



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

## *Catching the catch*

January 26, 2025

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

We're glad this PDF has come to you.<sup>1</sup> If you're using a device, clicking on or tapping blue text will take you to a web-site. We are also welcoming people to worship in person on Sundays at 10:30, over Zoom, and on YouTube. Know that you are not alone.

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*

**Sunday Singing:** Join Zoé Sundays at 10 to run through the day's music, and sometimes other tunes.

#### **Prayer Groups:**

**Zoom:** Wednesday 6:30 am

**Woman's Prayer Group:** Thursdays 2-3:30 pm at Cathy's house  
 talk to Ines or Cathy for more information

**Bible Study on Luke:** Wednesday 7-8 pm over zoom and in person

**Jesus & Java:** Thursday, 3:30 pm at Beetz, 5914 Sherbrooke @ Clifton  
 A casual discussion about life and God

**Friday pizza & movies:** 6:30 pizza followed by movie  
 RSVP with Peter appreciated Jan 31: Howl's Moving Castle

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

<sup>1</sup> note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.



Great catch - John August Swanson

### *Contacts*

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## Approaching God



### Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Chris est la lumière du monde.  
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



### Call to worship

Called to push our boats out  
**we pray for smooth waters.**  
Called to cast our nets  
**we pray for a large catch.**  
Called,  
**in faith, we've come.<sup>2</sup>**

♪ Hymn: Good Christians all rejoice #2-3.....pg 10 (141)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=2nln8AwveCl](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2nln8AwveCl)



<sup>2</sup> adapted from *Spill the Beans* #21



### Prayer of Approach

God of abundance and opportunity,  
you challenge our assumptions:  
even when we think we know it all,  
you have new discoveries for us to make.

We come today to worship you,  
celebrating that we have a place in your plans.

Like fishermen after a long, difficult night,  
we come after a week that has left some of us exhausted,  
some of us filled with confidence,  
some of us uncertain,  
some of us overjoyed,  
some of us bewildered,  
but all of us are ready to hear the Word of God.

As the world rocks below our feet,  
may we grasp the net with you  
to capture what is lasting:  
your Kingdom of love, hope & healing.  
For your Way of living is the way that reveals life in all its fullness,  
and we give you thanks and praise  
for inviting us into your work in this world.

We recognize today that too often  
we forget you are in our boat with us,  
and fail to recognize our sins  
that we turn from your ridiculous ideas,  
because we know better.  
that we have become focused on our needs,  
forgetting the astonishing abundance you can bring  
to quiet our fears.

Forgive us, abundantly,  
for only by your grace can we let go of what holds us back.

May we step forward with Simon, James and John  
to follow your call  
never looking back.

In the name of Jesus,  
hear our prayer.

**Amen.**<sup>3</sup>

May your Spirit continue to shape us as we pray the prayer Jesus  
teachers:



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:

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;

this proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Amen.<sup>4</sup>



## *Listening to God*



### Children's Time

You want to colour a picture. You look for the markers on the desk, and they're not there. You look on the shelf - not there. They're not under the desk, or chair, or couch, or any other shelves, or in the bedroom, or kitchen ... anywhere.

Your dad is sitting there and asks you what you're looking for. You explain you'd like to do some colouring and can't find the markers. He says you should try looking on the desk.

What would you feel about his suggestions?

What would you expect to find?

Would you do it?

In church we're going to hear a story about Simon Peter. He and his partners have been fishing all night long and didn't find any - and they know where to look for fish. I imagine they are tired because fishing with nets by hand is hard work, and they're probably discouraged. That morning Jesus, who's not a fisherman, suggests they should go try again - perhaps over there.

Do you think they expected to catch anything? I suspect not. They didn't really want to try again, but they did.

Do you know what happened?  
They caught some fish - so much that they filled two boats so full they started to sink.

<sup>3</sup> adapted from *Spill the Beans* #21

<sup>4</sup> *Worship Sourcebook* 2.4.40



What do you think the point is?

I suspect it's that if we do what Jesus says then Jesus can take something we're good at and do so much more than we expect - or imagine.

Like fisherman who are ready to give up and go to bed catching so much their boats start sinking.

Prayer:

*Dear Jesus, Help us to know what you want us to do,  
so that we can show how amazing you are.*

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Take my life and let it be.....pg 11 (637)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=blxWaucRinA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=blxWaucRinA)



Fishers of Men - S Dewey

## 🧎 Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds  
through the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may hear your call and faith to follow.  
Amen.

## ✨ Intro to the readings

Today we're going to start with the psalm. It's an interesting one that starts by acknowledging God as our beginning and home. Then remembers that God's sense of timing is very different from ours - which is particularly hard when we are suffering from our sins. The last part looks forward to God's steadfast love filling our days. I suspect it was selected by the lectionary mostly for the last part, but if you think of how long the Jewish people in Jesus' day had been waiting under occupation for God to save them... the whole psalm might be how Simon and his partners were feeling.

Our main passage continues the story of Luke... but not directly. Last week we heard about Jesus preaching a hard message in his home town that there are no favourites - even suggesting that he can't or won't do anything there because they're not willing to take ownership and participate. After that he went to Capernaum. There he preached. We don't know what about, but they didn't try to kill him. He also met Simon (later called Simon Peter) at the synagogue. Jesus accepted Simon's invite to lunch, and healed his mother... and many others.

This story is told after that, though it's not too specific.<sup>5</sup>

Three short things before Yuka shares the readings.

A detail to clarify. It is set on the shore of Lake Gennesaret. This is another name for the Sea of Galilee. I can't find a reason why this name is used.


<sup>5</sup> Curiously, in [Mark 1](#) the events in Capernaum are reversed.

Roman's considered being a fisherman about the lowest form of work. We don't know about Jews, but it was hard physically and to make money.<sup>6</sup>

and I'd like to encourage you to consider why the people are there. There's a crowd, Jesus, Simon & his partners.



Miraculous Catch - John Reilly

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,<sup>7</sup> or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Psalm 51](#)

[Luke 5: 1-11](#)

<sup>6</sup> They had to pay to fish on the Emperor's water (Sea of Galilee), and pay for any fish that caught.

<sup>7</sup> 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: Ready for change?

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

Before we get into why the people were there, I want to address something that might be nagging at you. (It was at the Bible Study last Wednesday.)

The fish. We don't know what happened to the fish. As the boats were sinking they probably had water in the boat with them. Simon and his partners wouldn't have been able to pull the boats up, even if they'd wanted to, so perhaps the fish jumped out. Perhaps somebody else took them to market. As sad as it may make you, they don't seem to be important in this story. Sorry.

Now, why were the people there? We have the crowd, Jesus, Simon & his partners all hoping to do something. What?

The crowd: Often I think of the crowd gathering to see Jesus because of the miracles. They either want one, or to see the show. However here (and elsewhere) we are told that they "pressed in on him to hear the word of God." They're not looking for some amazing trick, or a quick fix. They want to hear what God is saying. They want to learn. I think a lot of people are like that. We assume something less than noble, but really they just want to learn - to become better.

And it seems that they are getting exactly that. Jesus is teaching them, with some difficulty. People are pushing to get closer. Again we can assume it's to touch the magic Jesus, but that is very much not in the text. They probably just had difficulty hearing, which means Jesus has a problem with why he's in the story. If he's trying to teach everyone *the Word of God* and they can't hear,

then he's not succeeding.

While they didn't have megaphones in this time period, they did know a solution. It's something you've probably noticed if you've spent time by a lake. Sound travels really well across water.<sup>8</sup> Thankfully there are some boats there to help Jesus reach more people with *the Word of God*.

Jesus climbs into Simon's boat.

but what's Simon doing there to begin with? Despite having heard Jesus at the Synagogue, inviting him round for dinner, and Jesus healing his mother-in-law - Simon wasn't there to hear *the Word of God*. He was working. It had been a long overnight shift that had been a complete failure. Fishing by hand is hard work, even if the nets are empty. Before they can collapse though they need to attend to the details of the equipment.

Along comes Jesus and asks to teach from his boat. Simon agrees. Perhaps they've become friends or he thinks he owes Jesus something, perhaps he's just hospitable or is curious what Jesus will teach. Being in the boat will give a good opportunity to hear - if he can stay awake.

Like in Capernaum, we don't know what Jesus taught. That's not the point of these stories. Jesus wrapped it up and the crowd presumably went on their way.

Now things move past why people were there.

Jesus still has a problem. More and more people want to hear *the Word of God* and he can't reach them all. He needs some helpers. People who will listen and try, even if they think they know better. People who can work hard. People like... Simon and his partners. But how to help them move into a deeper role?

They've talked and gotten to know each other. He's helped them out. They've helped him out. Now Jesus invites Simon and

his partners to try something a little deeper - fishing in the deeper water. It's something they know; a good next step in their relationship.

I think this is something for us to remember. Jesus does call people suddenly to a big change, but it is often a gradual process involving something we know we can do - but getting us to trust in deeper water.

They knew Jesus, and that he wasn't a fisherman. Still, they go out. What do you think they expected? Considering this was their job, that they had managed to stay in business, and that they had been fishing in the same area all night... they probably expected zero results. Well, it seems God had other ideas. When they did as Jesus asked, despite knowing better, their boats were overflowing with abundance.

This is also something to remember and consider. Jesus came to Simon and his business partners during their work day. He interrupted their work and gave his 2¢. They listened, tried it out against all better judgment, and amazing things happened. Can you think of anything God might be calling us to do that goes against all common sense? What if it worked?



<sup>8</sup> There are other period references to people addressing crowds from boats.

but back to our story, because Simon's reaction is important.

When Simon realizes what's going on he addresses Jesus not as Master, like earlier, but as Lord, the term used for God. He realizes God is present. There are many possible reactions to God showing up in your boat, or house, or church. Simon doesn't puff up with pride. He knows that before God he is far from worthy. (This is an appropriate response - and common. Most of the prophets say the same thing.) Simon tries to send Jesus away. He might be ashamed, or concerned his sin will contaminate Jesus - or both.

Jesus responds like the angels have done before. "*Do not be afraid.*" This isn't a master who will abandon you when you make a mistake. This is the Lord who will get into the boat with you - and lead you to something amazing if you have faith.

And Jesus makes a big ask. He's found some helpers who know how to work hard, and will trust him - even when they know better. He says, "*Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.*" This is the mission - to catch people - to get them hooked on God.

And then comes a line that used to disturb me. "*they left everything and followed him.*" What about Zebedee, the father of James and John? What about Peter's wife? What about the fish? ...and even more concerning, what about us?

Two thoughts help me get past this and back to the story. One is that in the TV show *The Chosen* they have Zebedee there as well, and everyone realizes that Jesus must be the Messiah. His response when his sons look at him is something like, 'The man of God we've been waiting hundreds of years for has called you and you're worried about what I'll tell your mother?' For those who recognize Jesus, following him would be an honour.

The other is that catch of fish. If Jesus can fill the boats with fish, surely he can take care of the disciples' families.

Do we have to give up everything to follow Jesus? Maybe. Here Jesus doesn't actually ask them to, it just says they do. I think the willingness is what is looked for - and the faith. If God calls us to do something will we trust God to look after our fears?

Like many passages in the Bible, there can be many lessons. The two I'm hearing this week are that Jesus is looking for people to help share *the Word of God*. He's looking for disciples. The other is about becoming the disciple. This is an honour worth dropping everything for. It doesn't happen out of the blue (at least not here). It can defy what makes sense. Yet those willing to give it a try anyways can see unexpected, astonishing, results.

To end with a bit of a story. I know of a congregation that was struggling. Lots of things were working against them, including their building. They decided that they needed to sell it, or at least part of it. It was a lot of work practically and emotionally, but finding the buyer was easier than expected. A bit astonishing really. Some people left, but others felt more a part of the community. Since then more has happened, including many unexpected things - and there is growth in ways that are also unexpected, yet fit who they are. They are called: Kensington Presbyterian Church. We can follow in faith to join Simon-Peter and Jesus in sharing the Good News.

*To God be all the glory  
Amen.*





## Responding to God

♪ Hymn: You walk along our shoreline.....pg 11 (753)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGl5tZZQsd8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGl5tZZQsd8)

💬 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: Can you share a story of somebody (or yourself) who took a risk in doing what God desired. How did it work out?

Wonder: What is your conversation partner good at? How could they be used to share God's love, hope & healing - or grow somebody's faith?

Etching: What are your fears in sharing your faith, or the love, hope & healing you have found in God?

Visions: What sort of crazy idea for the church pulls a little at your attention? You know better, but what if it succeeded abundantly? Remember, for the fishermen it used skills they had, but defied what made sense.

Prayer: ...pray that we will hear Christ call, and follow.

## ✦ Spirit Sightings

This week something interesting happened. People in North America, and probably around the world, talked about a sermon. The same sermon. One given by the Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde at the interfaith prayer service closing the U.S. Presidential inauguration festivities.

Among other aspects of the message, she made specific appeals to President Trump to have mercy and compassion on people who need help - especially those his policies are already impacting

(LGBTQ+ and refugees). She has received criticism and support for her words. Apparently some people who had given up on Christianity are now reconsidering it. She is trying to redirect the attention to those in trouble, not give too much attention to the comments, and to move on to her next role - organizing a racial justice conference. She made the point in an interview that being a Christian isn't just about one sermon, "We just need to continue to believe what we believe in and stand for the things we stand for – and that's the work, right?"<sup>9</sup>

## ✦ Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on our **website**: [kensingtonchurch.ca](http://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](mailto:info@kensingtonchurch.ca).

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

## 🧑 Prayers of the people

This week we will be passing around our prayer diary and having a prayer based on that. You are welcome to create your own prayer based on this<sup>10</sup>...

God who is out beyond us  
yet right beside us,  
shaping the world  
through times you've never seen before

<sup>9</sup> [pres-outlook.org/2025/01/after-eyebrow-raising-sermon-to-trump-bishop-budde-beset-with-criticism-and-praise](http://pres-outlook.org/2025/01/after-eyebrow-raising-sermon-to-trump-bishop-budde-beset-with-criticism-and-praise)

<sup>10</sup> from *Spill the Beans* #21



into a future you are only shaping now.  
May we follow  
with the faith to believe that  
love is the way to recreate the world,  
peace is the way to defeat conflict,  
welcome is the way to transform prejudice.

In our planet's environment  
may we be with you  
to bless it with rest from cynicism  
and love it with tender care again:  
taking the world's side  
rather than our own,  
increasing the breathing of the planet  
rather than increasing our economy  
with no heed to the cost.  
May we follow you into the world's healing.  
Hear us.

In the conflicts of our world  
and our neighbourhoods  
may we be with you  
to bless them with rest from fear  
and love them again with welcoming and friendship,  
taking the gospel's side  
and inviting fellowship between enemy and stranger.  
May we follow you into our world's healing  
and the reconciliation of neighbourhoods.  
Hear us.

In the living of our lives and  
in our friendships and family

may we be with you  
to bless them with love beyond what we can give  
and love those closest to us,  
those ill and recovering,  
those anxious and worried,  
those needing time for healing.  
May we follow you into that healing.  
Hear us.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: O God, our help in ages past.....pg 12 (330)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNS-ZSUmCb8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNS-ZSUmCb8)

✦ Benediction  
*That God is above us and beneath us  
before us and behind us  
walking beside us  
and living within us all.*  
Amen.



# MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, January 26

Georgina Musah became physically impaired due to polio at age five. She was stigmatized due to her disability and prevented from attending school in her community of Suamvuus in northern Ghana. Identified in a community survey by the PWS&D-supported Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Program, Georgina received physiotherapy and a tricycle for mobility. Georgina also took part in training in climate-resilient farming and dressmaking, enabling her to generate an income and improve her life. "My profound gratitude to the CBR and PWS&D for changing my life through well-structured interventions. I have enough from my livelihood activities to fend for myself and my children and to support my husband. God bless and sustain your work," she shares.



## DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, January 26** Praise God for PWS&D partners walking hand-in-hand with those suffering from leprosy in Nepal and India as they journey to health and prosperity.

**Monday, January 27** We pray for God's continued blessings on the Atlantic Mission Society.

**Tuesday, January 28** We give thanks for the generous donors and dedicated volunteers of food banks and pantries whose efforts have made a significant impact in the fight against poverty and hunger.

**Wednesday, January 29** We give thanks for organizations responding to the needs of 2SLGBTQIA+ people through social services, community programming and political advocacy.

**Thursday, January 30** We pray for Dr. Martin Accad, the new President of the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Beirut, Lebanon, and for the impact of NEST in the region.

**Friday, January 31** We pray for the mentoring program of The Presbyterian College, Montreal, that it will continue to be a support for graduating students as well as seasoned leaders.

**Saturday, February 1 (Black History Month begins)** We give thanks for Black History Month events that honour and celebrate the legacy of Black Canadians and their communities.

Rev. Peter Rombeek  
K4nsington Presbyterian Church

141

## Good Christians, all rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO Irregular

F Bb/F F Bb/F F Bb/F C/F F Bb/F F Bb/F F Bb/F C

Good Chris-tians, all re-joice with heart and soul and voice;

F/A Bb C 7 F C7 F Bb6 F/C C7 F

1. now give heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day,  
2. now you hear of end-less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this,  
3. now you need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save,

F/A Bb C C7/E F C7 Dm F/A Bb6 F/C C7 F

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.  
He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er-more.  
calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last-ing hall.

Dm/F A7sus4-3/E Dm C F Dm Bb6 C F

Christ is born to - day; Christ is born to - day.  
Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this.  
Christ was born to save; Christ was born to save.

Words: Latin, anonymous; translation, John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt. Music: German carol melody, 14th century; arrangement, anonymous  
Words: public domain Music: public domain



# 637 Take my life, and let it be consecrated

LÜBECK 7777

C Am G C F G7/D C G C/E G/B Em C6 D G

1. Take my life and let it be con-se-crated, Lord, to thee;  
 2. Take my hands and let them move at the im-pulse of thy love;  
 3. Take my voice and let me sing al-ways, on-ly for my King;  
 4. Take my sil-ver and my gold: not a mite would I with-hold;

C F/A G C/E Dm/F A7/E Dm Am Dm G/B C Gsus4-3 C

take my mo-ments and my days: let them flow in cease-less praise.  
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau-ti-ful for thee.  
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes-sa-ges from thee.  
 take my in-tel-lect, and use eve-ry power as thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will and make it thine;  
 it shall be no longer mine;  
 take my heart: it is thine own;  
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
 at thy feet its treasure store;  
 take myself and I will be  
 ever, only, all for thee.

Alternate tune: Mozart

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879) Music: Freylinghausen's Geistreiches Gesangbuch 1704

Words: public domain Music: public domain

# 753 You walk along our shoreline

(Ab Eb) Ab /C Db /C Bbm Eb Ab/C Bm7 Eb Ab

① You walk a-long our shore-line where land meets un-known sea.  
 ② You call us, Christ, to gath-er the peo-ple of the earth.  
 ③ We cast our net, O Je-sus; we cry the king-dom's name;

Ab/C Eb/Bb Ab /C Db /C Bbm 6 Eb/Db Ab/C Bbm7 Eb Ab

We hear your voice of pow-er, "Now come and fol-low me.  
 We can-not fish for on-ly those lives we think have worth.  
 we work for love and jus-tice; we learn to hope through pain.

(Eb/G) Ab/C Eb Fm Ab/Gb Db/F Ab/C Ebsus4-3

And if you still will fol-low through storm and wave and shoal,  
 We spread your net of gos-pel a-cross the wa-ter's face,  
 You call us, Lord, to gath-er God's daugh-ters and God's sons,

Ab (Eb7/Bb) Ab /C Db /C Bbm Eb/Db Ab/C Bbm Eb Ab

then I will make you fish-ers, but of the hu-man soul."  
 our boat a com-mon shel-ter for all found by your grace.  
 to let your judge-ment heal us so that all may be one.

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993) Music: Johann Steurlein (1546-1613)

Words: copyright © G.L.A. Publications Inc., 1991 Music: public domain CCLI #4440603

## O God, our help in ages past

ST. ANNE 8 6 8 6 CM

C F C/E Am Dm7/F G C Am Em Am/C D G

1. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
 2. Un - der the sha-dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;  
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,  
 4. A thou-sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve-ning gone,  
 5. Time, like an ev - er - roll-ing stream, bears all our years a - way.  
 6. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,

G C F Dm G C Dm/F E C/E Dm C Dm/F G C

our shel-ter from the storm-y blast, and our e - ter - nal home.  
 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de-fence is sure.  
 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end-less years the same.  
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.  
 They fly for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the open-ing day.  
 still be our guard while trou-bles last, and our e - ter - nal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748), alt Music: William Croft (1678–1727)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

