

#### Kensington Presbyterian Church Growing in Faith and sharing God's Love since 1786

# The essence of God is...

August 3, 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. 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**

Clicking on or tapping blue text will take you to a web-site

**Prayer Groups:** 

Zoom: Wednesday 6:30 am

Woman's Prayer Group: summer meetings through What's App

**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.

Lillian Campbell Brown: funeral will be August 7<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 at the National Field of Honour 703 Donegani, Point-Claire - in the back corner



Trinity Window - Avondale PA

### Contacts

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Zoé Dupont-Foisy (music director)......zoedupontfoisy@hotmail.com Rose Ngo Mbenoun (Clerk of Session...admin@Kensingtonchurch.ca

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



# Approaching God

Å	Lighting of the Christ Candle
	Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde.
	Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

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



Christ washing feet - Butler

Prayer of Approach
Lord Jesus,
one being with God,
yet truly human
In the fullness of your power, most gentle,
and at your greatest, most humble,
May your Spirit teach us and lead us
to be of the same mind and heart as you
our Lord or all.

Amen.



## Listening to God

### Children's Time

Today's passage is about God. Yes, most passages are in some way, but today is one perspective of what is most important. What do you think is important to remember about God? (and Jesus!) . . .

#### Prayer

Dear Jesus. help us to know you better, and to become good at sharing what is important about you. Amen.

☐ Hymn: I danced in the morning......pg 13 (250)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEAIJV6CmtA

### rayer for Illumination

Dear Lord,

Make us to know your ways, O Lord; teach us your paths.

So that we may see your good work and share your glory.

Amen.

2/15

Last week we heard the start of Paul's letter to the Philippians - who lived in a context surprisingly similar to our own. In it we find out that Paul's locked up and might be executed... and that this isn't a big concern for him.

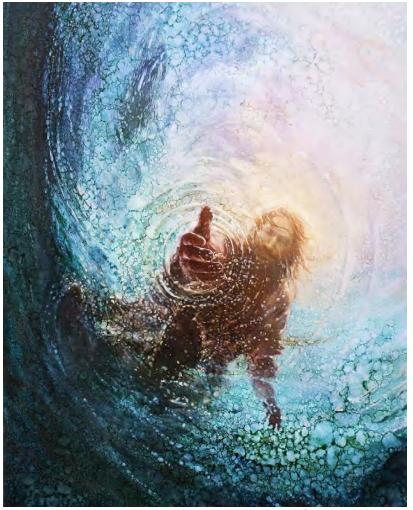
He starts by sharing how grateful he is for the church in Philippi and their support in this. Paul recognizes that they are feeling challenged by the culture around them and their own faults, but shares his confidence that God is working through them, and others, to complete the good work.

That said, the big focus and source of confidence for Paul is Christ. Despite his present situation, Paul is overflowing with joy that more and more people are hearing about the grace and peace that can be found through Jesus.

But what is it about Christ that's so wonderful? That's in today's passage.

Commentators through the millennia believe this passage was a hymn of the early church, possibly also a creed or part of their Sunday morning responses. Because it uses words not found elsewhere in the Bible it is likely that this was a hymn wasn't written by Paul, but was already in use by the church... which means it goes back to the first 20 or so years after Jesus' death.<sup>2</sup>

Jennifer is going to read that passage from two different versions. The first will be from the New Revised Standard Version (updated edition), which tries to preserve the poetic language. The other is from The Message by Eugene Peterson, and is more like a letter, and perhaps easier to understand. As you listen, consider why Paul included this hymn. What's the point the hymn is trying to make about Christ and God?



The Hand of God - Yongsung Kim

August 3, 2025

The essence of God is...

Reading: Please look up the passages in your own

Bible,<sup>3</sup> or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

Philippians 2: 5-11 (NRSV)

Philippians 2: 5-11 (The Message)

Psalm 25: 1-9

<sup>2</sup> Remember that Paul's letters were written before the gospels - and this hymn was before this letter. Commentators figure it was written sometime between 52 and 65 CE.

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: Describing God

Dear Lord, please bless these words and the meditations of our hearts. <sup>4</sup> Amen.

So, what is the point of the hymn? and why did Paul include it in his letter?

We heard about Christ being humble - emptying himself to completely reveal God. And that as Jesus reveals God's glory, God made Jesus the Lord of all.

One way this passage is interpreted is as a lesson in ethics. These words tell us how we should live - humble like Jesus. However, if that's all it is, then shouldn't all humble people also be lifted up by God so that every tongue will confess them as lord? That doesn't make sense. We can only have one Lord of all, and that's Jesus. There's got to be more going on.

The starting point for this passage is to describe Jesus the Christ, not us. It's a very brief biography. If you were to write a biography of Jesus, what would you put in? Although a closer analogy to this would be an 'elevator conversation' - a summary in a minute. What would you say? What's necessary?

Here they leave out almost all the details. They include that Christ Jesus and God were one since the beginning. That Christ emptied himself into a human form and lived completely in line with God's will until he was humiliated and killed - after which God lifted Jesus up to become Lord of



all... shows the glory of God. It doesn't include details about his life, nor is it a theological debate. This is the facts, just the facts, about Jesus.

Why include it in the letter? and before that, in early Christian worship? It answers the prayer in today's psalm: "Make me know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths." Christians saying statements like this when they come together reminds them of who Jesus was and is, and to remember God's glory. This is important because it is amazing, and impacts all our relationships.

As the church continued to develop, they used this passage as a reminder... but over time they decided they needed other statements to help make things clearer. A danger to this is that if we define God too much we can also limit how we see God. However having a more detailed definition can correct misunderstandings we have. How do we know the difference? Through a lot of group talking, and time.

The PCUSA, the largest Presbyterian denomination in the U.S., has a book of these sorts of descriptions gathered through the ages. There are many more, but these ones they consider important guidance. It includes the Scots Confession of 1560, the Westminster Confession of 1647, various Catechisms, and some more recent statements in response to Nazi Germany and Apartheid South Africa. All of them were Trinity - Shin Maeng

Psalm 19:14

<sup>5</sup> Explore the book here: https://pcusa.org/resource/book-confessions Each section has an introduction

written in context, and usually in response to significant debate (crisis). An exception to this is the one our denomination wrote in the 1980s called *Living Faith*. We just wrote it out of a love for God. These statements that have been widely accepted as providing a way to check that our beliefs about God are on the right track, while remembering the statements are not the Bible and were written in a historical context. It's interesting to look back on what they said and how they saw God working... and noticing how this is still important to daily lives.

The PCC has various statements we have accepted throughout our history. The most recent was a catechism adopted in 2004, but also Living Faith, the Declaration of Faith Concerning Church and Nation, the Westminster Confession of Faith with it's catechisms, and two early creeds. 8

What's a creed? It's a brief statement of beliefs... like our passage. The word creed comes from Latin and means "I believe". As I've said, many have been written. While the PCC doesn't necessarily have anything against other creeds, we tend towards a more minimal approach. The one you are likely most familiar with: The Apostle's Creed. When we gather as a community for communion at Kensington, we traditionally use this one. The earliest version dates back to around 180 CE<sup>9</sup> (yes, well after the original apostles had all died). It

continued to develop into the one we use today into the late  $7^{th}$  century.

The other creed officially accepted by the PCC reached its final version in 381 CE, and is even more widely accepted by the different branches of Christianity. The Orthodox Churches object to the Apostle's Creed... because they find the title misleading. As you'll see, the content is very similar (see page 11).

The opening is almost exactly the same, with just a reminder that we don't know everything God does.

The Jesus section emphasizes the connections between Jesus and God. They are distinct and one being - one since before creation. Before talking about Jesus on earth, the purpose is given: "For us and for our salvation." Jesus came to heal/fix/save us. The Nicene Creed also reminds us that Jesus was human, not a great powerful god... though one with God. That all that happened was consistent with scriptures. This is a continuation of God's good work leading to the glorious kingdom under Christ.

While the section with the Holy Spirit doesn't include much, it is at least more than the Apostle's Creed and reminding us that this is how God speaks through people.

The last bit is pretty similar. It emphasizes living into "Thy Kingdom Come", rather than "life everlasting". The line about one baptism picks up on

the theme of one community - and seen in the first words: "We believe".

Lakota Trinity - Father John Giuliani

<sup>6</sup> One infamous line in the Westminster Confession calls the Pope the anitichrist. The PCC partners well with the Roman Catholic Church, now, and leaves that language and attitude in the past.

https://presbyterian.ca/resources/resources-od/

<sup>8</sup> PCC statements on what we believe, including the creeds presbyterian.ca/about/more/

<sup>9</sup> In response to Marion who wanted to remove any Jewishness from the Bible and Christianity.

This is more than academic, or just for Communion Sunday. They are good reminders for our relationship with God and each other. Nothing is greater than God - no person, or thing, or relationship, or idea. While we think of God as three persons (Father, Son & Holy Spirit) they are all one - and have been since before the beginning. God, through Jesus, is trying to bring healing/salvation - in a way that is sadly strange to us. The Holy Spirit is working through us... and it is all leading to the glorious kingdom to come.

Or to put it another way: You are not alone. You are part of a community of Christians. You are loved by the Creator who will do what it takes to lead us into glory... which includes God working through people in ways "seen and unseen". When you are joyful or struggling, remember this community. Remember God is at work. Remember that we are a part of it.

And getting back to the creed in Philippians... be humble about it. Don't be a pushover, this is great news, but it's not because we're great. The ethics bit does come into it - and the confidence and joy that Paul felt knowing "that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."

To God be all the glory Amen.



☐ Hymn: What wondrous love is this......pg 15 (242)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtPdb\_UKy2U www.youtube.com/watch?v=oVNktRGU3As 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: How would you express the essence of God?

Actions: Try it. You can speak, sing, write a poem or story,

draw, paint, dance or cook...

Wonder: If you are wondering about other statements, I

suggest checking out the Barmen and Belhar

statements, 10 or our own Living Faith. 11

Prayer: ...that the Holy Spirit will help us to know God's ways -

seen and unseen.



Bhawna, an eightyear-old girl, dreamed of attending school so that one day she could become a doctor. But in her village in Pakistan, there was no school for her to attend. Everything



changed when a local partner opened a girls' school with PWS&D's support. Bhawna's mother, Soorma, shares how eager her daughter was to attend, her excitement visible in how she carefully carried her new books to class. Through the program, Bhawna and the other children receive lunch daily and educational materials, toys and support from dedicated teachers. "The opening of the girls' school has not only fulfilled Bhawna's dream but has also shifted the mindset of our entire community. Education is no longer considered a privilege reserved for boys," shares Soorma.

<sup>10</sup> Explore the book here: https://pcusa.org/resource/book-confessions Each section has an introduction

<sup>11</sup> https://presbyterian.ca/resources/resources-od/

### → Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on our **website**. Just click the '**Donate Now**' button, and then the pretty button. It gives you various options that are easy to follow. You can now 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.

All donations are gratefully received and support God's work in our local and extended community.



#### Communion

Invitation to the table

Maintenant, c'est le temps

de se rassembler autour de la Table de notre Seigneur.

God knows you,

and what is going on inside you

and has lead you to this time

to join the community at the table of our Lord.

Everyone who wants to know God better is welcome.

C'est la volonté de Dieu

que tous ceux qui veulent connaître Jésus

partagent ce repas.



The Hand of God - Yongsung Kim

As a part of coming together as a community I'm going to invite you to join in a communal statement of faith that goes back to about 381 and is accepted by more Christians than any other: the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
Ge ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
The Lord be with you.

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

For you are the Almighty maker of heaven and earth:
 of bubbling brooks and mighty waterfalls,
 of hummingbirds and eagles,
 of people - with minds to understand and hearts to feel.

Lord of Lords,
 you are the Almighty, with power over everything and everyone

We appreciate all that see we of your glory
 ...teach us to appreciate what we don't not seen.

Because your grace is beyond our imaging

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

And so we join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

To you, O Lord,
we lift up our souls.
Because you humbled yourself,
becoming truly human

8/15

to provide a way for us to relate to you to show us what it is to live your way, even when it means death to the old ways, and the old body.

We admit that we continue to struggle with being of the same mind as you - with humbly putting others before ourselves. Please save us from ourselves and help us to focus on you so we may also know Paul's confidence and joy.

Through your life, death, & resurrection you reveal the glory that defies the mind, but satisfies the hungry heart.

So together, we proclaim the mystery of the faith.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We believe that your Holy Spirit is continually working to complete the good work begun in us. Teach us your path so that we may share your goodness with those around us.

Lord, we pray that your presence will be felt everywhere, but there are situations which are dear to our hearts. We pray for...

 those who can't live in peace who live with conflict or fear for their income or basic needs.

- those who are struggling with their health: physical, mental, spiritual.
- those who don't feel supported by a community.
- those whose loved ones have left this world.

We give thanks for ways the community helps, from social workers, to Women on the Rise and Head and Hands, to Presbyterians Sharing, and for ways that your Spirit is unseen.

And we thank you for the guides you have left to remind us of your love and glory - such as the Creeds and the Lord's Prayer. Let us say together the Lord's Prayer

Cur 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
now and forever.

As we gather at your table we are reminded that your Spirit can turn the ordinary into the holy.

so that we can recognize you in bread and juice. May your Holy Spirit make this time come alive in ways that bring us closer to you.

Amen.



The Last Supper - Ivan Guaderrama

Words of Institution

On the night before he met with death, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God

he broke the bread and shared it, saying

"This is my body; it is broken for you."

"Ceci est mon corps, qui est rompu pour vous" [take and eat]

In the same way, he took the cup of wine after dinner and said, "This is the new relationship with God, sealed in my blood Take this, all of you, in remembrance of me."

"Cette coupe est la nouvelle alliance en mon sang; faites ceci en mémoire de moi"

Take and drink.

### Prayer after Communion

Loving God,

you graciously feed us now and through your Spirit.

Jésus, il n'y a rien qui puisse te séparer de nous. and we thank you for bringing us together through your Word and your table.

Through you, we are saved.

Vous êtes ici maintenant avec espoir et amour - et aussi dans le monde.

Help us to share your love with all the world.

In Jesus name Amen.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=sj0XLq-fq81



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.



#### Apostles' Creed (Newer Version)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. AMEN.

Rev. Peter Rombeek for Kensington Presbyterian Church

#### Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through Him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation
He came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

#### King of Kings

by Brooke Ligertwood & Hillsong Worship

#### Verse 1

In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfill the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory
To a cradle in the dirt

#### Chorus

Praise the Father Praise the Son Praise the Spirit Three in One God of glory, Majesty Praise forever to the King of Kings

#### Verse 2

To reveal the kingdom coming And to reconcile the lost To redeem the whole creation You did not despise the cross For even in Your suffering You saw to the other side Knowing this was our salvation Jesus for our sake You died

#### REPEAT CHORUS

#### Verse 3

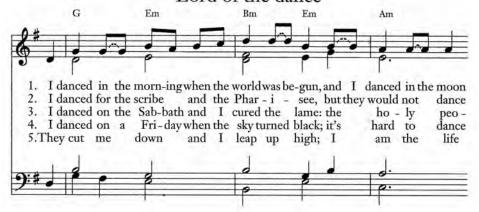
And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

#### Verse 4

And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

#### REPEAT CHORUS

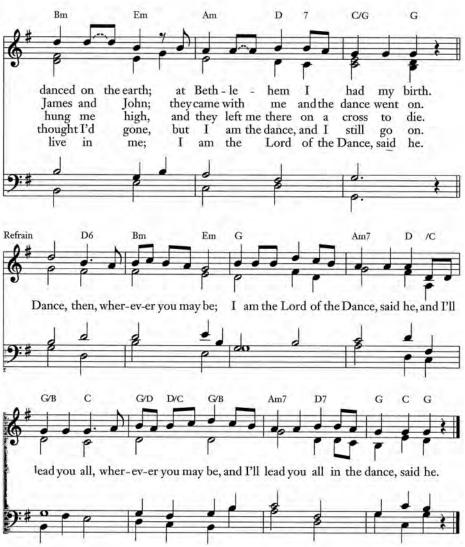
# I danced in the morning / Lord of the dance





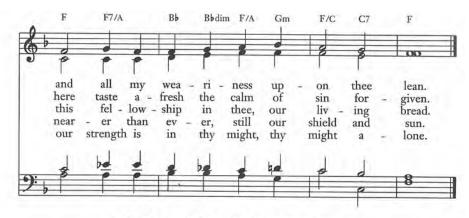
Words: Sydney Carter (1915–) Music: 19th century, Shaker tune; adaptation by Sydney Carter (1915–); arrangement, John Birch

Words: copyright © 1963 by Stainer & Bell Ltd. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Hope Publishing Co. Music: copyright © 1963 by Stainer & Bell Ltd. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Hope Publishing Co. CCLI #44406031









- Mine is the sin, but thine the righteousness; mine is the guilt, but thine the cleansing blood. Here is my robe, my refuge and my peace, thy blood, thy righteousness, O Lord, my God.
- 7. Feast after feast thus comes and passes by, yet, passing, points to that glad feast above, giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy, the Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love.

Words: Horatius Bonar (1808–1889), alt Music: James Langran (1835–1909)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

### 270 What Wondrous Love Is This



### MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, August 3

Khadija Yusuf Ahmed, a mother of six from Dabataag, Somalia, has shown remarkable strength in the face of immense adversity. Her husband died during the recent civil war in Las Anod and her journey has been one of double displacement—first fleeing her home in Mogadishu only to later be forced to escape again when violence reached Las Anod. The challenges of being a single mother and providing for her kids weighed heavily on Khadija. But she found hope in a Canadian



Foodgrains Bank project that provided cash assistance for food. "Our meals have become more wholesome, and the fear of going to bed hungry has diminished. I have fulfilled my children's basic needs and addressed their main concerns," she shares. This project is supported by PWS&D and the Government of Canada.

#### DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, August 3** We pray for the ongoing work of the Committee on Church Doctrine as they guide Presbyterians in responding to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) and supporting those who have chosen it.

**Monday, August 4** We pray for students of The Presbyterian College of Montreal who are serving in summer placements. May these be rewarding experiences that will further the work of God's kingdom.

**Tuesday, August 5** We pray for staff and students of The Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America in Guatemala as they respond to challenges of their context with transformative pastoral practice.

**Wednesday, August 6 (Anniversary: 1945 Bombing of Hiroshima)**Today we remember the victims of the atomic bombing in Hiroshima from this day in 1945 and we pray for an end to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

**Thursday, August 7** We pray for faith leaders and organizations around the globe who are actively working to tackle climate challenges.

**Friday, August 8** We pray for those who are worried about the increasing costs of living. May we be the hands of Christ, helping people in need.

**Saturday, August 9** (International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples) We recognize and honour the diverse identities, cultures, languages, governance systems, traditions and spiritual practices of Indigenous peoples around the world.