



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

## *Connections*

*April 27, 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 on Sundays at 9:30 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

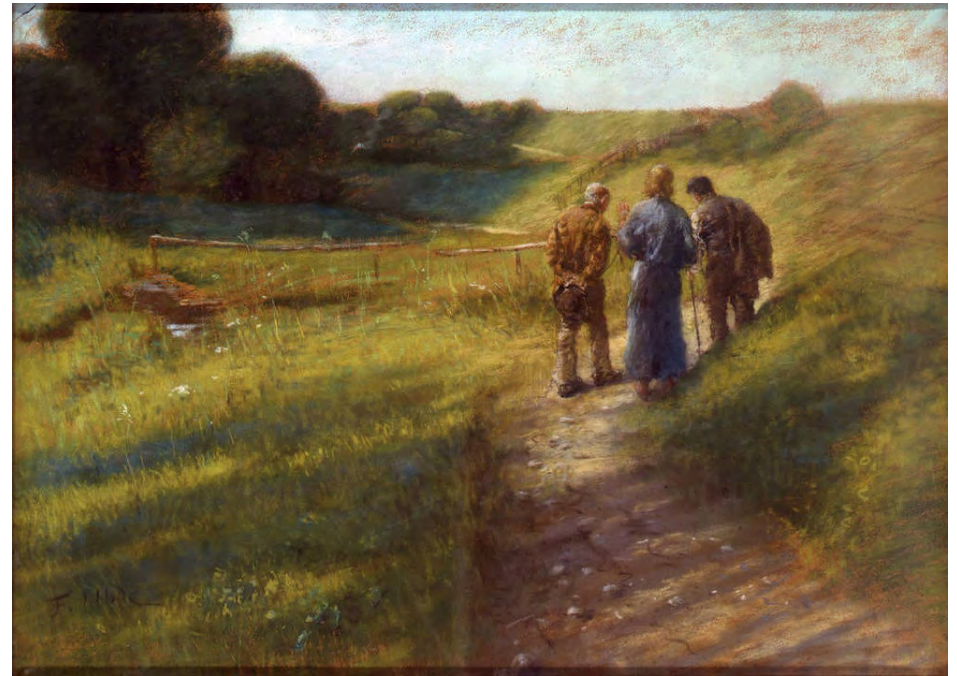
**Jesus & Java:** Thursday, 3:30 pm at Beetz, 5914 Sherbrooke @ Clifton  
 A casual discussion about life and God

**Friday's Food & Film Festival** 6:30 pizza. RSVP appreciated

May 2: Groundhog Day

May 9: Kiki's Delivery Service

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



Road to Emmaus - Fritz von Uhde

**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.

**St. Andrew's Home Bazaar:** May 10 10 am- 4 pm

Raffle, Baked Goods, Books, Housewares, Jewelry, Art, Clothing  
 3350 Cavendish Boulevard

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



Call to worship  
Let us worship the eternal God,  
the source of love and life, who creates us.  
**Let us worship Jesus Christ,  
the risen one, who lives among us.**  
Let us worship the Spirit,  
the holy fire, who renews us.  
**To the one true God be praise  
in all times and places,  
through the grace of Jesus Christ.<sup>2</sup>**

♪ Hymn: Come to us beloved stranger.....pg 10 (262)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjU9CkSEaEU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjU9CkSEaEU)



Prayer of Approach  
Creator of the Universe,  
creator of the Story  
each of us has our own story to tell,  
our own journey through life.  
We come to you now in prayer,  
knowing that you know us,  
and journey with us.  
This is an awesome truth  
and brings great comfort.

<sup>2</sup> Worship Sourcebook 1.2.26

Jesus,  
your story is of the divine coming to creation.  
Your journey through life, death and resurrection  
shows you in all parts of our story.  
Knowing this is mind boggling  
and reassuring at the same time.

Holy Spirit,  
our companion on the way,  
as we journey through our story  
we have you with us and in us.  
Knowing that you are always with us  
is inspiring.

Wonderful God,  
we know that we never get it all right.  
We wander off from time to time  
forgetting that we can't see the whole picture  
or even imagine it.

For those times when we have ignored your presence,  
or walked away from your narrative,  
forgive us.

For those times when we have  
forgotten your eternal promises,  
forgive us.

For those times when we have not listened  
to that small voice within,  
forgive us.

We come today  
seeking your hope  
and companionship once more. Amen.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> adapted from *Spill the Beans* #22

✧ Assurance of Pardon  
Hear the Good News

*Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;  
which proves God's love toward us.  
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!*  
Amen.

Jesus gave us a prayer to help us. Let us sing it together.

🧎 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

If a king were going to visit, who would they visit with?

Jesus is the King of kings... do you remember who he visited with? (and if it doesn't come up, after he rose from the dead he visited with women, and then two unknown disciples who had left.)

There is nobody who is unimportant to Jesus, nobody who is overlooked.

Something else to remember is that nobody knows all about Jesus, and that was okay. Learning is part of life - even the adults who studied with him.

Prayer:

*Dear Jesus, thank you that you love each of us,  
and help us to keep learning about you. Amen.*



Supper at Emmaus - Caravaggio

♪ Hymn: Open my Eyes, that I may see.....pg 11 (500)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=71jExPuxRBY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=71jExPuxRBY)

🧎 Prayer for Illumination

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



## ✧ Intro to the readings

Today's passage from Luke is a longer one for Luke. Not surprisingly, there are some themes we've heard before, including: the idea of seeing and not seeing, the importance of eating together, and a journey.

It comes right after last week's passage. On the off chance you've forgotten, this is three days after Jesus had died and was buried. The women went to the tomb and found him gone. They were reminded that Jesus had spoken about this time. Despite not seeing Jesus, they believed that he had returned and with great excitement they returned to tell the others... only to be dismissed.

Two of those who didn't believe their experience decided to head home. When we meet them we're told they are sad. In the Greek this also includes some anger. It's easy to imagine that. Their hopes are dead. They are grieving, and frustrated, and confused, and hurt.

Jen will share the story with us and Psalm 30 - which also recognizes a journey.

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

[Luke 24: 13-35](#)

[Psalm 30](#)

## ✧ Sermon: Connections

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

There are some questions that have been asked forever. Some revolve around what the meaning of life is, others ponder where

we came from and where we're going. They often overlap with questions about God. While the understanding of God, or gods, isn't universal - I expect the question of how the Divine works is. This story from Luke doesn't reveal everything there is about God, but it does highlight some big ways that God works.



Road to Emmaus - Michael Torevell

The story actually starts with two people walking down the road wondering how on earth God is working. They had hoped that Jesus was the one who would save Israel... but their chief priests and leaders had had him killed. They were sad and angry and confused.

Jesus isn't turned off by any of this. He's not afraid to come alongside the pain of this couple. Like a good friend, he joins them and listens. This is important for us to remember. Nothing

<sup>4</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

you are going through will turn Jesus away. He will always come alongside - even if you don't recognize him.

Which happens here. Unlike good friends, they don't recognize him. Like the last time we had a situation like this, the Greek is unclear. It may be that they don't recognize Jesus because God stops them. This could be so that they would have to work through it - making the transformation more memorable. The wording could also mean that it's not God putting up a barrier, but something in them. But how could that be? They'd travelled and studied with Jesus. How could they not recognize him?

Like everyone else, they live with expectations. They expected the dead to stay dead. Therefore, this obviously could not be Jesus. He must just be another one of the many pilgrims returning home after the Passover - one, who in a city overflowing with people and activity, had somehow missed the execution of Jesus. I remember as a kid seeing my bus driver at a store. I couldn't figure out who they were. It was weird. Imagine if you add 'impossible' to the occasion ...I can imagine they couldn't believe what was before their eyes.

Plus, had they really recognized Jesus before? They were calling him 'a mighty prophet' and not 'Lord' or 'the Messiah'. They had expectations based on their understanding of the Hebrew Bible - and this reality hadn't come to pass. Still, they knew the practice of hospitality and welcomed this stranger to join them.

This created space for them to see a new reality.

This sequence reminds us that God isn't limited to our expectations or understanding. God can, and does, the impossible. Throughout the Bible God continually reaches out to all kinds of people in all kinds of ways - often defying expectations. That said, it doesn't mean we should give up trying to understand God. By creating space and listening we can

experience revelations.

This happened to the two disciples. They knew that God valued hospitality, and they invited the stranger to join them. This unknown person proceeded to change their understanding of ...everything. He went through the Bible (which at the time was just the Older Testament) and showed them all sorts of passages which explained why Jesus lived how he did, and died like he did, and that he would rise again. Based on the passages already used in Luke, it shouldn't be a surprise they hadn't seen it before. The passages were not ones used to explain the coming Messiah - but they did show a pattern that revealed Jesus as not just a prophet, but the Messiah - and a Messiah different from what was expected. Jesus walks through the thinking, a step at a time as they journey towards the resurrection of their hopes.

But reason isn't the only way God is working, there is also action. In this case they allow Jesus to take over the role of host and bless the meal. When he breaks the bread, revelation breaks open. Their reality shifts. They realize who Jesus is.

Which helps them identify what they had been feeling. Presbyterians have a reputation for downplaying feelings in favour of thinking. This story reminds us that God is revealed through a combination of both - with actions & community mixed in. This respects that people are made with all those needs: thinking, feeling, community, & doing. It also respects that people are diverse and relate to God in a diversity of ways. And when we stop and reflect on our thoughts and feelings while doing things, such as a meal, with others... God can be revealed.

So far we've seen that God works by coming alongside us, no matter what, and that by thinking, discussing, doing & feeling our expectations can be opened to reveal God.

Let's have a last piece of insight from this passage on how God works. Over the course of their journey from Jerusalem the disciples are shown how Jesus is part of the BIG picture. How Jesus lived, was killed, and rose again is part of the big story of God revealing the Divine Way to people. All of history led to this moment. This encourages us to have confidence in the plan. One that disputes the horrors of life under Rome, or now, things are working towards better (and global statistics in health & poverty show that<sup>5</sup>).

Thinking about how God is working on such a huge scale you might wonder if you are insignificant. No. Jesus stopped repeatedly to talk with and help individuals. Here he took the time to help two disciples we'd never heard of before (or again) - ones who walked out the door and left. God is working on bringing about the BIG picture through Jesus, and cares about all the little parts of creation.

How does God work in the world?

This story doesn't reveal everything, but we do see some ways. God is working throughout history towards a glorious future as realized through Jesus. God also comes alongside individuals, regardless of their background or struggles. God will create space and time for anyone. God also uses a variety of ways to help us see: reason/thinking, feelings, actions & companions. This is good news (Gospel).

*To God be all the glory  
Amen.*

5 Here's a couple of articles if you like  
[www.euronews.com/health/2022/07/17/is-humanity-doomed-five-ways-the-world-is-actually-doing-better-in-data](https://www.euronews.com/health/2022/07/17/is-humanity-doomed-five-ways-the-world-is-actually-doing-better-in-data)  
[ourworldindata.org/much-better-awful-can-be-better](https://ourworldindata.org/much-better-awful-can-be-better)



## *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](https://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).

Values: Cleopas and his companion made room to listen to a stranger. How could you do this? (You don't have to invite a random person off the street, but how could you open your life to new perspectives? ...maybe meeting with 'new' people from church for lunch after worship?)

Memories: Cleopas opened himself up to a stranger who patiently listened - and he was helped. Is there a time somebody you didn't really know listened and helped?

Etching: Like Cleopas & his companion, reflect together on how God has been working (through history, in your lives, in actions/activities, and when you've felt close to something that may be divine).

Actions: When they saw God in their life they quickly told

other believers. What experience could you share this week?

Prayer: ...that we will see Jesus, and share the good news.

## ✧ Spirit Sightings

While one of our historic documents calls the Pope the antichrist, we've grown beyond that. As Presbyterians we don't have a Pope, or even a leader (other than God). We do send representatives to an annual meeting that is run by a moderator. For the rest of the year that person can make statements in keeping with the decisions of our General Assembly.

Last Monday Pope Francis died. In response, this year's moderator wrote a letter of condolence<sup>6</sup> that represented the feelings of many in our denomination. She wrote that, "For twelve years, Francis's wisdom, leadership, compassion, spiritual courage, and attention to ecumenical relationships have been a blessing to the world God loves." She also highlighted his pilgrimage here in which he listened compassionately to the harm done to indigenous people, and apologized.

Personally I appreciated how he was not about the position, but about helping people - especially those traditionally ignored or denied.

I suspect that a hundred years ago a Presbyterian supporting a Pope would have been scandalous, I know that God's Holy Spirit worked through Pope Francis - and I'm grateful.

## ✧ Offering

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

<sup>6</sup> [presbyterian.ca/2025/04/23/letter-of-condolence-on-the-death-of-pope-francis/](https://presbyterian.ca/2025/04/23/letter-of-condolence-on-the-death-of-pope-francis/)

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.



Supper at Emmaus - Marie-Paul Farran

## ✧ 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>7</sup>...

<sup>7</sup> from *Spill the Beans* #22



Lord God,  
in life we journey with you,  
we journey with our families and friends  
and with those we meet day by day.  
May we be to you and to them good companions.  
Help us to put our best foot forward  
firmly on the path you would have us walk.  
Help us not to put our feet in our mouths,  
on to step on anyone along the way.

We may not always understand it,  
but we have other companions to walk with.  
People we may never meet  
but that we share this world of yours with.  
Help us to remember them as we  
travel along.

Help us to be mindful  
of the impact we can have on the lives  
of people elsewhere.  
In our purchasing,  
in our using natural resources,  
in our stewardship of your creation,  
make our choices good ones.  
Choices that do no harm,  
offer opportunity  
and love to our world companions.

Lord God,  
guide those in leadership positions  
to walk the walk as well as talk the talk.  
Help them to make wise choices,

choices that do no harm,  
offer opportunity  
and love to our world companions.

As we walk this journey called life  
we do not walk alone.  
For you are ever with us.  
Amen.

♪ Hymn: The love of God comes close.....pg. 12 (474)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyZZFS1njGo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyZZFS1njGo)

✦ Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)  
*The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.*  
Amen.





Hidden Christ  
reveal yourself to me.

Tear through the prejudices  
which  
like a veil  
wrap me round  
and blind and deafen me  
to your presence.

Shatter the arrogant assumptions  
which define where and when  
I might expect  
to meet you.

Throw down the image  
I have made of you  
which is  
in reality  
my own image.

Then  
when I am naked  
and vulnerable  
stripped of everything  
but openness  
send me out  
to encounter you afresh  
in the resurrection garden  
of your world.

*Pat Bennett*<sup>8</sup>

8 from *Fire and Bread* Wild Goose Publ. pg 86

Rev. Peter Rombeek  
K4nsington Presbyterian Church

## MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, April 27

Supported by Presbyterians Sharing and generous donations, a dedicated team brings the hope of Jesus to people in 24 prisons in Malawi. Overcrowding and underfunding means a lack of basic necessities. Stigma associated with imprisonment can result in abandonment by families and communities, leaving many feeling isolated and alone. Through weekly visits that include Bible study, prayer, and counselling, as well as monthly distribution of necessities such as bed mats, soap, toiletries, clothing, medicines and meal supplements for the most vulnerable, the Friends of Prisons ministry brings friendship and hope to prisoners.



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### DAILY PRAYERS

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**Sunday, April 27 (Mission Awareness Sunday)** We pray for the Rev. Hastings Phale as he prepares to travel to Canada to share with the General Assembly wonderful stories of God's work in Malawi prisons.

**Monday, April 28** We pray for those who will visit Crieff Hills Retreat Centre and enjoy recreation, the beauty of the area and peace.

**Tuesday, April 29** We pray for God's blessing on clerks of presbytery and synod who have gathered for the Clerks' Consultation in Mississauga, Ontario, to discuss polity issues of the church in a worshipful retreat atmosphere.

**Wednesday, April 30** We pray for church musicians and choirs who help lead congregations in worship and praise.

**Thursday, May 1** We give thanks for the Rev. Dr. Pat Dutcher-Walls as she connected with congregations this year.

**Friday, May 2** We pray for United Mission to Nepal staff and Nepali community leaders as they work together to reduce stigma and introduce interventions that lead to improved mental health.

**Saturday, May 3** We pray for people participating in the Guidance Conference from May 5 to 8, as candidates for ministry reflect deeply on their sense of call to ministry in the church.

## Come to us, beloved Stranger

BEACH SPRING 8 7 8 7 D

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

Words: copyright © Edith Sinclair Downing, 1993 Music: harmony, copyright © 1958. Renewed 1986 Broadman Press. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## Open my eyes, that I may see

OPEN MY EYES 8 8 9 8 with refrain

Ab Eb7/Bb Eb7 Ab6 Ab

1. O - pen my eyes, that I may see glimps - es of truth thou hast for me;  
 2. O - pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send - est clear,  
 3. O - pen my mouth, and let me bear glad - ly the warm truth eve - ry - where;

C7/G Fm C7/E Fm C7 Fm Bb Eb

place in my hands the won - der - ful key that shall un - clasp and set me free.  
 and while the wave - notes fall on my ear, eve - ry - thing false will dis - ap - pear.  
 o - pen my heart and let me pre - pare love with thy chil - dren thus to share.

Refrain  
 Ab Eb7/Bb Eb7 Ab

Si - lent - ly now I wait for thee, read - y, my God, thy will to see;

(Eb/Bb Ab/C) Ab7C# Db(6) Eb7 Ab

o - pen my eyes:  
 o - pen my ears: il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!  
 o - pen my heart:

Words: Clara H. Scott (1841-1897) Music: Clara H. Scott (1841-1897)

Words: public domain Music: public domain



Supper at Emmaus - Rembrandt 1654



# 474 The love of God comes close

1. The love of God comes close where stands an o - pen door,  
 2. The peace of God comes close to those caught in the storm,  
 3. The joy of God comes close where faith en - coun - ters fears,  
 4. The grace of God comes close to those whose grace is spent,  
 5. The Son of God comes close where peo - ple praise his name,

to let the stran - ger in, to min - gle rich and poor.  
 for - go - ing lives of ease to ease the lives for - lorn.  
 where heights and depths of life are found through smiles and tears.  
 when hearts are tired or sore and hope is bruised and bent.  
 where bread and wine are blest and shared as when he came.

The love  
 The peace  
 The joy of God is here to stay, em - brac - ing those who  
 The grace  
 The Son

love  
 peace  
 joy of God is here to stay.  
 grace  
 Son

Words: John L. Bell (1949-), Graham Maule (1958-) Music: John David Edwards (1805-1885)  
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