



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

What did you expect?

February 16, 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 on Sundays at 9:15 to share in the music.
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

Drop Box: Food donations are welcome for the Food Pantry at
Women on the Rise, and items for children (ex. diapers) for young
 mothers through Head & Hands.

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



Fish in Picton - Rombeek

Sanctuary Mental Health exploration: Fridays

6:30 pizza (RSVP with Peter appreciated)

followed by video and discussion exploring key mental health
 topics and examining meaningful ways to offer companionship,
 support recovery, and promote wellbeing.

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 (based on Luke 1:46-50)

Our souls magnify the Lord!

Our spirits rejoice in God our Savior!

The mighty One has done great things for us!

Holy is God's name!

Let us worship God.

For God is our Maker and our Redeemer;

from generation to generation God gives mercy.

♪ Hymn: Oh for a thousand tongues to sing.....pg 9 (374)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbiQ17uulKU



In the midst of it all - Lynne Sinclair Taylor



Prayer of Approach

Lord God, creator of the universe,
you are bigger than creation
and yet with every quark and lepton.
You are more powerful than a supernova,
and yet can be like the coziest hug.
You are challenging, yet comfortable;
hidden, yet everywhere.
God, Lord, Jesus, ... you are more than we can imagine.

Please forgive us for when we stop imagining
and place you in a picture frame...
Forgive us when we try to leave you hanging on our wall,
and not see you around us...
Forgive us that when we do feel your joy,
we don't share your love with people you've put in our lives...

We pray that your Spirit will bring us sight and insight,
wisdom and courage
and to guide us into your Kingdom come.

As a stop on our journey,
we sing the prayer that Jesus gave us.



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

♪ Hymn: Jesus' hands were kind hands.....pg 9 (631)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Sqr7doTD5M>



Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we may know you better. Amen.



Intro to the readings
After taking out a wrapped box...
What do you think is inside?
What do you expect?



We can guess all sorts of things.
Some things we might get right,
others not. We'll only really know
by looking... so let's open it. [contains some small containers of play-
dough, some macaroni for an interesting sound, and some heart
chocolates for valentines day]

Our Bible passage is a bit about people having expectations.
Listen for that.

In it we'll hear about John. This is Jesus' cousin. He was
famous at the time for telling people that God was going to send
somebody to get rid of all the bad stuff - and they'd better make
sure that didn't include them. Many listened, repented (were
sorry and promised to change) and he baptized them to show
they were in a good relationship with God.

...he also criticized the king for not being good - and the king
locked John up in his palace dungeon.

As Cathy & Dean read, listen both for expectations, and for
anything that stands out for you.



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own
Bible,² or click on the name to be taken to an online version.
[Luke 7: 18-35](#)

² 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: What did you expect?

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

You can tell me later which line stood out for you. The line that stood out at the Bible study (*your welcome to join us*) was when Jesus talked about the greatest person ever born.

This makes me wonder what is a great person. What do we expect a great person to be?

Let's start by brainstorming some great people (they can be real or not). . .

possible examples: Gandhi, Mother Theresa, Tommy Douglas, Clara Hughes (Olympics and mental health), Bono, Dr. Who, ...



What makes somebody great?

What do we expect? . . .

At the Bible Study we agreed that Jesus was the greatest person ever born. How would you describe Jesus?

...kind, powerful, son of God, middle eastern, compassionate, liked going to parties, ...

However, Jesus doesn't claim to be the greatest person ever born - he says that was John. Perhaps he was being humble, or playing to the crowds. They probably thought highly of John as we're told that there were many listening who had been inspired to repent and had been baptized by John.

What was the great John like?

Well, he lived in the wilderness along the River Jordan. He ate things he found and dressed in rough uncomfortable clothes. He tended to yell and scold people for not behaving. Still, people came from all around to hear him. People who lived in ways that hurt God's community would become sorry for that, then repent and John would baptize them. John was changing lives for the better. Still, based on his behaviour some said he was possessed or crazy.

And after celebrating how great John is Jesus turns expectations upside-down. He says that John is nothing in the Kingdom of God; anyone there is greater than John.

This upsets the expectations. How are we supposed to figure things out now? What are we to expect?

Well, God is supposed to send The Messiah, The Saviour. This person would be great. What sort of expectations should we have? did they have?

John had some expectations. Back in chapter 3 we heard him say, "*His sortingfork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.*" John is expecting the Messiah to clean house and burn the parts that aren't helpful.

Is this what Jesus has been doing? ...no. He's been collecting people from the floor of society, healing those who aren't helpful,

and going to parties with those who haven't repented - and least not yet.

What would others have been expecting from The Saviour of God? Going back to the great prophets of old, some would expect that the blind would receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers be cleansed and able to return to society, the deaf would hear, the dead raised, the poor hear good news - and captives be freed. These were all signs of what it would be like in God's kingdom - things that the Messiah would do to make the world right. Jesus invites people to look at what's happening and form their own conclusions.

John is left wondering though. Jesus isn't cleaning house of those John thinks are bad. His fire doesn't seem to be about burning people in eternal damnation, but about firing people up. Jesus also hasn't set the captives free - captives like John. No wonder John sent some of his disciples to ask Jesus if he really is The One. No wonder Jesus says, "*blessed is anyone who does not find my actions to be a stumbling block for their faith.*"

And what about us?
What expectations do we have about Jesus coming again? What would Jesus look like? Where would he go? What would happen?

What could be a stumbling block for you?
For some people they expect that when they believe in Jesus their life will become easier, or they will be healed, or have enough food - things like in the list of what Jesus was doing. Except it doesn't happen. As our series on Mental Health pointed out last Friday, we live in a broken world and while the Kingdom is coming - it's not here yet.

That said, we can still do what Jesus invites John's disciples to do - and later his own. We can share what we do see.

We can see God working through *Presbyterians Sharing*³ supporting congregations, leadership development, reconciliation ministries, and many others ways. Then there *Presbyterian World Service & Development*⁴ that is empowering, feeding & healing people around the world. And at Kensington we are helping build people's faith and share love, hope & healing. We provide a place for groups like *The New Hope Seniors Centre*,⁵ NA⁶ & AA.⁷ Then we can look outside of the church. In the community around our building there are groups like *Head and Hands*,⁸ *Forward House*,⁹ and *Action Réfugiés*.¹⁰ These are some places where we can witness God working.

What about others?
What do our neighbours, colleagues, & friends see? Do they only know the history of oppression? of abuses? Do they see spaces given for support groups? Do they consider any of the work of the church as a sign of God? Do they know it happens? Do they consider a church, or a Christian, as a place they can ask questions if they wonder about there being 'something more' to life?

Could we be like John's disciples and share the hope we see going on in the world?

Which I suppose turns the expectations question on its head as this gets at what Jesus might be expecting from us.

3 presbyterian.ca/sharing

4 presbyterian.ca/pwsd

5 newhopendg.com

6 www.eanamontreal.org

7 www.aa87.org/en

8 headandhands.ca

9 www.forwardhouse.org

10 actionr.org

Knowing you all - I don't think any of you consider yourself great. Personally I believe that's one of the characteristics of a great person. I also think who's great in this society doesn't matter. Rather, let's check our expectations - how they might be holding us back - and whether we can leave them behind to focus on what we can see going on - and sharing the good news.

*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_EPsf2FuWoeen7j1iGcz_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).

Memories: Thinking of the snow today, can you share a snowy time when you felt joy?

Visions: What expectations do we have about Jesus coming again?

What would Jesus look like?

Where would he go?

What would happen?

Wonder: How could you prepare for Jesus coming again?

Identify what could be a stumbling block for you?

Etching: What Bible passage do you hold dear?

Values: Why do you want to be a part of a church? a part of Kensington?

Prayer: ...that we will recognize the presence of God.

✦ Spirit Sightings

Presentation of Hanvit Lee

- Something you like to do? . . .
- How would you describe God? . . .
- Why do you want to be a part of a church? . . .
- What is a Bible verse you like? . . .



Christian Friends, Hanvit Lee has been baptized and is a member of the body of Christ. He has been nurtured within the Christian community and knows the beliefs and practices of the church.

Let us remember our baptisms and give thanks.

*By the waters of baptism
and the power of the Holy Spirit*

God claims us

and calls each one by name.

*God unites us to Christ in his death
and resurrection*

*and grafts us into the body of Christ
as members of the church.*

*God washes us clean by forgiving our sin;
commissions us to be a royal priesthood
with Christ
in his ministry to the world;*

In making this public procession of his faith, he desires to affirm his baptism and to claim the rights and

responsibilities associated with membership in Kensington Presbyterian Church.

Hanvit, we have these questions for you...

- 1) Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world?
- 2) Do you turn to Jesus Christ and accept him as your Lord and Saviour, trusting in his grace and love?
- 3) Do you desire, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to seek Christ and show his love to the world?

the congregation:

So you promise to pray for Hanvit and continue to support him in his journey?

Let us, with all the people of God, confess the faith of the church with the Apostles' Creed.

prayer

Gracious God,

we praise you for calling us to be your people,
and for gathering us to be the church, the body of Christ.

We thank you for bringing Hanvit to us,
and celebrate his gifts of community, compassion, music,
prayer, and so much else.

Together, may we live in your Spirit,
growing in faith
and being witnesses to each other, and the world.

In Jesus name.

Amen.

Hanvit Lee, may the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that by the power of the Holy Spirit
you may abound in hope,
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

✧ 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

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 this¹¹...



In our prayers for others
may we pray a real prayer,
may we join a real Jesus
in a real world.
May we let go all that whitewashes you, O God,
and meet you in the hungry and poor.
May we recognise your face

¹¹ from *Spill the Beans* #21

in those who are longing for a better way,
a more just world
but not from the sidelines
or the stone pulpits
or the conference lectures
but from the breadlines
and the denuded fields
and the refugee camps.

May we meet you where you are in the world
and may we take off our shoes
and join you there.

May we make our prayer
a way of life,
a just way of living,
companions with all
who have no justice.

May we not accept justice for us
until there is justice for all.

May we not accept feasting for us
until there is feasting for all.

May we not accept bread and wine
until there is bread and wine for all.

Loving God,
God in this world,
whose feet are covered in mud
and hands calloused
this is our prayer,
fewer words
and more involvement in the world.

So be it.
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Oh I know the Lord's laid his hands on mepg 10 (579)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=r2GG3z3UWOY

✦ 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.



Oh for a thousand tongues to sing

RICHMOND 8686 CM

G D/F# D C/E G C D7 G Em6 D/F# G6 D/A A7 D /C

1. Oh for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise, the
 2. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, and bids our sor - rows cease—'tis
 3. He speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new life the dead re - ceive; the
 4. Hear him, you deaf; you voice - less ones, your tongues a - gain em-ploy; you
 5. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro-claim, and

G/B Em Am D/C G7/B G7 C G/B C/B D7/A G C G/DD G

glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace.
 mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears; 'tis life and health and peace.
 mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re-joice; the hum - ble poor be-lieve.
 blind, be - hold your Sav - iour comes, and leap, you lame, for joy.
 spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ours of thy name.

Instrumental Descant

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt Music: Thomas Haweis (1734–1820);
 arrangement, Samuel Webbe, the younger (1770–1843); descant, C.S. Lang (1891–1971)

Words: public domain Music: descant, copyright © Novello & Co. Ltd. CCLI #4440603

Jesus' hands were kind hands

AU CLAIR DE LA LUNE 11 11 11 11

Unison F Dm F/A Gm/Bb F/C C9 F

1. Je - sus' hands were kind hands, do - ing good to all,
 2. Take my hands, Lord Je - sus, let them work for you;

F Dm F/A Gm/Bb F/C C9 F

heal - ing pain and sick - ness, bless - ing chil - dren small,
 make them strong and gen - tle, kind in all I do.

Gm /Bb D /C G/B G 7 C /Bb

wash - ing tir - ed feet, and sav - ing those who fall;
 Let me watch you, Je - sus, till I'm gen - tle too,

F/A Dm F/A Gm/Bb G9/B C9 F

Je - sus' hands were kind hands, do - ing good to all.
 till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.

Words: Margaret Cropper (1886–1980) Music: French traditional CCLI # 4440603

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Oh, I know the Lord's laid his hands on me

All Ab/Eb Eb I KNOW Irregular Ab/Eb Eb

Oh, I know the Lord, I know the Lord,

Bb7 1. Eb Ab/Eb Eb 2. Eb Ab/Eb Eb Fine

I know the Lord's laid his hands on me. Oh, hands on me.

Leader(s) (Eb)

1. Did ev - er you see the like be - fore?
King Je - sus preach - ing to the poor!
2. Oh, was - n't that a hap - py day
when Je - sus washed my sins a - way!
3. Some seek the Lord and don't seek him right;
they fool all day and pray at night,
4. My Lord's done just what he said;
he's healed the sick and raised the dead;

All Bb7 1. Eb Ab/Eb Eb 2. Eb Ab/Eb Eb D.S.

I know the Lord's laid his hands on me; hands on me. Oh,

Words: African-American spiritual Music: African-American spiritual

Words: public domain Music: public domain

MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, February 16

Bishar, a 13-month-old boy from Sudan, was showing signs of illness for several days when a community health worker from Trocaire visited his home. Already stressed by the difficulties of providing for her family, Bishar's mother, Nuria Mohamed, was deeply worried about his condition.



By measuring Bishar's upper arm circumference, the community health worker discovered that he was severely malnourished and referred him to the hospital. During his three-week stay, Bishar received dedicated care and medical intervention and was soon allowed to return home. His recovery brought hope to his family. Nuria expressed immense gratitude for the staff's dedication and the hospital's assistance in saving her son's life. PWS&D supports Trocaire through its ecumenical collaborations with Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, February 16 (Heritage Sunday) We pray for enthusiastic members of congregations across the country who spend countless hours compiling their church history so that a record of the witness of those who have come before will live on for those who will follow.

Monday, February 17 We pray for Knox College students as they step away from scheduled classes for their Reading Week (Feb 17-21). We ask for refreshment and renewal as they prepare to return for their final assignments and commitments of the winter 2024 semester.

Tuesday, February 18 God of justice and mercy, fill us with courage and hope as we engage in the work of repairing, restoring, reconciling and healing the harm the church has caused by excluding and marginalizing LGBTQI2+ people.

Wednesday, February 19 We give thanks for God's Creation in the farm, fields and forests at Crieff Hills Retreat Centre and pray for the safe arrival of new lambs.

Thursday, February 20 (World Day of Social Justice) We give thanks for the work that the PCC is doing for the healing of Indigenous nations through its Confession, Apology and the Doctrine of Discovery.

Friday, February 21 We pray for peace and an end to the violence in Israel, Palestine, Lebanon and surrounding areas.

Saturday, February 22 (Coldest night walks) We pray for people facing housing insecurity. We pray that governments and decision makers work to remove barriers so that all people have access to affordable, safe and adequate housing.