



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

Love circles

April 12, 2026

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

Sunday Singing: Join Zoé on Sundays at 9:50 to share in the music

Prayer Groups:

Women's Prayer Group: Tuesday afternoon

Zoom: Wednesday at 6:30 am

Bible Study: Wednesday 7-8 pm

Join us in the minister's office and over zoom as we discuss the upcoming week's main scripture passage.

Friday Friendly Food & Film Series: 6:30 pizza, followed movie

April 17: My Neighbour Totoro

April 24: Toy Story

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



Love Park - C Cormier

Drop Box: We collect food for the pantries at St. Monica's and Women on the Rise. We also collect children's items (especially diapers) for Head and Hands.

New Hope News:

Scam Alert with Éducaloi: Tuesday April 14 from 1-2:30 pm

Tech Time - Dental Care Plan: Thursday April 16 - 1-3 pm

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

Breath of God,
breath of life,
breath of deepest yearning.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Comforter,
Disturber,
Interpreter,
Inspirer,
Come, Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Friend,
Lamplighter,
Revealer of truth,
Midwife of change,
Come, Holy Spirit.

The Lord is here;
God's Spirit is with us.³

♪ Hymn: Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts.....pg 9 (366)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOowC2k0thc

www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeuOeC3zrhM (nice alternate



Prayer of Approach⁴

Holy are you,
God beyond all names,
Life behind all being.

Holy are you,
greater than our best thought,
deeper than our most profound experience,
closer than our next breath.

Holy are you,
high above the universe,
accompanied by angel song and eternity.

We cannot tell you anything
you do not already know;
we cannot flatter you
with what we do not understand;
we cannot say what you have not given us the power to utter.

But, in the mystery of your kindness,
sometimes we feel summoned
and sometimes we stumble
into the holy ground
where earth vibrates with heave,
and the hardest heart softens,
and the most resistant will bends,
and the soul long silent or dormant cries glory.

Lord, meet us here,
for we gather in your name
and claim Jesus' presence
and wait for your word. Amen.

² from *Come, let us sing* by Robert Walmley


³ A *Wee Worship Book*. 5th ed. wild goose resource group

⁴ adapted from *A Wee Worship Book*. 5th ed. wild goose resource group



Woman, why weep thou - Fritz von Uhde

One way God meets us is through the prayer that Jesus teaches his disciples. Let us sing together 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

I pray that all of you have friends, and that you are a friend. The question today is: what makes a really good friend? [shares, fun, loyal, honest, listens, makes time, ...]

In the passage the adults are going to hear soon Jesus talks about having to go away, but that the disciples won't be alone. The Holy Spirit will come... and it'll be like a best friend - helping them, showing them things, teaching them, listening, being honest, and always being there.

...and it's true for us too. While you may not see the Holy Spirit, she's around us and inside each of us. This means we always have a best friend with us.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, Thank you for sending your Spirit to be our best friend who is always with us.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Holy Spirit, Truth Divine.....pg 12 (394)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=CcTtxusFe1s

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we will be filled with your love and peace.

Amen.

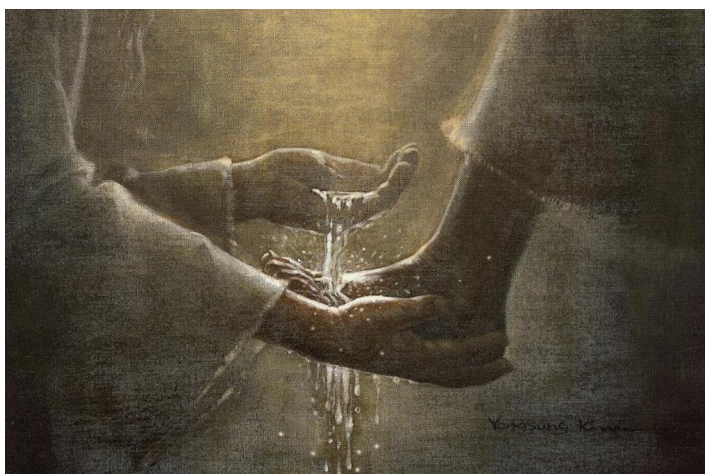
Intro to the readings

Today's responsive reading is from Psalm 66. While they are selected verses, they cover the themes of the psalm as a whole and

I encourage you to read the whole thing sometime. You'll notice it acknowledges hard times, and gives thanks to God for being there. The theological idea explaining the hard times is different than what we've been hearing in the Gospel According to John. In the Psalm everything comes from God - even the hard times. In John the hard times come because people have chosen (used their judgement) and turned away from God/Jesus.

Our main reading is from John, but not continuing on from last week. In order to have the Easter reading line up with Easter we skipped Jesus' last talk with his disciples. I think it's safe to assume that Jesus would have had something important to say then. The author of the gospel certainly thought so as this section is longer than any other. It's so long that we'll continue next week.

We're rewinding back to the Last Supper. In John the meal doesn't get much attention, but afterwards Jesus shocks those following him by washing their feet. This is a serious breach of etiquette for him to do such a demeaning task - though it shows how much he is about serving people - including Judas who he knows will betray him.



Christ the Servant - Yongsung Kim


Before Mike reads I'd like to talk about a few words that you'll hear. It won't change the circular wording that can spin you around, but it might bring some clarity.


You'll hear various versions of the word 'glory'. This word is often used to describe somebody who has done something amazing and made their team or country look good. In the Bible 'glory' is a sign of the divine presence. God might be present in a person, a place, a time, or the future, ...and, of course, in Christ. For example, "In glorifying Jesus" means that God is present in Jesus.

You'll also hear the word 'Advocate' - tying into the legal language in Paul. This is someone who is your helper, intercessor, comforter, ...basically, your best friend.

The last word is 'you'. Every time you hear the word 'you' know that it does mean you... and all those who believe. In this passage the word 'you' is plural.⁵

Hopefully that will help as you listen to what Jesus was trying to drive into the disciples heads one last time.

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁶ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.
[John 13](#): 31-35 & [John 14](#): 15-31
[Psalm 66](#): 1-2, 8-12, 17-20 (or all of it)

 Sermon: Love & support

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

⁵ interestingly, the word 'you' used to always be plural. 'Thou' was the singular.

⁶ 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

It would have been easier to get into the mindset for this passage a hundred years ago. Back then if you moved away from home (especially across the ocean) you couldn't have free video calls, or likely any calls at all as many people didn't have phones. Sending letters was expensive, and slow. When you were leaving, what would your parents want to say to you? If you were the parent, what would you want your child to know? What if it was your sibling?

Perhaps it's easier to remember a graduation ceremony.⁷ There's always a speech trying to remind the students what is most important as their world changes.

Disciples are students who study by trying to live like their teacher - in this case, Jesus. That's about to stop as Jesus is going someplace they can't follow. Today's passage is the start of the graduation speech.

I remember my last graduation, and it was exciting. That's where this comparison falls apart - I don't think the disciples were excited. They might have felt frustrated that this isn't what they expected. Most likely they felt a mixture of fear and confusion - maybe worry that they will become lost in the dark when the Light of the world goes out of their lives.

What does Jesus do?

He gathered them together around the table. After the meal he shocks them by washing their feet. Jesus, who they believed was one with God, was being the most humble servant to them. There was some talk of those who will betray or deny Jesus, but he doesn't judge them. They will choose to follow ...or not.

Then Jesus starts talking, and he gives them a command. It's only the second time the word is used in John - the first to tell us that God's command is life eternal.

What does he command them to do? To "...love one another. Just as I have loved you..." This has been what the teaching has all been about: Loving. And how should they do it? The obvious answer for those in discipleship training, like the teacher - like Jesus.

They've seen Jesus go to people - those who are respected, those who are normal, and those who are ignored. They've seen Jesus help even when he didn't want to. Sometimes the help is very direct, and sometimes it is about just a little to allow the person to explore their faith. Sometimes it means getting your hands dirty, or taking criticism... or worse. It means listening, and feeling, with others.



Love you forever - Munsch & McGraw

It's not easy, so why should they love?

For some, it's as simple as being told to do it.

Love also opens us up to inexplicable, yet glorious, feelings. Perhaps they are glorious because, as the Bible uses the word, God is present when there is love. Is this always true? What about love for a car? or a love that includes abuse? Love of an object can be an appreciation for the beautiful creativity - and God invites us to join in creating. Love that becomes obsessive or abusive is not love.

Love is glorious - it opens us up to God. This is one of the relationships Jesus came to reveal to us - to invite us into.

Another reason to love is that it opens us to each other - which

⁷ For those interested in Joseph's graduation ceremony on May 12, please visit vst.edu/convocation

also contains glory. Living in community is how we were created to be. By loving each other we can help each other see the world, and to see God. We can help each other through the darkness and into the light.

Loving opens us up....
I'm reminded of my cat laying on the floor with its belly up. It can receive a nice belly rub, but it could easily be hurt. Being vulnerable to others opens us to being hurt - which I'm sure you can all relate to. People can be tempted not to follow Jesus' example of how to love - out of fear, or desire, or selfishness, or simply by not resting. (which sounds a lot like the Ten Commandments).

And Jesus tells them this right after washing their feet. This models extremely humble service... with more extreme loving to come. How can we even come close?

Because it's not all on you. Remembering that in this passage 'you' is plural - I should say that it's not all on us. That is the other big part of the message to the disciples. They will not be alone. The description is a little confusing: Jesus is in the Father & the Father is in Jesus... and Jesus (and hence The Father) is in us... by the presence of the Holy Spirit or Advocate or the Spirit of Truth.

This is big.
It means that we are not alone.
It means that we don't have to do it alone.
It means that Christ is with us,
and that when we love as Jesus does,
we will experience life and glory.⁸

Now, if you feel that by practising love like Jesus you will be

putting yourself into danger, then this is a sign that you need to ask for help - from God, and from people.

Is loving like Jesus possible?
I think it is - though it takes exercise/practice to have strong enough faith to be so focused on loving.

A couple of stories to leave you with.

I read this week about a person with Tourette's Syndrome. Symptoms can vary a lot. For this person they would bow deeply, make odd noises, and would constantly adjust their glasses... except when they were in surgery. I don't mean as a patient; they were a surgeon. Then they would be so focused all the quirks would disappear. When we are able to focus on loving the world that much, love will fill everything.

But this is bigger than a person.

I like Sci-fi. Many stories warn us of a future in which people are focused on themselves and nobody trusts. It is dark. But imagine a society focused on loving each other as Jesus loves us - where people humbly serve each other. It would be full of glory.

*To God
be all the glory
Amen.*



Angels Unawares - Timothy Schmalz

⁸ an interesting other thought... if Jesus is in us and we believe, is there any limit to what we can do?



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: A new commandment.....pg 10 (225)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=485bt72V2o

🗨️ 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 any graduation or commencement speeches? (You can see several from the Vancouver School of Theology here: vst.edu/convocation)

Reflecting: Psalm 66 was written after a time of testing. Write or draw your own psalm of things that have been hard, and things that have been good/blessed.

Memories: Share about stories you've read or seen of societies that don't show love... and of societies that do.

Wonder: If we are in Christ, and Christ is in us... can we, with enough faith/trust, do what Christ did?

Actions: What are some specific ways that you can be more loving this week?

Prayer: ...give thanks for the Holy Spirit, and pray for specific places that need more love.

✦ Spirit Sightings

Over the last week and a half people have been looking up a lot more than usual, thanks to the Artemis II. And this has helped rekindle a sense of wonder in creation beyond our world. Whether people acknowledge God or not, they have seen glory. Thanks be to God.

✦ 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 people

This week we will be passing around the prayer book and saying something based on what people write in it. You are welcome to create your own prayer or use this one from *The Worship Sourcebook* Q.4.4.6.



We pray for God to fill us with his Spirit, saying,
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

Generous God,
we thank you for the power of your Holy Spirit.
We ask that we may be strengthened to serve you better.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the wisdom of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to help us understand better your will for us.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the peace of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to keep us confident of your love wherever you call
us.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the healing of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to bring reconciliation and wholeness
where there is division, sickness, and sorrow.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the gifts of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to equip us for the work you have given us.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the fruit of your Holy Spirit.
We ask you to reveal in our lives the love of Jesus.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

We thank you for the breath of your Holy Spirit given on
Pentecost.

We ask you to keep the whole church in the joy of eternal life.
Lord, come to bless us
and fill us with your Spirit.

Generous God,
you sent your Holy Spirit upon the Messiah at the river Jordan
and upon the disciples in the upper room:
In your mercy fill us with your Spirit,
**hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind
to serve you in Christ, our Lord.**
Amen.

♪ Hymn: We are one in the Spirit.....pg 11 (471)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=bL5bT_Ezeq8 or
www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZY9kS1Fu0A

✦ Benediction
*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.⁹*



Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts

MARYTON 8 8 8 8 LM

D Em 6 D A/C# E7/B A

1. Je - sus, thou joy of lov - ing hearts,
 2. Thy truth un - changed hath ev - er stood;
 3. We taste thee, O thou liv - ing bread,
 4. For thee our rest - less spir - its yearn
 5. O Je - sus, al - ways with us stay;

A (Bm/A) A/G Dsus/G D/F# A7/E Dmaj7 A/C# G/B A7/C#

from the best bliss that earth im - parts
 to those who seek thee thou art good;
 we drink of thee, the foun - tain - head,
 glad when thy grac - ious smile we see,
 chase the dark night of sin a - way;

A A7/C# Dsus2 - 1 Bm E7 A

thou fount, thou light for all to see:
 thou sav - est those that on thee call;
 and long to feast up - on thee still;
 wher - e'er our change - ful lot is cast,
 make all our mo - ments calm and bright;

D A7 Bm Em 6 D G6 A D

we turn un - filled a - gain to thee.
 to those who find thee, all in all.
 and thirst our souls from thee to fill.
 blest when our faith can hold thee fast.
 shed o'er the world thy ho - ly light.

Words: Latin, medieval; translation, Ray Palmer (1808–1887), alt Music: Henry Percy Smith (1825–1898); harmony, Eric H. Thiman (1900–1975) from Anglican Hymnal 1965

Words: public domain Music: harmony, copyright © the estate of Eric Thiman CCLI #4440603

A new commandment

A NEW COMMANDMENT Irregular

D Bm Em7 A /G

"A new com-mand-ment I give un - to you, that you
 "Je vous com - man - de, mes frè - res, mes soeurs: Ai - mez -

D/F# F#m Bm G 6 A /G D/F# F#m

love one an - o - ther as I have loved you, that you love one an -
 vous les uns les au-tres comme moi, j'ai ai - mé. Ai-mez vous les uns les

Bm 7 Em A D G (maj7) A Em (6)

o - ther as I have loved you. By this shall all know
 les autres comme moi, j'ai ai - mé. Et tous ver - ront que

D/F# F#m7 Bm 7 G A/G D/F# Gmaj7

you are my dis - ci - ples: if you have love one for an -
 vous êtes mes dis - ci - ples si vous ai - mez les uns les

A D G (maj7) A Em (6) D/F# F#m7

o - ther; by this shall all know you are my dis -
 au - tres, et tous ver - ront que vous êtes mes dis -

Bm G6 A/G D Gmaj7 A D

ci - ples: if you have love one for an - o - ther."
 ci - ples si vous ai - mez les uns les au - tres."

Words: John 13:34,35; French translation, Andrew Donaldson (1951-) Music: Anonymous; arrangement, Lawrence Bartlett (1933-) CCLI #4440603

Words: French translation, copyright © Andrew Donaldson, 1996 Music: arrangement, copyright © from the Australian Hymn Book, 1977

We are one in the Spirit

WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT Irregular with refrain

Fm Cm Fm

1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are
 2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will
 3. We will work with each oth - er, we will
 4. All praise to the Fath - er, from

Bbm Cm Fm Cm7

pray that all u - ni - ty will one day be re -
 geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our
 guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's
 praise to the Spir - it, who makes us

Cm Fm Bbm

one in the Lord, we are one in the
 walk hand in hand, we will walk with each
 work side by side, we will work with each
 whom all things come, and all praise to Christ

Fm Fm7 Db Cm

stored,
 land,
 pride,
 one,
 and they'll know we are Chris-tians by our

Fm Cm Fm

Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, and we
 oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, and to -
 oth - er, we will work side by side, and we'll
 Je - sus, who is God's on - ly Son, and all

Fm /Eb Db Fm Fm

love, by our love, and they'll know we are

Bbm Cm Fm

Chris - tians by our love.

Words: Peter Scholtes (1938-) Music: Peter Scholtes (1938-); harmony, Richard D. Wetzell (1935-)

Words: copyright © F.E.L. Publications, assigned to The Lorenz Corp., 1991 Dayton, OH. All rights reserved. Used by permission-license #401891. Music: copyright © F.E.L. Publications, assigned to The Lorenz Corp., 1991 Dayton, OH. All rights reserved. Used by permission-license #401891; harmony, copyright © The Westminster Press, 1972

Holy Spirit, truth divine

SONG 13 7 7 7

D G/B D/F# G Asus4-3 D A/C# E7/B A D Esus4-3 7 A

1. Ho - ly Spir - it, truth di - vine, dawn u - pon this soul of mine;
 2. Ho - ly Spir - it, love di - vine, glow with - in this heart of mine;
 3. Ho - ly Spir - it, power di - vine, fill and nerve this will of mine;
 4. Ho - ly Spir - it, right di - vine, reign with - in this soul of mine;

D G/B A/C# B/D# Em6 D A /G D/F#D A7 Bm G6 A 7 D

Word of God and in - ward light, wake my spir - it; clear my sight.
 kin - dle eve - ry high de - sire; per - ish self in thy pure fire.
 by thy strength I strong - ly live, brave - ly serve and glad - ly give.
 be my law and I shall be firm - ly bound, for - ev - er free.

5. Holy Spirit, peace divine,
 still this restless heart of mine;
 speak to calm this tossing sea
 stayed on thy tranquillity.
6. Holy Spirit, joy divine,
 gladden now this heart of mine;
 in the desert ways I sing,
 "Spring, O well, forever spring."

Words: Samuel Longfellow (1819–1892), alt Music: adapted from Orlando Gibbons (1583–1625)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, April 12

World Health Day aims to raise awareness about global health issues and promote actions to improve health and well-being worldwide. However, due to substantial cuts to global health funding in 2025, many communities and individuals have lost access to essential health programs. PWS&D collaborates with partners to support health initiatives in difficult environments. In Haiti, for example, PWS&D, in partnership with the Center for Nutrition and Education for Women & Children, is supporting maternal and infant malnutrition treatment and women's mental health. For Choute Philomène, 34, the program is a welcome initiative. She was glad to receive maternal health support at her home, as she had planned to skip prenatal follow-up during her pregnancy.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, April 12 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Grey-Bruce-Maitland.

Monday, April 13 In this season of resurrection we celebrate and give thanks for Crieff Hills Retreat and Conference Centre as green appears in their fields and forests, lambs arrive in the barn, and the air is filled with the fresh smell of springtime.

Tuesday, April 14 We pray for the Change Leadership Team of the General Assembly as it explores innovative models of ministry, building on our beliefs that everyone is gifted for ministry and that Jesus shows up and equips us to be agents of hope and possibility in the world God loves.

Wednesday, April 15 Inspire, O God, those who teach and form students for ministry with enthusiasm for the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thursday, April 16 We pray for the Rev. Sumarme Goble as she cares for the St. Andrew's Hall community in her role as Chaplain, and represents The Presbyterian Church in Canada in the Inter-Faith Chaplaincy at the University of British Columbia.

Friday, April 17 We pray for all God's people working in faith formation in congregations, camps, campuses and communities.

Saturday, April 18 We pray for caregivers of people living with dementia, for strength and care as they navigate difficult times.