



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

Come and see

December 28, 2025

WELCOME, we come to you from the un-ceded lands of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation.

We are offering a variety of ways for people to gather. We are welcoming people to worship in person, as well as through Zoom, YouTube, and this printable PDF.¹ If this is how you are worshipping, know that you are not alone... and if you like, you can invite others to join you. Clicking on or tapping blue text will take you to a web-site.

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: returning Wednesday January 7th at 6:30 am

Women's Prayer Group: returning in person Thurs, Jan 8th 2pm
 and through *What's App*

Bible Study: will return Wednesday January 7th from 7-8 pm

Church Office: will be closed until January 5th.

Friday Food & Films: returning January 9th.

NA: open meetings Tuesdays & Wednesdays at noon (incl Dec 25)

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



Nativity - Rembrandt

Contacts

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Approaching God



Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship²

Come and see.

Come and dare.

Come and believe.

Come and trust.

Come and listen.

Come and wonder.

Come and be transformed.

...Come and worship.

♪ Hymn: Good Christians, all rejoice.....pg 8 (141)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=2nln8AwveCI



Prayer of Approach

Dear God,

It's Christmas time and we remember how you came

giving up all that you are

to become all that we are.

The Divine becoming human

so the human can know the Divine.

Thank you for the gift of your presence.

and thank you for coming to look for us,

inviting us to look for you.

And so we come, here and now,

to look for you.
Help us to see you
to experience you
as we worship you.

While we come now,
we admit that sometimes we don't look for you
but focus on ourselves.

Trying to satisfy our needs ourselves
often hurting others in the process
with the process. . .

Jesus, please forgive us
and may your Spirit help us to accept your forgiveness
and the new life we can find in you.

Remembering you, we pray the prayer you gave your disciples,
the Lord's Prayer:



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

A chat with the kids about their favourite part of Christmas... and the Christmas story.



nativity - hanna varghese - malaysia

prayer

*Dear Jesus, Thank you for coming to live with us,
and for the stories you left to remind us of you.*

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Creator of the stars at night #1-3, 6.....pg 9 (111)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=eoBsa7ZFSNY

www.youtube.com/watch?v=y-pxp4zZkwI (choir)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=FDIEOa1w43Q (folk)



Prayer for Illumination

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

Amen.



Intro to the readings

Today all the readings will be from John, chapter one. It will be broken up into sections with some reflections between.

We'll start with the 'prologue' that we heard on Christmas Eve - but this time we'll say it responsively. After which I'll ask you to share either what stands out from the passage, or what leaves you wondering. You'll have a chance to share this with your neighbour, and then with everyone if you want to.

The other two sections will be more traditionally sermonish.



Reading 1: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,³ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[John 1: 1-18](#)



Reflection 1

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

Please share with a neighbour either what from the passage stood out for you, or what left you wondering.

...

Would anybody like to share their thoughts with the room?

For me it's the combination of cosmic eternal creator of life,
with Jesus as an ordinary human.

³ 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



words from John 1 - more used are bigger

The next section turns to John. Consider what he's doing.
What words stand out?

Reading 2: [John 1](#): 19-34

Reflection 2

This section starts with "This is the testimony given by John." If you're thinking this sounds like a court case, then you're right. That is the language used throughout the gospel. Witnesses are testifying to what they have seen and experienced - and this is how the Word of God spreads. The pattern here is that John is expecting God to do something; he is seeking God. Even before Jesus comes John starts preparing for what he expects will happen - in this case it isn't building roads but preparing people.

Some people are wondering if John might be the Messiah - and John is quick to say he's not important compared to the one who is coming - that's who would need to be looking for. And when John sees Jesus he recognizes the Lamb of God. He also testifies to having help. He witnesses the Holy Spirit descending like a dove on Jesus⁴ - which, I'm sure, helps.

How does John respond? As Jesus comes close he points him out... but more on that after the next reading.

Why is this important for us? It reminds us that God is active in the world - we should expect this and be on the look-out for God.

In this next reading, continue to listen for key words, and look for patterns.

Reading 3: [John 1](#): 35-51

Reflection 3

Which words or phrases stood out for you in this section? For me it was 'look', 'found' and 'come and see'.

- John watched Jesus walk by and said "Look..."
- "Jesus turned and saw them"
- and asked "what are you looking for"
- Jesus said to the them "come and see"
- "they came and saw"
- Andrew "found" his brother Simon and says "we have found the Messiah"
- Jesus looked at Simon
- Jesus found Philip

⁴ This happens in most of the other gospels, but here the dove is for John to see and understand, not for Jesus.

- Philip found Nathanael and said “we have found him”
- Philip said, “come and see”
- Jesus saw Nathanael coming
- and tells them they will see so much more

In the John class I took the teacher would give us a bell like you find on a counter and we'd take turns ringing it whenever there was a typical John word. I didn't look up the list, but I'm sure that 'look', 'found' and 'come and see' are on it - they're in almost every verse of this section.



What's the point? This section is about disciples. How does one become one... somebody points to Jesus and says “look”, or they say, “I've found someone who can save the world, come and see for yourself.” It was instructive for the early Christians. It is helpful to us now. Being a disciples/Christian means looking for Jesus and sharing what you see with others. To use John language, this is ‘witnessing’, in other circles it would be ‘sharing the good news’. (and this is just chapter one - the disciples are not experts yet (if ever).)

To pull together all three sections

- God joins us so we can join God
- God seeks us, we should seek God
- Jesus invites us to ‘come and see’ and we invite others.

*To God be all the glory
Amen.*



Responding to God

♪ Hymn Sing:

This is a time when we sing several hymn requests. You can join in on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/channel/UC_EPsf2FuWoen7j1iGcz_w

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

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

Wonder: What in John chapter one leaves you wondering?
*terms, references, ideas, ...)

Memories: Share how you got to know about Christianity/Jesus.

Etching: Describe an occasion or incident in which you noticed, or saw, God?

Actions: Imagine situations in which you can practice what the early disciples did - invite someone to experience Jesus (to come and see) without supposing you know it all.

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

✧ Spirit Sightings

The Government of Pakistan is intensifying its efforts to expel undocumented Afghans, as well as those with temporary permission to stay in the country. Between 700 and 800 families have been deported daily. These deportations pose devastating risks, particularly for women and girls who face increased threats of violence, persecution and loss of access to basic rights upon return to Afghanistan. Such actions violate international protection principles and undermine decades of humanitarian efforts to protect vulnerable populations. Your voice and solidarity are crucial at this moment. Visit presbyterian.ca/pwsd/advocate-for-afghan-refugees to learn more and take action.



✧ 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 people⁵

God you look on us

⁵ adapted from *Spill the Beans* #25

with eyes filled with love
because you created us,
each one unique,
each with a special place
and a particular purpose in the world.

May we seek tirelessly
to discover your will for us,
to respond to your call,
to take up that divine invitation.

As we realize our purpose
and our place in your creation,
may we help others also to discover theirs.

God, your will for all people is good,
Help us to reach out to those in our lives
who need your light to see the way forward.
those who are lonely...
or struggling...
or in need of healing...

May the experience your healing presence.

We also pray for those
who have been trampled underfoot,
those who have been forgotten,
those despised by others.
Your will is that all of your children
will know the peace, hope, love, and joy that is found in you.

So, God, help us to do what it is you want us to do
to complete that work until creation is restored
and you are Lord of all.
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Shine Jesus Shine.....pg 10 (376)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nUOfxqPXQ

✦ Sending & Benediction

Enmeshed, by Nikki Grimes

Come, Come and see.
words that stir curiosity
and a twinge of fear.
After all, what will
befall us if we do?
An invitation to a party
tends to breed a bit of anxiety.
We hesitate to step into
a roomful of strangers.
Yes, John reminds us
we are known by
this particular host
who chooses to sanctify us
and identify us as Friend.
So we respond to
the Lamb's invitation
and dare to enter in.
No need for shyness in
the fellowship of the Son.
He created us for communion
for community,
bound us together
by love, grace, forgiveness
and once we are fully
enmeshed in his family
we are free to extend the invitation
free to say come
to those still standing

lost and lonely at the door
those wondering why
the peculiar man
with pierced palms
is smiling.



Nativity - James

(Romans 15:13)
May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



MISSION MOMENT Sunday, December 28

The Government of Pakistan is intensifying its efforts to expel undocumented Afghans, as well as those with temporary permission to stay in the country. Between 700 and 800 families have been deported daily. These deportations pose devastating risks, particularly for women and girls who face increased threats of violence, persecution and loss of access to basic rights upon return to Afghanistan. Such actions violate international protection principles and undermine decades of humanitarian efforts to protect vulnerable populations. Your voice and solidarity are crucial at this moment. Visit WeRespond.ca/advocate-for-Afghan-refugees to learn more and take action.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 28 We pray for the health and well-being of members of the National Indigenous Ministries Council, and for the staff, volunteers and communities of people they support at each of the eight National Indigenous Ministries in the church.

Monday, December 29 We pray for The Presbyterian College, Montreal's chapel program. As students, faculty and staff come together each week for worship, may each one be strengthened in their respective calling and mission.

Tuesday, December 30 We pray for the members of the Committee on Church Doctrine, that their shared commitment to truth and reconciliation may inform and shape their focus and work.

Wednesday, December 31 (New Year's Eve) On the eve of a new year, we give thanks for what has been, for the people in our lives, the gift of faith and for God's loving kindness.

Thursday, January 1 (New Year's Day) We begin this new year in thanksgiving to God for all that has been and for all that God will do in the months ahead.

Friday, January 2 We pray for PWS&D programs that address poverty, hunger, emergencies and injustice worldwide.

Saturday, January 3 We pray for food banks and their dedicated volunteers in communities across the country, especially those on university campuses. Let there be changes in the systems that lead to chronic need.

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Good Christians, all rejoice

IN DULCI JUBILO Irregular

F Bb/F F Bb/F F Bb/F C/F F Bb/F F Bb/F F Bb/F C

Good Chris-tians, all re-joice with heart and soul and voice;

F/A Bb C 7 F C7 F Bb6 F/C C7 F

1. now give heed to what we say: Je - sus Christ is born to-day,
2. now you hear of end - less bliss: Je - sus Christ was born for this.
3. now you need not fear the grave: Je - sus Christ was born to save,

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

ox and ass be - fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
He has o - pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for - ev - er - more.
calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev - er - last - ing hall.

Dm/F A7sus4-3/E Dm C F Dm Bb6 C F

Christ is born to - day; Christ is born to - day;
Christ was born for this; Christ was born for this.
Christ was born to save; Christ was born to save.

Words: Latin, anonymous; translation, John Mason Neale (1818-1866), alt Music: German carol melody, 14th century; arrangement, anonymous
Words: public domain Music: public domain

111 Creator of the stars of night

CONDITOR ALME SIDERUM 8 8 8 8 LM

Alternate rhythm: ♩ ♩ ♩ ♩

Chords: Eb Bb/D Cm Bb Ab

1. Cre - a - tor of the stars of night, your peo - ple's
 2. To you the la - bour pain was known that made the
 3. Old was the world that drew toward night; you came, but
 4. At your great name, Christ Je - sus, now all knees must
 5. Come in your ho - ly might, we pray; re - deem us
 6. To God the Fa - ther, God the Son and God the

Chords: Gm Abmaj7 Gm/Bb Fm Gm Abmaj7 Cm

ev - er - last - ing light, O Christ, the Sav - iour of us all,
 whole cre - a - tion groan, un - til the time that you would free
 not in splen - dour bright as mon - arch, but the hum - ble child
 bend; all hearts must bow; all things in heaven your name shall bless.
 for e - ter - nal day, when all your judge - ments will be known
 Spir - it, Three - in - One, laud, hon - our, might and glo - ry be

Chords: Gm/Bb Cm7 Abmaj7 Gm Cm Gm

we pray, oh hear us when we call.
 your own in glo - rious lib - er - ty.
 of Ma - ry, faith - ful moth - er mild. A - men.
 All things on earth your power con - fess.
 and power of dark - ness o - ver - thrown.
 from age to age e - ter - nal - ly.

Words: Latin, anonymous, 9th century; translation, John Mason Neale (1818–1866), alt
 Music: Sarum plainsong; arrangement, Bruce Neswick (1956–)

Words: this version, copyright © The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1997 Music: arrangement, copyright © Bruce Neswick, 1984



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Lord, the light of your love is shining

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE 9 9 10 10 6 with refrain (13 9 13 10)

Intro

Unison

1. Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing in the midst of the
 2. Lord, I come to your awe - some pres - ence, from the sha - dows in -
 3. As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness, so our fa - ces dis -

dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, Light of the
 to your ra - diance; by your blood I may
 play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from

World, shine up - on us. Set us free by the
 en - ter your bright - ness. Search me, try me, con -
 glo - ry to glo - ry: mir - rored here may our

Words: Graham Kendrick (1950-) Music: Graham Kendrick (1950-)

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truth you now bring us.
 sume all my dark-ness. Shine on me; shine on me.
 lives tell your sto - ry.

Refrain

Shine, Je - sus shine; fill this land with the
 Flow, riv - er, flow; flood the na - tions with

Fa - ther's glo - ry; blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our
 grace and mer - cy; send forth your word, Lord, and

1. Bm Bm/A G Esus E 2. Bm E7 A D/A D.S. A Last time

hearts on fire. let there be light!