



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

Community of Blessings

July 27, 2025

WELCOME, we come to you from the unceded 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

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

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.

Richard Lovegrove: Monday July 28th

at Mount Royal Funeral Complex, 1297 Chemin de la Foret
 1:30-3 Visitation, 3:00 Funeral & a Reception following

Lillian Campbell Brown: funeral will be August 7th, 11:30

at the National Field of Honour

703 Donegani, Point-Claire - in the back corner

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



Embrace 23 - C Aust

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

Today our Call to Worship comes from Paul's letter to the
Philippians (4:4), and you're invited to sing it.....421
"Rejoice in the Lord always, and again I say rejoice"



Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.....pg 8 (371)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eb6xfRzjhq



Prayer of Approach

God of grace,
you have given us minds to know you,
hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise.
Jesus our Christ
may your light shine within us
helping us see where we sin.
May your grace and peace fill us,
washing out our selfish ways.
and please fill us with your Spirit,
that we may overflow with your love
and grant us courage and peace
to share you in all situations.
Not looking to ourselves
but looking to you.
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.



Assurance of Pardon

Hear the Good News
To all who turn from sin in sorrow,
to all who turn to God in hope,
this is God's Word of grace:
We are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved.
This gift we have from God.
Amen.²

To help us live a good life, Jesus teaches us to pray what is known
as the Lord's Prayer. I invite you to join in singing 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

One of the priorities of my InterMission was to spend more
time with my family - and did a road trip through the Maritimes.

To help prepare for P.E.I. we read Anne of Green Gables and learned about friends and Kindred Spirits. A kindred spirit is somebody who you can really relate with. Part of it is simply who they are, but there's more. What are some ways that you can become good friends with somebody? (or a good family)

- spend time with them
- talk with them about everything... including big dreams and deepest worries
- appreciate them

I would like to encourage you to do this with somebody from church, and with Jesus. Both will be helpful (especially Jesus).



Prayer:

*Dear Jesus, help us to make good friends and be good friends
...especially with you.*

Amen.

♪ Hymn: In loving partnership.....pg 9 (759)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCnytKwEW7c (tune at back)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgOI_u0SEP8 (hymn bk tune)

🧎 Prayer for Illumination

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

✨ Intro to the text

For the next three weeks we'll be spending time with Paul's letter to the church in Philippi. So before the readings, let's have a little background.

In Biblical times it was common for the students of someone to write what they thought their teacher would say and put the teacher's name on it. Scholars don't think that happened here. They believe this letter is one actually written by Paul - though they aren't quite sure when or where he wrote it from. It was written to the Christians in Philippi.

Philippi was a city in what would now be in eastern Macedonia or northern Greece. Initially important for gold mines and water springs, in Paul's day it was an important stop along the Roman highway to the eastern parts of the empire. There were people living there from all over the known world - speaking different languages and having different beliefs. It was a diverse metropolis - I expect you can relate to that.

The records come from later, but Roman Governors report that Christians are odd in that they help people without expecting anything, and they mingle among different classes. Can you relate to people finding you a bit odd because of your Christian values?

There were also times and places where Christians were seen as more than odd.³ All parts of the Roman Empire were supposed

³ As part of cleaning up after Julius Caesar, this is where Brutus and his army was defeated. Many of the winning soldiers were settled in Philippi - upping the amount of loyal Romans.

to recognize the Empire as the lord and saviour over all... and a god. When Paul and other Christians talk about Jesus Christ as The Lord & Saviour over all, this was an invitation to a better life, and easily heard as a rebellion against the Empire. This could lead to people distancing themselves, with Christians losing social status, economic opportunities, and even experiencing physical danger. Have you ever worried about losing opportunities or connections because you are a Christian? ...In Paul's case it led to him getting arrested. We'll hear soon how this affects him.



Paul in prison - Rembrandt

One more context piece to remember. The Christians Paul is writing to are struggling - not just with the culture around them, but with themselves. They are wondering about the future. They are wondering about being good enough. Can you relate?

So, Paul is writing to a struggling church of imperfect people in a large diverse city where it can be risky to live out the gospel. As you listen to Dean reading the first part of the letter, what does Paul share? what does he express?



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

[Philippians 1: 1-26](#)

[Psalm 100](#)



Sermon: Community of Blessings

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

What does Paul, locked up in prison with a possible death sentence share with a struggling church? What does he express? ...I hear joy and confidence.

Looking at the world around us, is that what you feel? How'd he do it?

Is he simply hiding from reality? No. He openly acknowledges he might be killed and that those he knows are struggling.

Where does this joy and confidence come from?

One source is his community. The relationship is so good that Paul thanks God every time he remembers those in Philippi. Even when out of sight, they have spent enough time together for Paul to know that the community continues to be partners in the gospel of Jesus Christ. Paul feels supported by them, and they feel supported by Paul. Feeling supported can help so much when times are tough. I pray you've experienced this... that you feel it now.

It can be hard though - especially since COVID. This week I heard people being interviewed about making friends, and the consensus seemed to be that this requires hard work - more than it used to. What they talked about paralleled both a workshop I

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

went to about healthy churches and a good book I read about healthy marriages.⁵ To be a part of a healthy community you need to spend time together, share big questions together, show gratitude for what they do and who they are, look for the positive, and be honest about your needs. I said that in a sentence. The Gottman's took a book that they hope you will spread out over a week. One way we try to encourage this at Kensington is by having 'coffee time' after worship. To recap, community takes work. You need to spend time together listening and sharing tasks, joys & needs, showing gratitude, and pondering big questions. The sorts of things Paul would have done in Philippi, and so has the foundation to continue in this letter.

Paul also has the confidence that *"the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."* I think part of this confidence comes from Paul doing the same thing with God as with the community: spending time with God, sharing big questions & needs, noticing what God is doing, and showing gratitude. Paul talks about praying, and his prayers seem to float spontaneously from his thoughts and feelings. He also looks for what God is doing through people.

Later Paul will offer Timothy and Epaphroditus as examples. We can also look around for examples. Within the



Festival of Lights - J Swanson

Presbyterian Church in Canada there's a program called Presbyterians Sharing.⁶ Thanks to the larger community of the church this fund is able to support the sharing of the gospel in many ways. It provides funding for students like Joe & Hanvit on their summer placements - great training towards becoming a minister. It also helps congregations figure out how God is calling them into a new future, and programs like Action Réfugiés⁷ in sharing God's love, hope & healing with refugees in Montréal. And many many other ways of nurturing faith and sharing God's love, hope & healing.

In thinking of examples, it's surprising that Paul sees God working through people he doesn't get along with. It's not that Paul is okay with people saying whatever they feel like in the name of Jesus. Some of his letters are quite fiery. Here though he shows his confidence that God works through imperfect people. This is encouraging for me, and I hope you. We don't have to be perfect to live the gospel. That said, it can cause problems. I've talked with a number of people who don't want to have anything to do with churches because of the hypocrites in them. That's part of the price of trying to live better than we can. It's important to try and live better, and also to remember that God is continually working to bring about the good work. It's not about us, it's about God.

This is the big source of joy and confidence in Paul. God. Specifically, God as revealed through Jesus the Christ. We'll get more into the details of that next week, but for now notice Paul's focus. When he starts talking about being in jail he doesn't seem concerned about being in jail and possibly being killed. This isn't because it's luxurious, it's just not a priority. His concern is entirely focused on God, and sharing the amazing relationship that is possible through Jesus - the peace from Christ offered

⁵The workshop was at Presbyterian College with Tod Bolsinger, and the book *The Love Prescription* by John & Julie Gottman (highly recommended).

⁶ <https://presbyterian.ca/sharing/>

⁷ <https://actionr.org/>

through grace and love. This focus away from yourself to sharing God's presence, combined with the confidence that the God of the Universe is working on this through us, leads to Paul's joy and confidence.

I hope you never find yourself locked up in jail, but we can relate to many aspects of what's going on. We also live in a diverse city where Christianity is a minority - and sometimes not well understood or thought of. Like the Philippians, we can have doubts about the future, and we may not feel like we can do it. I ~~hope~~ pray you can make the time to nourish your connections to community and God, and to have confidence in God's work through us (you and me and others), and that you will feel the joy & confidence Paul does.

*To God be all the glory
Amen.*



Responding to God

🎵 Hymn: O Master, let me walk with thee.....pg 9 (642)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdmeFsNRtAE

💬 FaithTalk: These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies.
Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Memories: Can you remember a time when you felt a deep peace?

Memories: Who has been a good friend for you? How?

Actions: Pick somebody in your life that you would like a stronger connection with. Make the effort to make connections, share joys/concerns/dreams & show gratitude/appreciation.

Values: Look over how you spend your time/energy/finances. Accepting what you need to do to nourish yourself, what about your time and energy is selfish and what helps share God?

Prayer: ...spend time with God sharing your joys/concerns/dreams & show gratitude/appreciation.



Spirit Sightings

For more about Presbyterians Sharing please visit the church website (presbyterian.ca/sharing) or pick up the flyer from the table in the hall.

Joseph Ragbir has sent us a note to say that things are going well in Geraldton . He feels God has been helping prepare messages for the congregation and share life with the community (including the walleye classic competition).



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 people⁸

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...

We praise and thank you, O Lord,
that you have fed us with your Word [and at your table].
Grateful for your gifts and mindful of the communion of your
saints,
we offer to you our prayers for all people.

God of compassion,
we remember before you
the poor and the afflicted,
the sick and the dying,
prisoners and all who are lonely,
the victims of war, injustice, and inhumanity,
and all others who suffer from whatever their sufferings may be
called.

[Silence]

O Lord of providence
holding the destiny of the nations in your hand,
we pray for our country.
Inspire the hearts and minds of our leaders
that they, together with all our nation,
may first seek your kingdom and righteousness
so that order, liberty, and peace may dwell with your people.
[Silence]

O God the Creator,
we pray for all nations and peoples.
Take away the mistrust and lack of understanding
that divide your creatures;
increase in us the recognition that we are all your children.

[Silence]

O Savior God,
look upon your church in its struggle upon the earth.
Have mercy on its weakness,
bring to an end its unhappy divisions,
and scatter its fears.
Look also upon the ministry of your church.
Increase its courage, strengthen its faith,
and inspire its witness to all people,
even to the ends of the earth.

[Silence]

Author of grace and God of love,
send your Holy Spirit's blessing to your children here present.
Keep our hearts and thoughts in Jesus Christ, your Son, our only
Savior,
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Lord, whose love.....pg 10 (722)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=So9Va9L8N8E

✦ Benediction (from Philippians 1:9-11)
*May your love overflow more and more
with knowledge and insight
So that we may share in
the righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ
for the glory and praise of God.*
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Rejoice in the Lord always.....421



Love divine, all loves excelling

HYFRYDOL 8787D

F C F Bb/D C7/E F C Dm C F/A C7/G F /A

1. Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, to
 2. Breathe, oh breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to eve-ry
 3. Come, al-migh-ty to de-liv-er, let us all thy
 4. Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less

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

earth come down; fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing,
 troub-led breast! Let us all in thee in-her-it,
 grace re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn and nev-er,
 let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion

F/A Gm 6 F /A Bb6 Dm C F Am Dm7 Dm

all thy faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art
 let us find the prom-ised rest; take a-way our
 nev-er more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be
 per-fect-ly re-stored in thee, changed from glo-ry

Gm C7 Dm C7/E F /E Dm Bb6 Am Gmsus+3 Bbmaj7 C7sus+3

all com-pas-sion, pure, un-bound-ed love thou art;
 love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
 al-ways bless-ing, serve thee as thy hosts a-bove,
 in-to glo-ry till in heaven we take our place,

F Am Gm C7 F /A C Bb C

vis-it us with thy sal-va-tion;
 end of faith as its be-gin-ning,
 pray and praise thee, with-out ceas-ing,
 till we cast our crowns be-fore thee,

F/A Bb /D F/C C7 F

en-ter eve-ry trem-bling heart.
 set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 glo-ry in thy per-fect love.
 lost in won-der, love and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: Rowland Hugh Pritchard (1812-1887);

Words: public domain Music: public domain

In loving partnership

DUKE STREET 8888 LM

D A7/E D/F# G A7/E D A/E E7 A D A7/E D/F#

1. In lov - ing part - ner - ship we come, seek - ing, O
 2. We are the hands and feet of Christ, serv - ing by
 3. Lov - ing com - mu - ni - ty we seek; your hope and
 4. In lov - ing part - ner - ship, O God, help us your

G D/F# Em D A D A7/E D/F# D D/F#

God, your will to do. Our prayers and ac - tions
 grace - each oth - er's need. We dare to risk and
 strength with - in us move. The poor and rich, the
 fu - ture to pro - claim. Jus - tice and peace be

G A7/E D D/A A D/F# G A7/E D D/F# G D/A A A7 D

now re - ceive; we free - ly of - fer them to you.
 sac - ri - fice with truth - ful word and faith - ful deed.
 strong and weak are brought to - geth - er in your love.
 our de - sire, we hum - bly pray in Je - sus' name.

Words: Jim Strathdee (1941-)

Music: John Warrington Hatton (c.1710-1793)

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O Master, let me walk with thee

MARYTON 8888 LM

Eb Ab/Eb Fm/Ab F/A Bb Cm7 Bb7/D

1. O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee in low - ly
 2. Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear
 3. Teach me thy pa - tience; still with thee in clos - er,
 4. in hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

Eb Cm7 F7 Bb /Ab Eb/G

paths of serv - ice free; tell me thy sé - cret;
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - en - ing way, in peace that on - ly

Ab Eb/G Fm7-6 Eb Bb7 Cm Bb7/D Eb Fm/Ab Fm Bb Eb

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
 thou canst give, with thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

Words: Washington Gladden (1836-1918) Music: Henry Percy Smith (1825-1898)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

Lord, whose love

BEACH SPRING 8 7 8 7 D

F Gm/F F /E Dmsus4-3 Bb C/Bb

1. Lord, whose love through hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of
 2. Still your chil - dren wan-der home - less; still the hun - gry
 3. As we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re -
 4. Called by wor - ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear

Bb 6 F Gm/F F F /E Dmsus4-3

hu - man need, who up - on the cross, for - sak - en,
 cry for bread; still the cap - tives long for free - dom;
 veal - ing light in its height and depth and great - ness
 name we go to the child, the youth, the a - ged,

/C Bb C/Bb Bb 6 F C/E (Dm7)C (sus2-1)

of - fered mer - cy's per - fect deed: we, your serv - ants, bring the
 still in grief we mourn our dead. As, O Lord, your deep com -
 dawns up - on our quick - ened sight, mak - ing known the needs and
 love in liv - ing deeds to show; hope and health, good will and

Dm Am F/A Bb (maj7) C(sus2-1) Dm

wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart, con - se - crat - ing
 pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul, use the love your
 bur - dens your com - pas - sion bids us bear, stir - ring us to
 com - fort, coun - sel, aid and peace we give, that your serv - ants,

/C Bb6 (maj7) F/A Gm7 F/A Bb F

to your pur - pose eve - ry gift that you im - part.
 Spir - it kin - dles still to save and make us whole.
 tire - less striv - ing your a - bun - dant life to share.
 Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know, and live.

Words: Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984) Music: attributed to Benjamin Franklin White (1800-1879)
 from Sacred Harp 1844; harmony, Ronald A. Nelson (1927-) CCLI #4440603

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MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, July 27

In the village of Kaph Tola, India, the Karuna Project's Task Force addresses gender issues, including child marriage and its consequences. When a member discovered that his 15-year-old niece, Amba, was scheduled to marry soon, the Task Force urged her family to cancel the wedding as it would impact her ability to continue school and influence her future. The family hesitated because of the paid dowry, but with help from a local legal team, the Task Force convinced them. Amba is grateful. Now, she can continue pursuing her education and achieving her dreams. The Task Force continues its vital home visits, fostering brighter futures by preventing similar situations. This project is supported by PWS&D.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, July 27 We give thanks for ethnic minority church members who bring the richness of their cultures to our churches, enriching our communities and reflecting the fullness of God's kingdom.

Monday, July 28 We pray for all those in the Republic of Congo experiencing the impact of ongoing conflict. We pray that they can meet their basic needs with PWS&D's support.

Tuesday, July 29 We give thanks for General Assembly standing committee members who have completed their terms and we seek God's guidance for those who will carry out this work in the coming year.

Wednesday, July 30 (World Day Against Trafficking in People)

We pray for the leaders and volunteers of ARISE Ministry, who offer compassionate outreach and spiritual care to survivors of human trafficking, trauma and abuse in the Greater Toronto Area.

Thursday, July 31 We pray for participants in this year's Guder Scholar program at St Andrew's Hall. In August, pastors from across Canada will explore the theme of missional leadership and discernment as they seek to bless their congregations and communities with God's love.

Friday, August 1 (Emancipation Day) We acknowledge that anti-Black racism and prejudice are still present in our church and society and pray for people who work to oppose discrimination and all forms of enslavement.

Saturday, August 2 We pray for scholars of theology and scripture, that their work will be in the service of the gospel, and the power of God's salvation for everyone.

