



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

Favourites

January 19, 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.¹ 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 24: Snow Cake
 Jan 31: Howl's Moving Castle

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



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

New Hope Programs: trivia, tai-chi, exercise to arts - plus...

Wellness education & fun activities: most Tuesdays at 1

French Chit-Chat: Wed 1-2 with Ivana

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 (from Psalm 146)



Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

Let us praise the Lord as long as we live;

We will sing to God all our life.

Blessed are those whose hope is in the Lord their God,

The Lord always keeps his promises

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

the Lord gives sight to the blind.

The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;

the Lord loves the righteous.

The Lord watches over the strangers;

and helps the orphan and the widow,

The Lord will reign forever,

Praise the Lord!



♪ Hymn: Come, let us sing.....pg 10 (412)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Zs9o82P_so



Prayer of Approach

God, you are amazing.

We celebrate that you are bigger & more powerful
than we can imagine,

and that you came as a human being in Jesus
and that you still come through The Holy Spirit.
That you are all three - but still just one.

You can be confusing - and amazing.

You Lord are our inspiration.

Sometimes we recognize it,

at other times we reject it,

but you never give up on us.

Jesus, may we recognize that you have challenges for all of us.

May we hear our challenge

better than when you went to the synagogue in Nazareth.

Thank you for the gift of your Spirit,

and may she give us the confidence that you forgive us,

and visions of living in your kingdom.

so that we can follow your way.²

To help us, we say again the prayer Jesus teacher:



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.

² bits and ideas from *Spill the Beans* #21

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
Amen.



Listening to God

♪ Hymn: She flies on.....pg 11 (403)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=aFJVUc3Ud-8



Epiphany at River Jordan - Margot Neale

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we may accept your gifts today.
Amen.

Sermon: Favourites

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

Who likes gifts?

Do you think God gives us gifts?

One way to read the Bible is to look for gifts from God. We'll do that with today's passage by reading a bit and then considering what's going on in it.

The reading is going to come from the book of Luke in the Bible, but not at the start of the book. That is when the angel comes to Mary and invites her to become Jesus' mother. This story is when he's an adult (about 30). Last week we heard about him visiting his cousin John and having a baptism of repentance. Do you remember what repentance means? (After feeling sorry for something you change how you do things so that you won't do it again.)

After that Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit and then tempted to do things for himself instead of God. Jesus didn't give in. As he comes out of the wilderness today's story starts.³

4:14 Then Jesus, in the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and news about him spread through all the surrounding region. 15 He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.⁴

What gift does God give in this section?

³ [Luke 4](#)

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

“the power of the Spirit” is one gift mentioned.

This is a pretty special gift, and it’s come up in Luke before. Before Jesus was born his mother visited her relative Elizabeth. When she arrived Elizabeth was filled with the Spirit and burst into a song about the future. The same thing happened after her son, John, was born. John’s dad was filled with the Spirit and burst into song about the future. Then after Jesus was born Simeon was filled with the Spirit so that he would be in the right place and the right time to meet the baby Jesus - and the Spirit helped him see that Jesus was going to change the world, but it would be hard.

Then we heard about the Spirit being with Jesus after his baptism, and leading him into the wilderness to be tempted, and now.

Later we’ll hear about the Spirit being with others as well.

God gives the Holy Spirit to all sorts of people - Jesus, others, and us. She helps to see the world in a new way - to see the possibilities with God.

Do you always listen to others?
probably not. It’s the same with the Holy Spirit, but God gives the Spirit to us - and when we listen she helps us see the world in a way that will make it better for everyone.

There’s another gift in the passage... “He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.”

Jesus.

Jesus was going around teaching people about God’s plan. That’s a gift too.

Just before we hear the next section, we need to remember that books were invented a little after Jesus’ time. Instead they used scrolls, which are long pieces of paper that are rolled up to carry. Jesus is going to read from the prophet Isaiah. This was in his Bible - and is in ours too.



Reading from the Torah - Cara Hochhalter

¹⁶ When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, ¹⁷ and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

*¹⁸ “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.*

*He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free those who are oppressed,*

¹⁹ to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favour.”

²⁰ Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. Every eye in the place was on him, intent on what he would say. ²¹ Then he began by saying to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.” ²² Everyone spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Isn’t this Joseph’s son?”

That is why they have been removed from dictionaries.

Jesus doesn't just go around to different places - he also goes back to where he grew up. Jesus is a gift for everyone.

But what about the message he gives?
Jesus reads about God's plan as told by Isaiah. It says that people who aren't doing well will have good news. That people who are prisoners will be free - and I think that's more than not bring locked up anymore. I think they'll be free of anything that would make them want to be bad. And people who are sick will be healthy.

That's a lot of gifts. There's a lot of people who struggling with money, or held captive by feelings/memories/ideas... and prison, and lots of people who need healing. All of this ending would be a big change in the world.

Can you imagine it?

A church minister who helped change the rules in the United States that limited what people with coloured skin could do. Martin Luther King Jr could dream about what Jesus said. He wrote this:

*One day,
Youngsters will learn words they will not understand,
Children from India will ask: "What is hunger?"
Children from Alabama will ask: "What is racial segregation?"
Children from Hiroshima will ask: "What is the atomic bomb?"
Children at school will ask: "What is war?"
You will answer them,
you will tell them:
"Those are words not used any more,
Like 'stage-coaches', 'galleys' or 'slavery',
Words no longer meaningful,*

Martin Luther King dreams of a time when we can't remember the words for bad things. At the Bible study somebody wondered, "Can appreciate something if you don't remember it missing?"

Have you ever been missing a toy, and then found it?
or a person, then become friends again?

Jesus reminds them of God's promise to bring good gifts to those who need them. He doesn't give the details of how this will happen, but he does say that he will lead the way. By listening and following Jesus, all these good gifts will become real.



Christ Teaching - Rembrandt

Before we hear the next section, I just want to note two things.
If a doctor was sick, who would you expect them to heal first?

Themselves, right? Jesus will mention this.

Also, did you notice that Jesus' neighbours from growing up all thought he was doing really well. They were impressed - probably proud of how well he was doing and saying. But this is about to change.

²³ Jesus said to them, "I suppose you're going to quote the proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we've heard you did in Capernaum.' " ²⁴ And he added, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in his hometown. ²⁵ Truly, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah during that three and a half years of drought when famine devastated the land, ²⁶ but Elijah was not sent to any of them. He was sent to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷ In the time of Elisha the prophet there were also many people with a skin disease in Israel, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian."

²⁸ When they heard this, everyone in the synagogue was filled with rage. ²⁹ They sprang to their feet, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built intending to hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰ But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Wow! What sort of gift was that?

Jesus gives them a hard time, and then they try to throw him off a cliff! It's pretty embarrassing. When the Bible includes an embarrassing story involving Jesus, it's a sign we should be extra attention.⁵ Why include it in the story?

5 For academics who worry about which stories are actually historical fact and which are more legend, an embarrassing story is the most likely to be known fact. Why? because when deciding which stories to include you'd leave them out if you could.

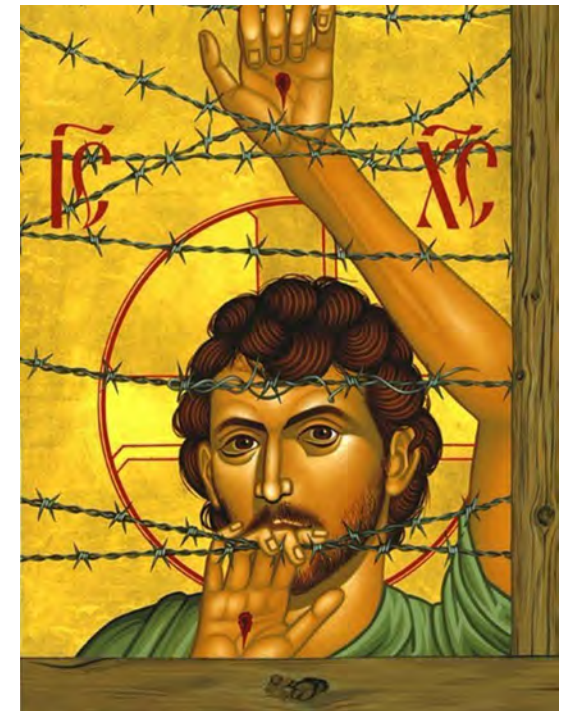
When Jesus mentions the saying, "*Doctor, cure yourself*" he is admitting his hometown has problems that need solving - and that people would expect their problems to be solved before helping others.

However, Jesus then tells two stories from the Bible about God helping outsiders first (and they were even enemy outsiders). He's saying that you can't just expect God solve all your problems for you. An important part of the two stories Jesus referred to is that the outsiders in them had to do things as well. They trusted God and participated in making things better.

Jesus is telling the people he grew up with that God isn't going to treat them special - there are no favourites with God. Also, they can't just sit back and expect God to solve all their problems. They have to take ownership of the problems and help - which will mean changing their ways.

This is why they are angry.

They wanted to be special without doing anything more.



Let me tell you a story that's something like it.⁶

There was a child named Youssef. He grew up in a place very much like this. He liked building things: lego, outside forts, and after school - buildings. He became an architect and a developer. He remembered the church he grew up in and the lessons there about God and looking after others.

And his church remembered him - because he'd become famous. Why? Not only where his buildings beautiful, but he specialized in working with churches to build new buildings - but not just for the church. They would include affordable housing.

After being away for several years he came back for a visit. He went to church and they waited for him to offer to help them. Their building was old, and the city had problems finding affordable places for people to live - plus, the congregation was getting smaller and having apartments would mean more people coming ...right?

But instead he said, "No. It doesn't matter what your space is, if you don't look after it then it will fall down. And you can't assume that people will just come. A home is more than a building. You need to want them for how they are, and include them in your lives. You need to share your problems. If you can't share values and problems; if you can't change so that everyone has a home here - then I can't help you. I'm going to go back to Vancouver and build there."

There were so mad they pushed him out onto the street.

How is this part of the story a gift?
It reminds us that Jesus has no favourites, that we need to trust and be a part of what God is doing... which will mean change.

Which links well with the other gifts in today's story.

That God gives the Spirit to Jesus (and others, but those are other stories); that Jesus goes many places to share God's plans (so many people are included) - including places where we'd expect to find God; and that we can't just sit back and expect God to do everything for us. We need to trust and follow Jesus - and lives will change.



To God be all the glory
Amen.



Responding 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_EPsf2FuWoeen7jliGcz_w

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

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

Actions: Alternate in identifying gifts from God (agreeing is allowed, but not a separate item)

Visions: Imagine details of a world like Jesus read about from Isaiah.

Memories: Is there a time that you deserved something? or when you wanted some special treatment?

Actions: What are ways that Kensington could accept people who are different than you in significant ways - so they and you can feel at home here?

Prayer: ...pray that we will better listen to The Spirit.

⁶ This will likely be missing from the videos, but I like it. It's loosely based on something I saw somewhere.

✧ Spirit Sightings

Thinking of congregations, older buildings and the need for affordable housing... When I was in Vancouver Central Presbyterian Church was heading working with a developer to build a condo tower with three floors for the church, 10 for various types of assisted housing, and then expensive condos.

I recently heard about a church near Coquitlam that is doing something similar. It's not because they are struggling, but because there is a need and they have the ability. It'll mean moving for a while. It will mean changing how the function and worship - but that's already been happening thanks to their food program that has grown to involve volunteers of all backgrounds and serve over 1300 people every week.

There's enough congregations asking about buildings that the national office has hired somebody to answer their questions and help out.

✧ 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

We'll be passing our prayer in the live worship on the prayer diary that we'll pass around. You can make up your own, or use this prayer from '*Spill the Beans*' #21.

Lord God,
in this season

as the sound of carols has faded,
as the Christmas lights are packed away,
as the story of the ministry of Jesus
supersedes the story of birthing,
let us remember that for many
the glow of the special time of year
already has become a distant memory.

Many in the world come to terms with losses that cause pain:
the loss of loved ones,
the loss of job,
the loss of health,
the loss of hope

Many remain poor in our world:
the result of a mismanagement
or irresponsible use of the world's resources.

In the North,
many are deprived of warmth and hours of sunlight;
in the South many are deprived of water and crops.

Let us not put barriers in the way
of your healing and comforting love
attending to the needs of your people.

We pray for politicians,
leaders of industry
and those who work for charitable and caring organizations,

like the Community Council & New Hope,
as they tackle the responsibilities placed in their hands.

Hear us as we speak to you now
of the troubles that we know
in our personal lives and families...

Tenderly come with healing and comfort,
we pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Jesus Christ is waiting.....pg 10
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wqwzlel4-5E

✦ Benediction
May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.⁷
Amen.



MISSION MOMENT Sunday, January 19

Last summer, twelve young adults from PCC and UCC partner churches in Canada, the Korean Christian Church in Japan, the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, and the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan met together to share their lives, cultures, and the present



social context of the church in their home countries. Exploring both common and unique challenges, they developed a workshop for the *uplift2024: Audacious Faith* conference. Through worship, study, and recreation, a deep sense of connection developed across languages and cultures. This global ecumenical learning community gathered for 9 days at Brock University, ending with their participation at *uplift2024: Audacious Faith*. Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing help strengthen long-standing church partnerships by fostering ecumenical understanding and meaningful connections among a new generation of leaders.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, January 19 We give thanks for the dedication of the Rev. Dr. Paul McLean and Bible translation teams in Taiwan working to provide copies of the Bible in the many Indigenous languages of Taiwan.

Monday, January 20 We pray as the PCC continues to seek support for a declaration advocating for religious freedom in Canada.

Tuesday, January 21 We pray for courage and clear vision for those discerning calls to embark on new and faithful journeys.

Wednesday, January 22 Today is the 4th anniversary of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons coming into force at the United Nations. We pray for the elimination of nuclear weapons, and the threat they pose to all life on Earth.

Thursday, January 23 We pray for interim moderators and search committees as they work to assist congregations in calling a new minister.

Friday, January 24 We pray for the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing of the eight directors of PCC Indigenous ministries, and for the communities they work so hard to take care of.

Saturday, January 25 We pray for those who have yet to know the love of God and for those involved in mission work who are sharing that love.

412 Come, let us sing to the Lord our song

FORNEY 9889

C C/B Am G6 F G

1. Come, let us sing to the Lord our song;
 2. O thirs-ty soul, come drink at the well;
 3. You dwell a-mong us and cause us to pray, and
 4. Des-erts shall bloom and moun-tains shall sing

Em Am Am/G F G

we have stood si-lent-ly too long;
 God's liv-ing wa-ters will nev-er fail.
 walk with each oth-er fol-lowing your way;
 to the de-sire of all liv-ing things.

C C/B Am G6 Fmaj7 G

sure-ly the Lord de-serves our praise, so
 Sure-ly the Lord will help you to stand,
 our prec-ious bro-thers and sis-ters will grow
 Come, all you crea-tures, high and low;

Dm G Am Em F G C

joy-ful-ly thank God for our days.
 strength-ened and com-for-ted by God's hand.
 in the ful-fill-ing love they know.
 let your prais-es end-less-ly flow.

CCLI #4440603

Words: Jim Strathdee (1941-) Music: Jim Strathdee (1941-); arrangement, Jean Strathdee (1944-)

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Kingdom Presbyterian Church

Jesus Christ is waiting

1. Je-sus Christ is wait-ing, wait-ing in the streets, no one is his
 2. Je-sus Christ is rag-ing, rag-ing in the streets, where in-jus-tice
 3. Je-sus Christ is heal-ing, heal-ing in the streets, cur-ing those who
 4. Je-sus Christ is danc-ing, danc-ing in the streets, where each sign of
 5. Je-sus Christ is call-ing, call-ing in the streets, "Who will join my

neigh-bor, all a-lone he eats. Lis-ten, Lord Je-sus, I am
 spi-rals and real hope re-treats. Lis-ten, Lord Je-sus, I am
 suf-fer, heal-ing those he greets. Lis-ten, Lord Je-sus, I have
 ha-tred he, with love, de-feats. Lis-ten, Lord Je-sus, I should
 jour-ney? I will guide your feet." Lis-ten, Lord Je-sus, let my

lone-ly too; make me, friend or stran-ger, fit to wait on you.
 an-gry too; in the King-dom's caus-es let me rage with you.
 pit-y too; let my care be ac-tive, heal-ing just like you.
 tri-umph too; where good con-quers e-vil let me dance with you.
 fears be few; walk one step be-fore me, I will fol-low you.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949 and Graham Maule, b. 1958; © 1988, WGRG, c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent
 Tune: NOËL NOUVELET; French carol CCLI #4440603 One License #A-719461



Luke 4:14-21 - Agnus Day 2022

She comes sailing on the wind

SHE FLIES ON Irregular

Refrain
Unison

C G/B F/A (G6) Em F

She comes sail - ing on the wind, her wings flash - ing in the

G Dm7 G7 Am Em F Dm Gsus4 - 3

sun; on a jour - ey just be - gun, she flies on.

G /B C G/B F/A G7 Em E7

And in the pas - sage of her flight, her song rings out through the

Am F Dm7 Em7 F G Fine C Csus4 - 3 Am

night, full of laugh - ter, full of light, she flies on. (3. To a)

5. Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world,
after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,
the Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled,
bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on. Refrain

Words: Gordon Light (1944-) Music: Gordon Light (1944-); arrangement, Andrew Donaldson (1951-)

Em Am /G F G7 C (Dm C/E)

1. Si - lent wa - ters rock - ing on the morn - ing of our birth, like an
2. Ma - ny were the dream - ers whose eyes were giv - en sight when the
3. gen - tle girl in Gal - i - lee, a gen - tle breeze she came, a
4. Fly - ing to the riv - er, she wait - ed cir - cling high a -

F (Dm) C/E F Gsus G

emp - ty cra - dle wait - ing to be filled. And
Spir - it filled their dreams with life and form. the
whis - per soft - ly call - ing in the dark, As he
bove the child now grown so full of grace.

Em Am G F G7 C (Dm C/E)

from the heart of God the Spir - it moved up - on the earth, like a
Des - erts turned to gar - dens, bro - ken hearts found new de - light, and then
prom - ise of a child of peace whose reign would nev - er end, Ma - ry
rose up from the wa - ter, she swept down from the sky, and she

F C/E Dm C 1., 3. Gsus G 2., 4., 5. G D.C.

moth - er breath - ing life in - to her child. (to Verse 2)
down the a - ges still she flew on.
sang the Spir - it song with - in her heart. (to Verse 4)
car - ried him a - way in her em brace.

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