

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

Good Order

September 7, 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

Lunch after worship

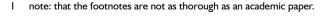
Prayer Groups:

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.

Hazel Keane died peacefully Friday. We will have a funeral on Wednesday, Sept 24th here at Kensington. The funeral will be at 2, with a visitation (1:30) before and some refreshments after.





Oxford Alley, NDG - Rombeek

Contacts

Church Office: 514-486-4559info@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

A

Lighting of the Christ Candle

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

Call to worship²

This is the day that the Lord has made;

let us rejoice and be glad in it.

God made the bright, warm sunshine and the dead of night.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

God made the peaceful ponds and the crashing waves.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

God made the little tiny flowers and the great big pine trees.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

God made the slimy slugs and the faithful dog.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

God made you, and God made me.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Come, let us praise God for making all things good!

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xXm1VOUH3eY



7 Days of Creation - Safina

rayer of Approach

Creator God,

you made all that is, both seen and unseen.

You made us in your image, not alone (but collectively), that we might reflect your goodness, wisdom, and love.

As we gather around your Word and table this day, may our faith be renewed, that we may serve you.

Amen.3



Listening to God

Slessing our Outreach Coordinator

When Jesus walked the earth he went to people and gathered them. He invited them into a new relationship with God & creation that was both challenging and full of love, hope, & healing. Then he sent them out to share this with others.

The Presbytery has a fund to encourage churches to try new things. We tapped into this a while ago with Jessica and Antoinette. Now we're reworking (reforming) the idea into an Outreach Coordinator - someone to help organize activities that we can invite our friends, family and neighbours, around the church and around your lives, to.

There's been a hunt to find someone and, through the grace of God, Orly Alexis applied. Orly is a music education student at McGill with a few years of experience in organizing activities at her church. I hope you'll be able to stay after and introduce yourself.

² adapted from Worship Sourcebook A. I. 2.4

³ adapted from Worship Sourcebook A.1.4.3

Prayer

Dear Jesus.

We thank you for bringing healing and life.

We thank you for inviting us into a new relationship with you and with each other - one that you send us to share with others.

We ask that you bless Orly in her new role with us and help us to support her as she supports us.

In Jesus name

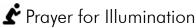
Amen.

We'd like to thank Kathryn & Ines for developing the position, praying & carrying out the search.

Just to help manage expectations, the position is currently only 10 hours a month. Within that we're hoping to have something most months - and she'll need our help.

☐ Hymn: God is so Good......pg 11

www.youtube.com/watch?v=vWNgvUWKdX8



Lord,

open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,

that we may grow into the relationships you created.

Amen.

► Intro to the readings

Today we're starting the next season of the Narrative Lectionary.⁴ It tries to give us the sweep of the Biblical story from creation to early Christianity - and this year it really starts with the beginning - verse one of the Bible.

We're also going to hear another creation story that we'll get

Our main creation story, the first told in the Bible, is not an eyewitness account - people weren't created until near the end of it. If this is not a factual report of creation, then what is the intent? Broadly, it is to tell about God, and our relationships with God and the world around us.

The context that it comes out of suggests an aspect of God that it is trying to share. Scholars believe that this creation story was written for those who were taken into Babylonian exile. Their beautiful temple and mighty city had been torn down. Their kingdom scattered. Their God had not defeated the Babylonians either because God wasn't strong enough, or (as some prophets suggested) God had sided with the enemy. Psalm 137 reflects their feelings when it sings,

By the rivers of Babylon there we sat down and wept when we remembered Zion.

How could we sing the Lord's song

in a foreign land?⁷

How would this explanation of creation speak to them? What does it say about God and our relationships? What's it say to us?



Kitten in Gaza - Banksy

into more around Christmas. It comes from the beginning of this year's featured gospel: John. As you listen to this passage, an interesting note is that while "the Word" is the traditional translation, it misses the connection to activity in the original. This is an active Word, or perhaps we should say "Verb". Our main creation story, the first told in the Bible, is not an

⁵ interestingly, Hispanic translations use Verb
6 ...and after the one found in Genesis 2 and Psalm 104

⁷ Psalm 137

⁴ www.workingpreacher.org/narrative-faq

The Genesis passage will be read responsively, with Anne as the narrator, Zoé and I as God, with responses from you (possibly as it was originally used). But first, the gospel reading.



Creation Window - Sacred Heart RC church Bilton, Warwickshire

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

<u>John 1</u>: 1-5 <u>Genesis 1</u>

Genesis 2: 1-4a

ocircolo z. 1 ja

Sermon: Good order

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

This is a lovely story that inspires the imagination with grand images and wonderful details. Many artists have created beautiful pieces based on it 10 ... but what's it say about God and our relationships?

As I said, scholars think it was originally written for those

living in chaotic times. We, living here in Montréal, have not had an army come in kidnapping friends and destroying our homes, but the times still feel chaotic. People share with me their uncertainty/worry/anger with world leaders, the environment, and many other issues. Living in chaotic times seems a pretty good description for their feelings. Chapter 1 verse 2 of the Bible starts, "the earth was in complete chaos", but it doesn't end there. It goes on to say, "with the breath of God hovering over the waters" - and then describing God actively creating order from chaos. "And it was good."

This reveals facts about God. Our God is active in chaotic times bringing order - creating good. And not just for one city or people, but for all of creation - for everything and everyone.

This is big. This is important. This is how the world works - even when it feels like "darkness covered the face of the deep". God is present and actively organizing the chaos into good.

The relationship starts with being present, and then establishes some boundaries. God recognizes the nature of things and organizes them: dark/light, water, air & land. This brings some peace.

It's a way we bring peace to our lives too - organizing. Take your kitchen as an example. Having all your cookbooks, cookware, dishes, food and spices all dumped in a pile would be "complete chaos". Creating a beautiful meal would be difficult/painful. And the things in the pile would get hurt: dishes broken, food spoiled and making a mess of everything else. Chaos. Every kitchen I've visited has things grouped by kind: dishes, cookware, pantry, etc. This order is good.

Later in the Bible we will hear about ways of organizing our lives to keep us from chaos and living so that "it is good". There

⁸ 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

⁹ Psalm 19:14

¹⁰ Haydn's Creation starts with a bar of rest for the choir and orchestra... as in the beginning there was a void.

will be the 10 Commandments, reminders to look after the vulnerable and the alien, and to focus on loving God & neighbour. Those prophets that had suggested that God would side with the Babylonians against the Chosen People also said it was because the people were living with their priorities out of order - creating chaos.

In this creation story God separates things - organizes them with similar things. How much of this should we do in our own lives? Kitchens are good. Moving to Québec, it feels more segregated than elsewhere I've lived: by language, economics, ethnic background. Is this creating a good order? Does it help all parts to flourish (ex. French as North American minority, English as Quebec minority), or does this hurt relationships? How should we organize things?¹¹

I've heard several people say that it is easier to be creative when there are some boundaries - and God does some amazing creativity. All the plants: mould, roses, apples, maple trees, ... all the animals of the sea: lobster, cod, whales... all the creatures of the air: mosquitoes, hummingbirds, eagles.... and all the animals on land: slugs, geckos, elephants, us. There's so much variety! And you can see even more creativity when you narrow it down. Consider all the different types of apples or dogs. Then there's animals that blur the boundaries. Penguins are birds that only fly underwater. Whales are mammals, but very different from my cat. I'm not sure what a platypus is. God's boundaries/organization is abundantly diverse, and not rigid. "And it was good."

What's this say about God? God wants diversity and is flexible in the organization. And relationships? This reads some ecology into it, but God creates these units and those living in them are connected... dependant on each other. There's even balance between different environments. As we know, we need to be wary of disturbing the balance in killing animals or disturbing the flow of water.

And this goes for people too. We, collectively, are made in God's image. We need diversity to reflect God's characteristics. In this story we see God being present in chaotic times, helping to create life giving order, and being abundantly creative. Which parts are you gifted with? How does that affect your relationships?



Adam and Eve - Wenzel Peter

And then there's the seventh day - the Sabbath. It's a radical departure from other creation stories of the day. The Babylonian myth had their God create a temple to live in, and they celebrated once a year. Our God rested in all creation and is recognized every week. This isn't one-up-man-ship, it's how we function best.

I Election time is a good time to think about this and ask questions.

We need to take time to rest every week, or our relationships will suffer. We need to spend time with God - or our relationship will suffer. This is how the world was created. "And it was good."

When times feel chaotic, know that God is there creating order. It will have blurry edges and be more diverse than we can imagine, but God is creating something very good. ...and we are a part of it.

To God be all the glory Amen.





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

Etching: What amazes you about God's creation?

Etching: What amazes you about God's creation through people?

Values: Thinking through creation stories (Genesis 1, 2, Psalm 104, John 1, others), what do you appreciate? If you were to create a creation story, what would you make sure it says about God, the world, and us?

Visions: Where is God working, often through people, to change chaos into good?

Memories: How do you see God reflected in others?

Wonder: How could we connect with our neighbours or your friends and family?

Prayer: ...that God's presence will be felt in chaotic times, and we will see the good creativity.



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

☐ Hymn: Come my way, my truth, my love.....pg 14 (565)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzJNdXOHLIU

Invitation to the table

Maintenant, c'est le temps

de se rassembler autour de la Table de notre Seigneur.

God knows you,

and what light and dark, chaos and peace

is going on inside you

and has lead you to this time

to join in 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.

As we come together to share this taste of the Lord's Supper, let us also join with Christians through the ages in speaking the Apostle's Creed.

Apostle's Creed

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.



Gaia - Luke Jerram

🕏 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.

By your Word you bring order to chaos and fill the creation with wonders we are still discovering. You brought everything into being

big and small light and dark and said "it is good".

Including us

people who throu

who, through your grace, are made in your image and are to join you in creating and in bringing goodness to creation.

As a part of creation we join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

While the world came into being through your light, we lost sight of you.

And so the Word became flesh and lived among us.

Bringing love, hope and healing to all who would walk by your light.

We confess that we sometimes try our own light our own power

and stepping on creation and those who form part of your image.

Please forgive us...

Through your life you showed us again how to live even when it meant death.

So together, we proclaim the mystery of the faith.

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

As we wait
and times seem chaotic

We remember that in the beginning
your Spirit hovered over the face of the deep.

That you were present "the earth was complete chaos"
and you brought order
creativity
and it was good.

There are places in our world that need to feel your breath to know your love, hope & healing.

We pray for...

- all those returning to school: students & staff
- the victims of the fire in Westhaven
- those weighed down by the news
- those who are struggling with their health: physical, mental, spiritual.

We thank you that you are always present and that you care for all creation and everyone.

And we thank you for the guide you have left us to pray:

Cord's Prayer (feel free to use another version/translation)

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
now and forever.



The Last Supper - Ivan Guaderrama

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.

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]

[rake and annik]

Prayer after Communion

Loving God,

Merci pour tout ce que vous avez créé,

et surtout pour les relations que vous avez permis de nouer.

uniting us with Christ,

and with each other.

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=DU12gagwloY

Benediction (Ephesians 3:20-21)

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.



MISSION MOMENT Sunday, September 7

In the Mediterranean, the olive tree is an ancient source of livelihood and nutrition. It grows in poor soil, yields precious fruit, and can live for more than a thousand years. Israeli military and settlers have destroyed hundreds of thousands of olive trees belonging to Palestinian farmers. In support and solidarity with Palestinian farmers, the Olive Tree Campaign provides



olive tree saplings to farmers, allowing them to remain on their land and earn a living. Since 2018, the PCC has been supporting this campaign and farmers who receive sponsored trees. Funds from Presbyterians Sharing and donations help strengthen Palestinian resilience and help keep their hope alive for a better future.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, September 7 We pray for the Olive Tree Campaign and Palestinian farmers who keep hope alive in the West Bank by planting new olive trees amid the destruction and ongoing threats from Israeli forces.

Monday, September 8 (World Literacy Day) We give thanks that children in Pakistan, Malawi and Guatemala have the opportunity to access schools, learn to read and write, and build a brighter future with PWS&D's support.

Tuesday, September 9 We pray for Knox College students, both new and returning, as they embark on the Fall 2025 semester. May they find wisdom in their studies, friendship in their communities, and may they be shaped for lives of purpose and service.

Wednesday, September 10 We pray for those who work to care for the records of their congregations, preserving the history of church within their communities.

Thursday, September 11 We pray for the Rev. Dr. Tim Dickau and the Rev. Dr. Mark Glanville as they offer the next Missional certificate program for congregational cohorts this fall at the Centre for Missional Leadership at St Andrew's Hall.

Friday, September 12 We pray for families and individuals in Yemen who are receiving food assistance through PWS&D. May this support bring them nourishment and strength.

Saturday, September 13 We pray for the students who are beginning theological studies at The Presbyterian College in Montreal. Guide them in every detail as they prepare for this important stage in their life's journey.

307 God of the sparrow, God of the whale



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Rev. Peter Rombeek for Kensington Presbyterian Church 11/14



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One bread, one body



Words: John B. Foley (20th cent.); v.4, Judee Archer Green (1953–) Music: John B. Foley (20th cent.); arrangement, Gary Alan Smith (1947-)

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Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life 48



James Webb Space Telescope - pillars of creation

