



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

Ways of Peace

April 13, 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

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

April 18... day off for Good Friday

April 25: Quartet

May 2: Wild Robot

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



the entry of Christ into Jerusalem - Louis Felix Leullier

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.

Meet the Candidates - NDG April 15th 7 pm @ 5964 NDG & Royal
 organized by the NDG Community Council

Worship at St. Andrew's Home: Sundays, 3:30 (less than an hour)
 You are welcome to join the Rev. Jessica Gauthier for a time of song, scripture and prayer with the residence.

Webinar: Every Day is Earth Day: April 23 1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
 Dr. Leora Gansworth will share some examples of how faith and action might work together to pursue an Anishinabe concept that talks about pursuing a good and balanced life.

presbyterian.ca/webinars/every-day-is-earth-day

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 worship²

Jesus enters Jerusalem as a humble king, riding on a donkey.

The disciples proclaim the one who comes in the name of the Lord,

but the powers that be see a troublemaker, challenging their authority.

The prophetic traditions envision the peaceable kingdom,
but the empire sees a disturber of the peace, so death awaits him.

Give thanks to God who overcomes all the powers of death!

♪ Hymn: All glory laud and honour.....pg 10 (214)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=fhbYS31TYbs



² by Rev. Dr. Pat Dutcher-Walls (moderator)



Prayer of Approach

Loving God,
you rode a donkey and came in peace,
humbled yourself and gave yourself for us.
We confess our lack of humility.

As you entered Jerusalem,
the crowds shouted “Hosanna: ‘Save us now!’”
On Good Friday they shouted “Crucify!”
We confess our praise is often empty.
We sing “Hosanna,” but cry “Crucify.”

As the crowd laid their palms in front of you,
you took no glory for yourself.
We confess that we want to be accepted and take the easy way.
We do not stay true to your way.


Forgive us, Lord,
and may your Holy Spirit help us
to follow in the way of peace.
Amen.³

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.⁴

With the comfort that God loves us,
let us pray in hope the pray Jesus teaches us:

³ Worship Sourcebook K.2.2.3

⁴ Worship Sourcebook 2.4.40

 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

In today's Bible story we're going to hear about people celebrating Jesus - what he does and teaches. Let's brainstorm things about Jesus. . .

For example:

- stories of his birth that included the poor and angels
- that when Jesus taught he had more confidence and authority than anyone else. You knew they were true.
 - and the parables that kept teaching the more you thought about them
- that he included people nobody would have expected, like people without important jobs (fishermen), people others hated (tax collectors), enemies (Romans), and those considered less important (women & children).

- Jesus showed that God thought healthy bodies and relationships were more important than rules
- he did amazing things
 - feeding thousand of people with a lunch and a prayer
 - helping people who couldn't walk to dance again
 - giving sight to the blind
 - even raising people from the dead


Before Mike reads the first part of today's reading, let's just remember that in Luke Jesus has been working his way up to Jerusalem for a while, and he's not been welcomed by everyone. Today he arrives.

Before the reading, let's say a prayer.

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
that our lives will honour you.

Amen.

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁵ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Luke 19: 28-38](#)



⁵ 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

✧ Children's Time ~ Part II

The passage talks about people celebrating what Jesus had done - and that hasn't stopped. People still talk about how God brings healing into their lives - sometimes physically, or mentally, or with other people, or helping them to accept their limits and gifts. People still talk about what Jesus taught and how these lessons help us live better lives now.

So we're also going to have a little parade and sing praise to God. We're not going to have enough palms for everyone, but could you help me pass them out.

Good. Now we're going to sing and parade along the window side, then down the middle, then up the other side, and back to the front where we'll have a little prayer. I'd like to invite everyone who would be comfortable walking to join us.

♪ Hymn: Hosanna.....pg 12 (216)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOzK1DDpcMw

🧎 Prayer

*Dear Jesus, thank you for coming to us.
Help us to follow the way you taught. Amen.*

✧ Intro to the readings

Mike's going to lead us in the responsive psalm and then finish the passage from Luke.

We're going to have Psalm 118 today because that is where the disciples found words to express what they were feeling - though they made a small change. Then he'll finish reading the section of Jesus going up to Jerusalem.

📖 Reading:

[Psalm 118](#)

[Luke 19: 39-44](#)



Palms Sunday - P Koenig

✧ Sermon: Ways of Peace

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

Last week we heard about Jesus approaching Jericho and a Blind man calling out “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!” This was a political statement that could lead to Roman soldiers stomping in to extinguish a potential rebellion. The disciples told him to be quiet. Then Jesus granted his request - confirming the

title he was given. Now the disciples are calling out for the world to hear “*To God be the glory, great things he has done!*” Things are changing, though the danger is still there.

Some Pharisees who are concerned about what’s being shouted. It could be they objected to what the disciples were saying, or that they were concerned for Jesus’ safety. This gospel has been careful to mention both those who support and oppose Jesus.

In one of the chapters we skipped after Jesus met with Elijah, Moses & God, some Pharisees warn Jesus about going to Jerusalem. Jesus says that he must go, and then laments, “*Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!*”⁶ He loves them; cares for them; wants the best for them... but they are not willing.

As Jerusalem finally comes into view, Jesus weeps. He sees the proud walls with the Temple rising behind them. He sees all the people going through the gates. He sees the history of this city - the city David made his capital when he brought peace to the 12 tribes. He sees and remembers its people becoming self-centred and killing the messengers from God.

Today he laments, “*If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace!*” He then goes on to say that “*they are hidden from your eyes*” and describes the destruction of Jerusalem - “*all because you did not recognize the time of your visitation from God.*”

There’s a lot here.

One is to beware of saying the destruction and wars are because God does it or wants it. That is not what’s happening.

This is more like a doctor telling you that you are allergic to chocolate, but you eat it anyway. It’s not the doctor’s fault that you feel terrible afterwards - you just didn’t pay attention to the healthy ways to live.

But what about the line that it was hidden from their eyes? How can they know better? It’s open to interpretation who is doing the hiding. It could have been God ...but that doesn’t feel like how a loving and merciful God works. It could also be that it was hidden by the priorities they had built up in their lives - both individually and as a society. I can easily imagine this.

Can you imagine a society that prioritizes convenience at the expense of the environment? I’ve heard very little talk about the environment. There’s been important talk about inflation and the cost of housing and food. With the trade war there’s been talk of jobs. These are all important, but can we afford to let work towards the environment slide? This week mayors from across the country wrote a letter to the federal candidates trying to turn our eyes to this issue - to stop it from being hidden by other issues.⁷ In Jesus day there were lots of concerns about poverty and the related issues. Then the issues about how to balance their culture with the Roman one. It’s not easy. Could these issues have buried the *way for peace* that Jesus showed?

The line about peace is what stood out for me. Jesus weeping because they did not recognize “*the things that made for peace.*” As we look around it’s easy to see that we still don’t see how to live in peace.

If they don’t know peace because they don’t recognize the ways of peace? How can we know them?

6 [Luke 13:34](#) (35 also appropriate)

7 www.cbc.ca/news/politics/letter-mayors-federal-leaders-1.7507440

If Jesus came to bring peace, what did he do and teach? What were priorities for Jesus? Healing was one - physically, mentally, spiritually, and with the community (socially). He fed people with food and teachings. Once he started towards Jerusalem he encouraged the disciples to share what they had experienced - not as an elite, but by humbly joining the community. He modelled being with the people, not sitting on his high horse. Both of the rich people who asked about inheriting eternal life answer well. One referred to the Ten Commandments, the other saying, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.*"⁸ And there are several times when Jesus pushes this love beyond your family and neighbour to include those who don't like - or even hate.



What can we do?

What can you do?

We practice living out the issues that Jesus focused on: healthy bodies, minds, souls and communities that support everyone. Despite the temptations, eat healthy. Exercise. Stretch your minds - perhaps with podcasts or documentaries. Nourish your soul with prayer, or the arts, or a nice walk. Connect with your family, friends and neighbours in ways that lead to meaningful conversations. Stretch your community by looking for those in

the margins - in the Bible they are not only valued, but have keen insight.

We can also advocate for these issues - helping our society to love as God does. Ask questions about the health care system, or housing, or food poverty, or refugees, or racial profiling, or freedom of religion. Listen to the answers. Write letters.

At the Bible study another part of the story was brought out. That one person doing one small thing can be important for moving God's plan forward. The owner of the colt let them borrow it. We don't know why. We have no reason to think this person played any other role in the story. They did one thing, that allowed Jesus to ride and make a statement against common ideas of power and authority. You may not be able to do much, but it can still have a big impact on somebody's life. If you're blessed, you'll see the fruit.

We can be like the disciples. They don't always get it right, but they try. Can we have the courage, or faith, to join them in praising God for the experiences we have seen? I won't suggest walking down Sherbrooke shouting it out, but perhaps we can share our joys with those outside the church - those God brings alongside our journey.

To God be all the Glory

Amen.

Responding to God

♪ Hymn: At the name of Jesus.....pg 11 (340)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OK8OhC6rol4>

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

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

Visions: What would the world be like if everyone loved everyone, even their 'enemies'.

Memories: Brainstorm examples of ways that people are healed (physically, mentally, spiritually, socially). Who are good examples of doing aspects of this? Can you write them a thank you? Can you emulate or support them?

Wonder: Thinking of Jesus as he accepts the cross, what would the world be like if we didn't respond to pain by inflicting pain? How could we encourage this pattern to change? (governments? industry? media? personally?)

Actions: If we think of loving God and neighbour as the ways of peace, and that love includes physical, mental, spiritual & community... and you.

What can you do this week that will improve your way of living?

What can you do this week to start something for somebody else?

Prayer: ...that the world will see and accept your ways for peace.



Palms Sunday - P Koenig

✦ Spirit Sighting

If we think that God's way for peace in the world includes physical and mental health, then people who are trying to bring that to others are signs of God's Spirit at work. I heard two examples this week that combine tragedy and signs of the Spirit. It might make us uncomfortable, but we know that God will not turn away from tragedy.

One is local. Two years ago a man experiencing a psychosis drove a bus into a daycare, tragically killing and injuring several children. This week it was in the news that some parents who witnessed the event received lifetime psychiatric support, but that their children who witnessed from inside the care didn't receive any support. They were advocating that all those suffering from

the events receive the support they need to heal from this trauma.

The second is the killing of 15 emergency workers in Gaza on March 23rd. Yesterday I heard an interview with an Australian doctor who had worked with several of them. She talked about how selfless they were. That they knew they might get killed, but they would go out anyway because people were hurt and needed help.⁹

I don't know that any of these people are Christian, but they are trying to bring the ways of peace into their situations. This is God at work.



Offering

Your financial offerings help support the worship service, our midweek programs, and the upkeep of the building.

There is an 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

Lord Jesus Christ,
... over the broken glass of our world,
the rumours meant to hurt,
the prejudice meant to wound,
the weapons meant to kill,
ride on ...

⁹ www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cy0xp969n69o
www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-14-day-6/clip/16139846-as-fallout-continues-killing-15-palestinian-medical-workers

trampling our attempts at disaster into dust.

**Ride on,
Ride on in majesty**

... over the distance
which separates us from you,
and it is such a distance,
measurable in half truths,
in unkept promises,
in second-best obedience,
ride on ...
until you touch and heal us,
who feel for no one but ourselves.

**Ride on,
Ride on in majesty**

... through the back streets
and the sin bins
and the sniggered-at corners of the city,
where human life festers
and love runs cold,
ride on ...
bringing hope and dignity
where most send scorn and silence.

**Ride on,
Ride on in majesty**

For you, O Christ, do care
and must show us how.

On our own,
our ambitions rival your summons
and thus threaten good faith
and neglect God's people.
In your company and at your side,
we might yet help to bandage and heal
the wounds of the world.

Ride on,
Ride on in majesty
And take us with you.
Amen.



Palms Sunday - P Koenig

♪ Hymn: Ride on, Ride on the time is right.....pg 12
www.youtube.com/watch?v=9jyR99cuVYY (organ)

✦ 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



All glory, laud and honour

ST. THEODULPH 7 6 7 6 D

Instrumental Descant

4. All glo-ry, laud, and hon - our to thee, Re-deem - er, King,
 B♭ (/D) E♭ D/F# Gm E♭6 Cm7 B♭/F F B♭

(1.-4.) All glo-ry, laud, and hon - our to thee, Re-deem-er, King,

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san-nas ring!
 B♭ (/D) E♭ D/F# Gm (/F) E♭6 Cm7 B♭/F F B♭

to whom the lips of chil - dren made sweet ho - san-nas ring!

Words: Latin, Theodulph of Orleans (750–821); translation, John Mason Neale (1818–1866)
 Music: Melchior Teschner (1584–1635); harmony, J.S. Bach (1685–1750); descant, Randall De Bruyn (1947–)

Words: public domain Music: this arrangement, copyright © OCP Publications, 1990. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,
 B♭ Gm C/E C F C7 F /E♭ B♭/D F/C B♭6 C 7 F

1. Thou art the King of Is - rael, thou Da-vid's roy - al son,
 2. The peo - ple of the He - brews with palms be - fore thee went;
 3. To thee be - fore thy pas - sion they sang their hymns of praise;
 4. Thou didst ac - cept their prais - es; ac - cept the prayers we bring,

who in all good de - light - test, thou good and gra - cious King.
 F/A B♭ /A♭ E♭/G Bdim7 Cmsus Gm B♭/A♭ E♭/G B♭/F E♭6 F 7 B♭

who in the Lord's name com - est, the King and bless - ed one.
 our praise and prayer and an - thems be - fore thee we pre - sent.
 to thee, now high ex - alt - ed, our mel - o - dy we raise.
 who in all good de - light - est, thou good and gra - cious King.

Hosanna



1. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san-na in the high -
2. Glo - ry, glo - ry, glo-ry to the King of

est! kings! est! kings! Lord, we lift up your name

with hearts full of praise;

be ex-alt-ed, O Lord my God! Ho - san-na in the high - est!
Glo-ry to the King of kings!

Words: Carl Tuttle Music: Carl Tuttle CCLI #44406031

Words: copyright © Mercy/Vineyard, 1985 Music: copyright © Mercy/Vineyard, 1985

Ride on, Ride on, the time is right



1. Ride on, ride on, the time is right: the
2 Ride on, ride on, your cri - tics wait, in-
3 Ride on, ride on, while well a - ware that
4 Ride on, ride on, though blind with tears, though
5 Ride on, ride on, the room is let, the
6 Ride on, ride on, God's love de - mands; jus-

road - side crowds scream with de - light; palm bran - ches mark the
-trigue and rum - our cir - cu - late; new lies a - bound in
those who shout and wave and stare are mor - tals who, with
dumb to speak and deaf to jeers. Your path is clear, though
wine ma - tured, the saw is whet; and dice your death-throes
-tice and peace lie in your hands. E - vil and an - gel

pil - grim way where beg - gars squat and chil - dren play.
word and jest, and truth be - comes a sus - spect guest.
com - mon breath, can crave for life and lust for death.
few can tell their gar - ments pave the road to hell.
shall at - tend, though faith, not fate, dic - tates your end.
voi - ces rhyme: this is the man and this the time.

Words: Wild Goose Resource Group, The Iona Community Music: Musikalisches Handbuch, Hamburg 1690; arrangement, William Henry Havergal (1793–1870) Words: public domain Music: public domain CCLI #4440603

At the name of Jesus

KING'S WESTON 6 5 6 5 D

Dm F/A Dm (/E) F Dm F/C Gm/Bb Dm (/C Bb)

1. At the name of Je - sus eve - ry knee shall bow,
 2. Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name
 3. Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong as death,
 4. In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
 5. Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,

F/A F /A C6 Dm Bb 6 F/A Gm (/A Bb)

eve - ry tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
 from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came.
 name with awe and won - der, and with bat - ed breath;
 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true.
 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry and an an - gel train,

C Bb/G C Am /C Dm C/E Fmaj7 G C (/D /E)

'tis our God's good pleas - ure we should call him Lord,
 Faith - ful, Je - sus bore it spot - less to the last,
 this is God the Sav - iour; this is Christ the Lord,
 Crown him as your cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,

Dm/F C/E Am/C Am /C (Gm/Bb F) F/A /Bb C Dm

who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 brought it back vic - to - rious when from death he passed.
 ev - er to be wor - shipped, trust - ed and a - dored.
 let his will en - fold you in its light and power.
 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

Words: Caroline Maria Noel (1817–1877) Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

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An Inspiration for Change

In the quiet village of Chigwere in northern Malawi, 18-year-old Agnes Bambi found a sense of belonging and purpose as a member of the in-school youth club.



Supervised by two knowledgeable volunteer leaders trained by the project of the Livingstonia Synod AIDS Project, the youth club became a platform for empowerment and education. Working with both boys and girls, the club challenges social norms that favour men and boys and addresses the systemic marginalization of women and girls, which are especially challenging around issues of sexual and reproductive health.

Through the youth club, Agnes discovered the importance of staying in school and actively engaged in discussions about sexual reproductive health.

Equipped with knowledge, she took it upon herself to become an agent of change in her community, teaching her friends about the critical aspects of staying in school and making informed decisions for their futures.

This Lenten season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to ensure youth are empowered with the knowledge they need to make informed choices.

MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, April 13

Dhane BK, now in his senior years, lives with his close-knit family in Nepal. Seven years ago, Dhane completed treatment for leprosy, marking a significant milestone in his journey to overcome the disease. However, his struggle did not end there. Recently, he faced a new challenge when he developed a skin ulcer. Recognizing the severity of the situation, he was admitted for specialized care to the Shining Hospital, supported by PWS&D. His treatment regimen included daily ulcer dressings and comprehensive education on self-care practices. He learned the importance of inspecting, cleansing, protecting and caring for the ulcer—practices that promote healing and empower him to take an active role in his recovery. Today, Dhane continues to improve, with the ulcer showing significant signs of healing.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, April 13 (Palm Sunday) Holy God, protect us from fickleness and help us be faithful to the calling to follow Christ, our servant king.

Monday, April 14 We pray for the Committee on Doctrine as it prepares reports to submit to the General Assembly.

Tuesday, April 15 We pray for congregations that are exploring ways to better support and include LGBTQI2+ people and their families within their communities. Nurturing God, encourage them to approach their discernment with grace and creativity.

Wednesday, April 16 (Earth Week Starts) During Earth Week, we give thanks for the gift of water, essential to all life on Earth. We pray all people have access to clean, safe drinking water.

Thursday, April 17 (Maundy Thursday) Give us, O God, a renewed and growing awareness of what it means to live out Christ's example to love as he loved and to serve as he served.

Friday, April 18 (Good Friday) Merciful God, we praise you for your sacrificial love and pray for all those who have suffered violence, and for reconciliation wherever there is division and conflict

Saturday, April 19 (Holy Saturday) On this day, Jesus lies in the grave. We trust in the resurrection and in God's power to stir new life among and within us.

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