



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

Jesus comes back with gifts

May 24, 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.

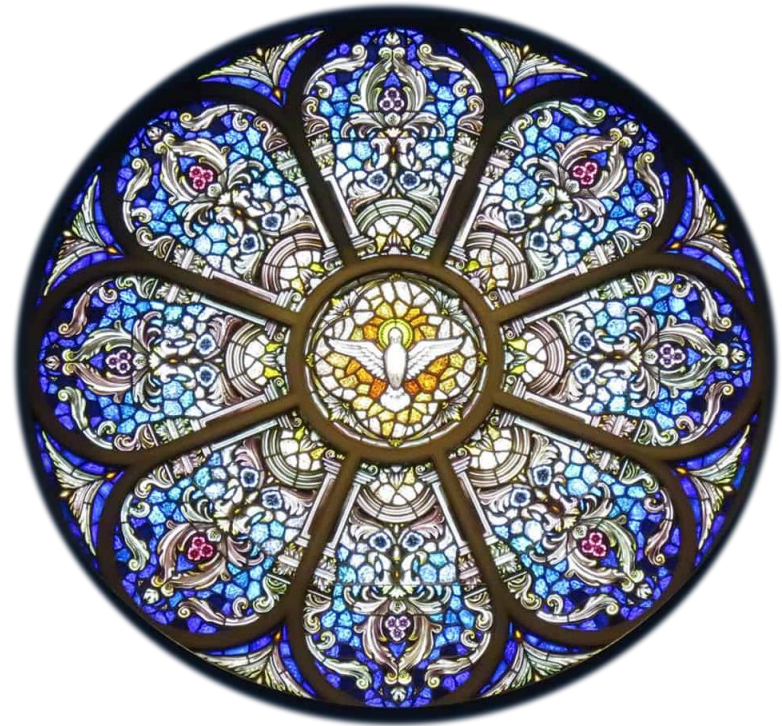
Friday Friendly Food & Film Series: 6:30 pizza, followed movie

May 29: The Hitch-hikers guide to the Galaxy

June 5: The BFG

Delphine Tait died last Thursday. Please pray for her family & friends

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



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 & Fake News: Tuesday, May 26 – 1 pm

The Gazette will be in to help us learn about fake news and how to identify reliable information.

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

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

This is the day when the Spirit came.

Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

And again we say—

Rejoice!

♪ Hymn: In your pentecostal splendour.....pg 9 (279)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wdkv_QptY3E



Prayer of Approach

Spirit of God,

in the beginning you hovered over the waters
and breathed life into your creations.

Later you filled the lungs of the prophets,
giving voice to your wisdom.

Then you came with The Word

into the locked room

and filled the disciples with your peace.

and now you come to us,

moving between us

and stirring within us.

Jesus, help us with our fears


that cause us to take what we do not need,
not thinking of the cost to others,
that cause us to lock ourselves away
so that we don't risk sharing
what is more precious than gold
that we don't share you.

Come Holy Spirit,
that we may know your peace. . .



² Worship Sourcebook Q.1.2.2 based on Psalm 118:24; Philippians 4:4

To help us,
we sing together the prayer you use to teach 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

What are some important things for life - things you can't live without? [food, water, air, companions, ...] Probably the most necessary in that list is air, or breath. Without breath, your body will shut down. If somebody stops breathing we can keep their body going by breathing for them.

In today's story Jesus returns from the dead to find the disciples have locked themselves away. They are afraid to do anything. You could say they aren't living - and Jesus wants

everyone to live glorious³ lives.

Do you know what he did?

He breathed into them - and not just air, but his Spirit.

He breathed his life into them.

...and that still happens. Jesus breathes into me, and into you.
God is as close as the air.

Our next song is about this, but first let's pray

Prayer:

Dear Jesus.

Thank you for being as close to us as the air we breathe.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Breathe on me breath of God.....pg 9 (389)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=1N_EXkWA-qM



³ remember, in John's gospel 'glory' refers to God's presence, not somebody being seen as important.

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we will let you into our hearts.

Amen.

Intro to the readings

We're going to have two texts today. Psalm 116. which celebrates God's presence, and the continuation of John 20 - the day Jesus returns from the dead.

The chapter starts with Mary Magdalene going to the tomb - and finding it open. She told two of the men who checked it out. However, Mary was the one who met and recognized Jesus - and told the rest "*I have seen the Lord!*" The story continues that night (and being night in John, we can assume that the participants aren't seeing clearly.)

The disciples who gets singular attention in this story is Thomas. He is often singled out as the disciples who didn't believe in the resurrection. It's important to remember his earlier appearances. When Jesus announced he was going to risk getting lynched to go to his dead friend Lazarus, Thomas was the one who said, "*Let us also go, that we may die with him.*"⁴ Later, on the night before Jesus was killed, he told the disciples he was going ahead to prepare a place for them - and they know where that is. Thomas had the courage to say he didn't understand. Then in this passage Thomas will ask to see the wounds in Jesus' resurrected body... just like the other disciples. So before calling somebody a 'Doubting Thomas', remember he was pretty strong.

What is sometimes overshadowed by Thomas' reactions is that this is also the Pentecost story as told in the Gospel According to John. It's different than in Acts - less showy; more intimate.

4 [John 11: 16](#)



Appearance to Thomas - Butler



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁵ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[John 20](#)

[Psalm 116](#)



Sermon: Jesus comes

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

As we've been going through John, we've heard a number of different ways that Jesus has come into people's lives.

- There are those who are expecting the Messiah to come, such as John the Baptizer, who recognizes Jesus and points him out to his disciples.

5 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

- There are those who are looking around with hope that somebody will turn up, like the blind man who realizes later that Jesus had come - and then goes looking.
- Then there are people like the Samaritan woman who aren't looking, but unexpectedly finds herself reflecting on life with, well, Jesus.

How did Jesus come into your life? Did you have somebody like John who helped you see? Were you like the Blind Man, reflecting back over events in your life and then seeing Jesus with you? Thinking of unexpected encounters, I remember someone who worked at Gracefield, a church camp north of Ottawa, and saying that she had the most wonderful encounters with Jesus while cleaning toilets. And then there's the story I've shared before about the conservative minister who was helping a homosexual dying of AIDS whose lifestyle he disapproved of, and unexpectedly encountering Jesus through him. Perhaps Jesus has come to you in even more unexpected times, or through more unexpected people.

To those expectant, Jesus comes.

To those hopeful, Jesus comes.

To those not looking, Jesus comes.

Or perhaps you can relate to today's experience. The disciples are not only not looking, but have locked themselves away. We're told they were afraid of the Jewish leaders. Perhaps they remember how the Blind Man had been kicked out of his community, or afraid they would also be crucified. Have you ever locked yourself away? Maybe not literally, but closed yourself off from others? Perhaps there have been times when you are afraid you'll be hurt, physically or emotionally, and you retreated inside yourself.

I wonder if they have another fear. They've heard that Jesus is up and about. Two of them have seen the empty tomb. Mary has told them "*I have seen the Lord!*" I wonder if they are also afraid of encountering Jesus. After all, they had all abandoned him. Can you relate to that? Has there been a time when you've said or done something that you realize hurt someone, but instead of apologizing you hide - avoiding contact in the hope that the pain will go away.

Can you relate to these fears?



Shin Maeng

and Jesus comes.
bringing gifts.

Starting with, "*Peace be with you.*" Jesus starts with what they need in the moment: peace. For those that are afraid for their future, they can now see that not laws, not soldiers, not humiliation, not locked doors, not even death can separate them from the love of God.

This peace also speaks to those who are anxious about disappointing God. Unlike the Romans who respond to disobedience with force, this is peace through mercy and grace.

Jesus knows they have failed to live out his example, yet he still comes. This peace comes from not needing to prove yourself to earn God's love, because "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be destroyed but may have eternal life."

So whether your anxiety/fear comes from what others think of you, or what God thinks, Jesus says, "Peace be with you."

The second gift reminds us of the creation story when God created a person out of dirt and breathed into them - bringing life (Genesis 2). Much later the prophet Ezekiel would see a valley of dry bones come together into bodies, and when God breathed into them - they regained their life. Here Jesus breathes the Spirit of God into the disciples. He gives life and power to those who breathe in.

Like I mentioned with the children, this gift is also for us. It is as easy to receive as a breath... and can be as easy not to notice. If you are not noticing, then remember the first gift of peace and trust that God is with you - Jesus comes.

and Jesus gave them a third gift - a purpose or mission. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you." In the Gospel of John this is simply to help people know Jesus and God - to believe.

Along with this comes the power to forgive sins, or bind someone in their sin. If we just read this verse it sounds like sometimes people can be unsaveable - that God gives up on people. This doesn't fit the rest of the gospel. So, what's going on? We wrestled with this at the Bible Study on Wednesday night and remembered the context. In John sin not about moral behaviour, but whether you believe Jesus is the Son of God. The disciples have the power to help people believe, or to help people not to

believe. We don't have to look far to find examples of this. The course I took the other week talked about the flavour of laïcité in Québec, and that it can be traced back to abuse by the church. There was sexual abuse, but there was much more abuse of power than that - and it did the opposite of the mission we are given - to help people know Christ.

Another aspect of the context we remembered is the commandment Jesus gives them, "to love as I have loved you", and Jesus didn't condemn or abandon them - even when they abandoned him and locked themselves away. Jesus came and offered them peace.

Representing God gives us power, yet God trusts us with it - and God's Spirit is within us to help. Raising any sort of FaithTalk with friends, or neighbours, or even family can make you feel anxious (especially in the atmosphere of laïcité), but it is a request from Jesus to do.⁶ Like Jesus did, let it flow out of the situation. Like it says in *Living Faith*, "We should not address others in a spirit of arrogance, *implying that we are better than they. But rather, in the spirit of humility, as beggars telling others where food is to be found, we point to life in Christ.*"

and remember - Jesus comes.

To God be all the glory

Amen.



Epiphany at River Jordan - Margot Neale

⁶ It's why we have practice questions every week for you to work out with a friend, so that when an opportunity arises you are more comfortable sharing your faith.



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_EPsf2FuWoeen7j1iGcz_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).

Values: What does it mean to you to know that Jesus comes?

Reflecting: Describe a time when Jesus/God/Holy Spirit been present for you? This could have been through a person with you, or a comment in a book, or a feeling or dream while you're alone, or ...

Values: Jesus said, "Peace be with you." What does this feel like when you experience it? What fears or anxieties make it hard to experience?

Prayer: that we can unlock the door and share the hope we have in you.

✦ Spirit Sightings

This week somebody posted on facebook a picture of our movie night commenting that it was both a great movie and atmosphere for families to join. This was echoed by others, and the original person isn't a name we recognize. It seems that Spirit is spreading the word about Kensington.

✦ 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 *Spill the Beans #26*

Lord of all, we come to you,
Lord of all, our saviour be,
come to bless and to heal
with the light of your love.

Lord, there are so many people and situations
that need the light of your love today,
that need the peace you offer.

We pray that the light of your love
would shine into the darkest places
where violence, hate and abuse
have free reign over people,
Lord may your peace be upon them.

We pray that the light of your love
would shine into the hearts

of all who are lonely, bereaved or ill,
who are suffering and afraid,
Lord may your peace be upon them.

We pray that the light of your love
would shine into the minds
of all who have power and authority
all who lead in government or
other institutions,
Lord may your peace be upon them.

We pray that the light of your love
would shine into the souls
of all who have yet to discover
the risen Christ,
of all who are seeking a higher power,
Lord may your peace be upon them.

We pray that the light of your love
would shine into the lives
of all people in the world,
the youth and the elder,
the able and the less able,
the believer and the doubter,
the seen and the unseen,
Lord may your peace be upon them.
So be it.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Called as partners in Christ's service.....pg 10 (587)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=LtnTiDUr_og

✦ Benediction

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.⁷*



In your pentecostal splendour

TON Y BOTEL 8787D

F#m /A C# D Bm6 C# F#m A E/G# C#/E# F#m Bm C#7 F#

1. In your pen - te - cos - tal splen - dour rise, O liv - ing God, a - rise;
 2. You of old did lead your peo - ple through the des - ert as they went;
 3. Christ who stooped to die for sin - ners, you have raised to high - est place;
 4. You at Pen - te - cost did show - er gra - cious rain from heaven a - bove;
 5. Let the fire of your near pres - ence melt our fears, like wax, a - way;

A /C# Esus4-3 F#m /A C#sus4-3 F#m /E D6 E F#m D6 C#

smoke of bat - tle blurs and blinds us; blow your wind and clear our eyes:
 you up - on the mount to Mo - ses did your ten - fold rule pre - sent.
 he, cap - tiv - i - ty led cap - tive, bring forth gifts for all our race.
 on all flesh did pour your Spir - it, sil - ver - winged, des - cend - ing dove.
 touch our lips with songs of cour - age; teach us with your saints to say,

D A6 C# D Bm6 C# F#m A E A D Bm C#7 F#m

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!
 You are God of vic - to - ries!
 You are law and cov - e - nant!
 You are giv - er of all grace!
 You are lib - er - ty and love!
 You will guide us all the way!

Words: John Edward Speers (1916-) Music: Thomas John Williams (1869-1944)

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Breathe on me, breath of God

TRENTHAM 6686SM

F Bb/F Bbm/F F /A C7/GF Bb6 Dm/BbC F Bb/FGm6

1. Breathe on me, breath of God; fill me with life a - new, that I may
 2. Breathe on me, breath of God, un - til my heart is pure, un - til with
 3. Breathe on me, breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine, un - til this
 4. Breathe on me, breath of God, so shall I nev - er die, but live with

F/A F Bbmaj7 Bb6 Gm /Bb F/C (C F/C) C7 F

love what thou dost love and do what thou wouldst do.
 thee I will one will to do and to en - dure.
 earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
 thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

Words: Edwin Hatch (1835-1889) Music: Robert Jackson (1840-1914)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

Called as Partners in Christ's Service 343

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John Zundel, 1870

1. Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, Called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2. Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3. Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, In a small or glob-al sense,
 4. So God grant us for to-mor-row Ways to or-der hu-man life

We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment Fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, Rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, Break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row With a calm that con-quests strife.

May we learn the art of shar-ing, Side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, All God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, Words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, Our com-pas-sion to in-crease,

E - qual part-ners in our car-ing To ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 Blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er Gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, Make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing Hope and con-fi-dence and peace.

MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, May 24



Yemen has been devastated by over a decade of conflict, disrupting food systems and causing hunger. Yahya, a father of four with a disability that makes walking difficult, worries about his malnourished daughter.

"We strive to obtain food, but the situation remains tough," he shares. "When you entered our village with the food basket distribution, it changed my life significantly. Thanks to your support, my situation began to improve. I was able to save some money through the food basket and decided to buy a water tank. This step was important for my family, as we finally have clean water." PWS&D works together with Canadian Foodgrains Bank and local partners to deliver vital food assistance to families like Yahya's who are facing worsening food insecurity.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, May 24 (Day of Pentecost; Healing & Reconciliation Sunday)

We pray for the healing and wellbeing of all people harmed by residential schools. We pray for Indigenous organizations and nations supporting healing work for Survivors, intergenerational Survivors, their families and communities.

Monday, May 25 We pray for the healing and wellbeing of people served by each of the eight ministries of the National Indigenous Ministries Council.

Tuesday, May 26 We pray for authors and writers within The Presbyterian Church in Canada who work to help us understand our past and imagine our future in light of the inexhaustible gifts of God.

Wednesday, May 27 We pray for those facing famine in war-ravaged Yemen and for the PWS&D partners providing aid to those vulnerable to malnutrition and disease.

Thursday, May 28 We thank God for generous gifts of time, talent and treasure—freely given with grateful hearts to serve God and bless others.

Friday, May 29 We pray for the youth, young adults, and youth leaders who have registered for the Collective 2026 gathering. May they experience travelling blessings and renewed faith while gathered from August 12-15, 2026.

Saturday, May 30 Loving God, we pray for all who are searching for work and ask that you will grant them hope, strength, and open doors to meaningful opportunities.