in the opposite direction
 - and to the ends of the earth
- Jonah sleeping during the storm that experienced sailors feel will smash the ship to pieces
 - Jonah's concerns don't seem to be connected with reality
- a fish big enough to swallow Jonah
- that even the animals were sackcloth (chickens, pigs, ...)
- Jonah pouting
- there's a bush, worm, fish, and outsiders (sailors and Ninevites) who all listen to God better than the prophet.
 - and when they hear God they change their ways to follow, while Jonah tries the opposite
- that Jonah assumes God will save him, despite his actions, but is angry that God saves those in Nineveh
- that the ending just stops... did Jonah ever get it

There's a lot in this tale. There are several lessons that can be taken. I'm going to mention two.

There's a strong message about insiders and outsiders - and who God chooses. In short: everyone. Als fans and Argos. Christian and Jew/Muslim/Hindu/atheist/etc. Francophone and immigrant. Israeli and Palestinian (even Iranian). Jesus said to love your enemies. Here's an example of God loving the enemies of the Chosen People. This isn't to say that God approves of what

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

everyone does - but God loves everyone and wants them to live in a right way. Which way is that? *“To love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength - and to love your neighbour as yourself.”*

While that sounds easy, it can be hard - but imagine the world if everyone lived that way!

One aspect that makes it hard is when it's a pattern in our thinking that we don't even notice. This can make the next point hard as well.

God's justice isn't retribution. It includes mercy for those who change their ways. Can you think of somebody who hurt you in some way... and not want them to feel some of your pain. Instead, be glad if they recognize they're wrong, try to change, and receive mercy. This doesn't mean everything is undone, but can you let go?

What's this mean for us?

Be aware whenever you assume that somebody is bad and can't change - you might be wrong. Be aware that God loves them and is working to help them - just as God is there to help you. Remember that change can happen when people hear about God - especially your experience (your witness) to God's love, hope & healing.

...and that there's silliness in the Bible.

To wrap up this section, Rose D will lead us in our responsive psalm.

 Reading: [Psalm 145](#): 8-21 (or the whole thing)



Responding to God

Our next hymn is based on the prayer Jonah offered God from the belly of the big fish.

♪ Hymn: Jonah's Song.....pg.9
www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoWcWk54pHc



Jonah the Prophet - Sargis Babayan



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: What do you find the funniest part of Jonah?

Values: What do you feel justice looks like? What is the role of mercy? How could this work 'in the real world'? or How could the real world work in God's kingdom?

Values: Who is your enemy? (possibly a strong word for you,
but consider it anyway)

Why are they your enemy?

How could you practice loving your enemies?

Visions: What would it be like if everyone followed the
'golden rule' of loving God and each other first
before any other priority? ...and that loving others
includes not forcing them to be exactly like you.

Prayer: ...that we can love our neighbours as God does.

Spirit Sightings

As I thought about the last week I was drawn to last Sunday.
There was a very nice 'vibe' or sense of community here. I think
God is doing something at Kensington and I'm excited to share it
with others - and I hope you are too (you probably know more
people than I do).

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

God of the heavens,
the earth,
and the seas;
God of all that has been,

all that is,
and all that is yet to be;
we pray for our world.

We pray for creation,
for bushes, worms, & fish
and that every part of creation has a role
in sharing your glory...
Please help us to notice
and respect creation.

Help us also to pay attention and respect other people,
people we'll see this week
and those around the world
people who know you
and those who need to hear your word
Help us to be open to people we don't like.

Jesus, we pray for justice
to help bring safety and healing to relationships...
and that repentance will lead to mercy...

We pray for compassion to grow
between everyone who disagrees
so that they may hear and respect each other.

We pray especially where this is a large scale:
Ukraine, Israel & its neighbours, Haiti, Central Africa, ...

This week,
may your Spirit speak so that we can hear,
eyes to see
and the strength to live out your will.

In Jesus name
Amen.

♪ Hymn: All people that on earth do dwell.....pg 8 (65)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xM6Ke4IKJM
www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXX_3nWbpTc (just piano)

✦ 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 you all.
Amen.*



MISSION MOMENT **Sunday, November 17**

With support from Presbyterians Sharing, Action Réfugiés Montréal provides hope and assistance to refugees through social programming, sponsorship, and raising awareness of refugee rights. The organization operates the popular "Twinning Program," which pairs newly arrived refugee women with women already residing in Montreal. Through frequent meetings and group activities, these "twins" forge bonds of friendship and solidarity. The program plays a crucial role in mitigating isolation and addressing barriers that these women encounter in their daily lives.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, November 17 (Legacy Giving Sunday) We pray for all the people in congregations who leave a legacy gift—a bequest, a charitable gift annuity, a gift of life insurance—so that we may have vibrant ministry, today and tomorrow.

Monday, November 18 (Restorative Justice Week, Nov. 17-23) We give thanks for the Church Council on Justice and Corrections, and its work to support healing for people and communities harmed by crime, fear and system injustices.

Tuesday, November 19 We pray for those who lack access to proper sanitation and for PWS&D programs that are working to provide water, sanitation and hygiene measures.

Wednesday, November 20 (Trans Day of Remembrance) We remember those who have died because of transphobic violence. We lament the church's role in contributing to prejudice and hatred of transgender people and commit to working for a future where trans people can flourish.

Thursday, November 21 We pray for chaplains in hospitals and long-term care homes as they continue to provide comfort, offer hope, and minister during moments that matter.

Friday, November 22 We pray for the four Women's Missionary Society members travelling to Nepal to learn about the work it supports there.

Saturday, November 23 We pray for PCC staff and committees who help and walk with the leaders of the Indigenous ministries of the PCC.

God of mercy, God of grace

G D/F# G C/E D7/F# G C D/C G/B C

1. God of mer - cy, God of grace, show the bright - ness
 2. Let the peo - ple praise you, Lord; be by all that
 3. Let the peo - ple praise you, Lord; earth shall then its

G/D D G Em Am/C G/B Am 6 Bsus4 - 3

of your face. Shine up - on us, Sav - iour, shine;
 live a - dored. Let the na - tions shout and sing;
 fruits af - ford. Un - to us your bless - ing give;

Cmaj7 D/C G/B Am7 G/B (A /G) Dsus4 - 3 G D/F# G

fill your world with light di - vine, and your sav - ing
 glo - ry to their gra - cious King; at your feet their
 we to you de - vot - ed live, all be - low and

D/F# D G C D/C G/B C/E G/D D 7 G

health ex - tend un - to earth's re - mot - est end.
 trib - ute pay, and your ho - ly will o - bey.
 all a - bove, one in joy and light and love.

Words: Psalm 66; paraphrase, Henry Francis Lyte (1793–1847), alt Music: Conrad Kocher (1786–1872); arrangement, William Henry Monk (1823–1889)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

All people that on earth do dwell

OLD 100th 8 8 8 8 LM

G D Em Bm Em D G

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing
 2. Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with -
 3. Oh en - ter then his gates with praise; ap -
 4. For why, the Lord our God is good; his

D Em C G D Em D/F# G D G/B

to the Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with mirth; his
 out our aid he did us make; we are his flock, he
 proach with joy his courts un - to; praise, laud and bless his
 mer - cy is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

C Am6 G D/F# G Em 6 D Am G/B /C D 7 G

praise forth tell. Come ye be - fore him and re - joice.
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

Words: Psalm 100; paraphrase, William Kethe (c. 1535–1594) as in Scottish Psalter 1650
 Music: Genevan Psalter 1551; last line from Ravenscroft's Psalter 1621; fauxbourdon, John Dowland (1563–1626) Words: public domain Music: public domain

Jonah's Song

Em Am

1 In my trou - ble, in my trou - ble I
 2 I was sink - ing, I was sink - ing in
 3 Those who wor - ship worth - less i - dols will

Em B7 Em

cried out to the Lord, my God, and,
 dark - ness to the o - cean floor, and,
 nev - er know the grace of God, but,

Em Am

Lord, you heard me; yes, you heard me;

Em B7 Em

from the depths you heard my cry.

Am D G

Though the wa - ter swirled a - round me,
 When my prayer came to your tem - ple,
 With a song of high thanks - giv - ing

Am B7 Em

though the deep waves thun - dered o'er me,
 you stretched out your might - y hand.
 I will sac - ri - fice to God.

Am D G Em

Lord, you saved me; yes, you saved me. You

B7 Em

would not let your ser - vant die.

Words: Edith Bajema Music: Vicki Williams, 1994 © 1994, CRC Publications