



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

Be a neighbour

July 19, 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:

Zoom: Wednesday at 6:30 am

Returning in the Fall: Bible study, Prayer group,

Friday night special, and ... (suggestions welcome)

Joseph's ordination with Presbytery: here on August 23rd at 4pm

If you can help with refreshments or setting up, please talk with Rose or Carol.

Collection for Venezuela: Money can be donated through

Presbyterian World Service & Development:

presbyterian.ca/pwsd/venezuela-earthquake-response

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

ev. Peter Rombeek
 Kensington Presbyterian Church



Kensington Picnic 2019

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 worship

Let us worship the eternal God,
the source of love and life, who creates us.

**Let us worship Jesus Christ,
the risen one, who lives among us.**

Let us worship the Spirit,
the holy fire, who renews us.

**To the one true God be praise
in all times and places,
through the grace of Jesus Christ.²**

♪ Hymn: All are welcome.....pg 10

www.youtube.com/watch?v=N9bOiAxwi4U



Prayer of Approach

Lord God, creator of the universe,
You have created each and every one of us,
and all those around us.

² from *The Worship Sourcebook* 1.2.26

Our family,
our friends,
our neighbours,
...and everyone else.

Each one of us is unique
and special
and loved by you.

You are amazing.

You continue to work with us,
knowing all that has been,
all that is,
and all that will be
leading us into the best future.
bringing ideas to us (often through other people),
encouraging us (often through other people),
leading us...

Jesus,
sometimes we are confused
by the different messages that come to us,
and sometimes we don't trust the messenger you send,
and sometimes we are concerned (afraid)
of what it would mean to follow you.
Please forgive us
when we are not open to you.

And may your Holy Spirit
help us to live into your forgiveness
and the blessed future you promise.

As we look to follow you,
let us join together in singing 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

Do you ever talk with your neighbours?
If yes, then show with your hands how well you know them.
If no, then let's change tracks.
How do you make friends?
Could you do that with a neighbour?
all your neighbours?
What could be hard about doing this?
What could be good about it?

In the Bible God encourages us to get to know our neighbours, so I encourage you to become better friends with yours.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus.

*Thank you for the people who live around us,
and help us to be good friends with our neighbours.*

Amen.

♪ Hymn: All who love and serve your city.....pg 9 (721)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=MB1gyyoZigM



NDG Mural

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we will be able to help share your hope
Amen.

Intro to the readings

You may have noticed there's been a running theme over the last 6 weeks. It came out of the end of our trip with the Gospel According to John.³ The Gospel ends with the good news that Jesus comes to us, despite details like people giving up, locking doors, or even having died. Jesus nourished them... and sent them out to share the Good News. Which is where this Gospel ends, but Luke's version keeps going in the Acts of the Apostles (or more accurately, the Acts of the Holy Spirit). Over the last several weeks we've been visiting various ways that those who believe in Jesus have gone out and shared the Good News.

We heard them pray for boldness, after speaking pretty boldly to the Jewish leaders, and receive community. We saw them get attention by having a big outdoors event. Then we journeyed with them as they struggled to get past their own bias and fears until their identity changed and grew. Then we saw them bring healing to ways that prevented people from focusing on Jesus - ways such as: health, basic needs, and past trauma. Then we saw Phillip recognize the curiosity in the Ethiopian, listen to him, and share his experience. Last week we heard Paul find connections with those he'd been raised to hate, and then use it as a foundation to build a bridge for them to encounter the living God. All are examples of ways of sharing the hope in Jesus.

In today's passage from Acts Paul has moved on from Athens to Corinth. What does he do there?

³ You can check out both the trip with John and this series in text and video through our website: kensingtonchurch.ca/covid-opportunities

Before that though we have two other passages. One from the Prophet Jeremiah to the people who have been taken into exile in Babylon. The skipped verses tell the route the message took to get there. The other passage comes from Paul. This isn't like Acts that tells a story about what Paul did, but an actual letter by Paul. It was written to the Christians in Rome and, like a traditional letter of the time, ends with greetings to his friends.

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁴ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Acts 17](#): 1, 4-7

[Psalm 96](#): 1-16

[Acts 17](#): 1, 4-7



Grandfather tells a story - Albert Anker

⁴ 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: Be a neighbour

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

You live somewhere. Some of you are in apartments, some houses, maybe other places (especially in the summer). ...but that's really not 'living' someplace. Those are places you inhabit. They are places where you shelter from the weather, sleep, create and store memories. These are all important, but living is bigger than inhabiting.

God, through Jeremiah, tells us to plant our hopes in the community. We are "*to seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you,*" and to entwine our lives with those around us. This is way more than inhabiting a place. It's recognizing that God has played a part in where you are inhabiting, and inviting you to be a part of the community - to live there.

In Athens we got a sense of Paul showing an interest in the people around him. He's curious about what 'makes them tick' and asks them about it. This is part of living in a community, rather than just existing in it.⁵ The end of his letter to the Romans, which goes on longer than we heard, shows that Paul doesn't just pay attention to how the community works, but also to the individual people in it. He doesn't just acknowledge a couple of leaders, or say 'hi' to a couple of friends. Paul knows a whole bunch of them by name, and takes the time to remember them. This shows his interest and caring, and through him, God's interest and caring.

Wherever Paul goes in Acts he tells people about Jesus. This is what he is passionate about.⁶ While it's possible to overdo this

⁵ as an aside, curiosity is one of those things children are known for - and Jesus challenges us to be like children. Check out the dialogue in our worship from July 5 'The Chase is on'.

kensingtonchurch.ca/covid-opportunities

⁶ It's also the theme of the book, so other conversations may not have made the cut.

sharing, swapping our interests (which includes listening) is also an important way to connect with each other. Talking about Jesus is something Paul does a lot of. In Corinth he does something more. He doesn't just breeze into town, tell people about Jesus, collect a community of believers, get arrested and is forced to leave town. Here he settles down. He gets a job. As a leather worker he may have done temporary work elsewhere, but here he sets up shop with some others and works. He does more than visit, he lives in the community. He 'seeks the welfare of the city he has been sent to'.

I don't know about you, but when I think of missionary work or God sending someone out, as is done at the end of the Gospels, I think about going someplace - probably someplace far away (like my sister in Japan). Or at least I used to think that. However passages like the ones we heard today suggest that living in your community is just as important for sharing the good news. Taking the time to get to know people - their names and interests. Building relationships so that you can trust each other with deeper feelings and dreams.

How to do it?

Well, you already practice some ways of living in your community. There's providing meals to somebody going through a busy or tough time. You can help with the community gardens. Some of you drive others, or provide opportunities for people to practice their English, or help advocate for people who can't do it themselves, or provide a listening ear.

Now if you're having difficulty connecting with your neighbours, I have some tips and websites.

I remember being at a conference, like the one our young adults are going to in August, and we did a neat exercise. Fifty or

so of us got into two circles, one inside the other. The leader gave us questions that we quickly answered, and then the outside circle moved to the next person. Each question was with somebody new. The questions started simple: name, favourite colour, etc. but gradually increased in depth until we were sharing things you wouldn't have imagined sharing with somebody new. However, it was like slowly walking into a lake - increasing the depth a little at a time. Each little increase wasn't a big deal, just when you realized after how far you'd come. When you're trying to connect with a neighbour, start with shallow questions... but do gradually increase the depth.

I went looking for this exercise. While I didn't find the one we did, I did find something at Berkeley (University of California). They established the Greater Good Science Center⁷ to provide a bridge between research and ordinary people like us to help "foster a thriving, resilient, and compassionate society." There are many short practical guides, including a series of building questions,⁸ and tips on small talk (such as asking open ended and curious questions, and then follow-up questions that might go deeper).⁹ I suggest you check it out.

I'm also reminded of the group of pastors in Arvada Colorado who asked the mayor what the biggest problem in the city was. He said a lack of community. In response they started something called 'The Art of Neighbouring'.¹⁰ It encourages Christians to get to know their literal neighbours - sharing their lives with them. The idea isn't to convert them, but because we've been converted to Jesus' way of living - and they are willing to say that. Being supportive neighbours part of the plan to create Heaven on Earth.

⁷ ggsc.berkeley.edu/who_we_are

⁸ ggia.berkeley.edu/practice/36_questions_for_increasing_closeness

⁹ ggia.berkeley.edu/practice/small_talk

¹⁰ www.artofneighboring.com/about



Three elderly gentlemen - Matthias Mross

Now, it doesn't always work smoothly. Like most of Paul's stories, there are issues. Like in any conflict, there's probably many reasons. It could be the way Paul pushes his ideas. It could be their fear of new ways. We hear Paul's perspective, and he feels hurt by what they say. Have you ever been hurt by something a neighbour has said or done? It's easy to shake them off and close our lives to them. But God never gives up on anyone. And it's possible that Paul didn't either, after he'd cooled down. He didn't come out and say 'sorry', but he did keep living in the neighbourhood - reaching out to all.

This summer people are out more. It's easier to connect with neighbours. Remember our lessons from Acts: be brave, be out front where you can bump into people, recognize your bias, and help others through their barriers, look for connection, be curious, live in your community, and don't be afraid to share where you find hope.

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_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).

Memories: Share a good memory of a neighbour. (you can also share hard ones, but not only)

Reflecting: What do you appreciate about your neighbourhood?

Actions: Create a map of your neighbours. Find out the names of those you don't know. Find out their interests, concerns & dreams (maybe not all at once) - and share your own.

Visions: Imagine what our neighbourhoods would be like if we all shared our interests, concerns, and hopes with each other.

What would Kensington be like if we engaged our neighbours in their interests, concerns and hopes?

Actions: Check out the Berkeley Greater Good Science Center website: ggsc.berkeley.edu/who_we_are

Prayer: ...for support and opportunities to connect with our neighbours.

✧ Spirit Sightings

PCC mission staff, the Rev. Lora Nafziger plays a vital role supporting expatriate United Mission to Nepal (UMN) staff and their families. The UMN is a faith-based international NGO with over 500 staff. Most are Nepali. Approximately 44 are expatriate

staff who work as medical professionals and advisory staff for projects. Expatriate staff currently come from 8 different countries and about 11 denominational groups. Lora helps these mission staff and their families transition to life in Nepal and then offers them ongoing spiritual care and support. Lora brings to her work as Staff Care and Counselling Adviser her background as a clinical social worker and pastor, as well as her own rich ecumenical experience.



✧ 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

Today we will be basing our prayers on the prayer book passed around during worship. You can say your own prayers of thanksgiving and concerns to God. If you like, you can follow this model.¹¹

¹¹ adapted from *The Worship Sourcebook* 4.4.2

We praise you, God our creator, for your handiwork
in shaping and sustaining your wondrous creation.

We especially thank you for
the miracle of life and the wonder of living . . .
particular blessings coming to us in this day . . .
the resources of the earth . . .
gifts of creative vision and skillful craft . . .
the treasure stored in every human life. . .
our neighbours. . . .

We pray for others, God our Savior,
claiming your love in Jesus Christ for the whole world
and committing ourselves to care for those around us in his
name.

We especially pray for
those who work for the benefit of others . . .
those who cannot work today . . .
people who are poor
in resources, or in spirit. . .
those in need of healing
in body, mind, soul, or relationships. . .
our neighbours. . . .

God our creator,
yours is the morning, and yours is the evening.
Let Christ, the sun of righteousness,
shine forever in our hearts
and draw us to the light of your radiant glory.
We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Amigos de Cristo.....pg 11 (476)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ley_edlhtzY

✦ Benediction (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.*



All Who Love and Serve Your City



1. All who love and serve your cit - y, all who
 2. In your day of loss and sor - row, in your
 3. In your day of wealth and plen - ty, wast - ed
 4. For all days are days of judg - ment, and the
 5. Ris - en Lord, shall yet the cit - y be the

bear its dai - ly stress, all who cry for
 day of help - less strife, hon - or, peace, and
 work and wast - ed play, call to mind the
 Lord is wait - ing still, draw - ing near to
 cit - y of de - spair? Come to - day, our

peace and jus - tice, all who curse and all who bless:
 love re - treat - ing, seek the Lord, who is your life.
 word of Je - sus, "Work ye yet while it is day."
 all who spurn Him, of - fering peace from Cal - vary's hill.
 Judge, our Glo - ry, be its name, "The Lord is there!"

WORDS: Erik Routley, 1966

MUSIC: Amos Pilsbury's *United States' Sacred Harmony*, 1799; arr. Mark Edwards, 2008

CHARLESTOWN

8.7.8.7

MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, July 19

PCC mission staff, the Rev. Lora Nafziger plays a vital role supporting expatriate United Mission to Nepal (UMN) staff and their families. The UMN is a faith-based international NGO with over 500 staff. Most are Nepali. Approximately 44 are expatriate staff who work as medical professionals and advisory staff for



projects. Expatriate staff currently come from 8 different countries and about 11 denominational groups. Lora helps these mission staff and their families transition to life in Nepal and then offers them ongoing spiritual care and support. Lora brings to her work as Staff Care and Counselling Adviser her background as a clinical social worker and pastor, as well as her own rich ecumenical experience. Your gifts to Presbyterians Sharing make this important work possible.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, July 19 We pray for Lora Nafziger, serving with United Mission to Nepal. May her spirit be renewed and encouraged as she visits family and congregations in Canada this summer.

Monday, July 20 We pray for staff and campers at Camp Christopher, Christopher Lake, SK, as they learn and grow together in faith in a Christian camping community.

Tuesday, July 21 We pray that in a season of rest and quiet, students will hear your summons to education and formation to serve the Church of Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit to the glory of God.

Wednesday, July 22 We pray for the safety, rejuvenation and enjoyment of all children during this time of summer vacation.

Thursday, July 23 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Cape Breton.

Friday, July 24 We pray for staff and campers at Camp Kannawin in Sylvan Lake, AB, as they learn and grow together in faith in a Christian camping community.

Saturday, July 25 We pray for the Board of Directors at Crieff Hills Retreat Centre, that their meetings are filled with clear vision, faithful discernment and joyful conversation.

All Are Welcome

C7 F C/E F C Dm7

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine, and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions

C F Dm7 Gm C Gm7

live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how hearts learn
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to dream God's
 > wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground, where peace and
 stone to heal and strength-en, serve and teach, and live the
 heard and loved and trea-sured, taught and claimed as words with -

Fsus F Am7 Dm7 Gm7 C

to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and vi - sions, rock of
 reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as wit - ness and as
 > jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through Je - sus, is re -
 Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the stran-ger bear the
 in the Word. Built of tears and cries and laugh-ter, prayers of

F B2 F Bb A7 Dm

faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end di - vi-sions:
 sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Je - sus:
 > vealed in time and space, as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:
 im - age of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and dan-ger:
 faith and songs of grace, let this house pro-claim from floor to raf-ter:

Refrain Gm Dm Am7 Gm F Gm/C C7

All are wel - come, all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this

F Bb F Bb F Bb (F Fine) Bb/C

place.

Text & Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950.
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476 Amigos de Cristo / Friends of the Lord

AMIGOS DE CRISTO Irregular with refrain

Refrain

§

F C

A - mi - gos de Cris-to; we're friends of the Lord;
we've been for - giv-en, and we've been re-stored; a -

1. mi-gos de Cris-to; we're friends of the Lord. For Lord. Lord.
2. Born of a fam - i - ly, the young and old,

F C7

1. Friends of the cov - e - nant re - newed each morn;
2. Born of a fam - i - ly, the young and old,

F Bb F

1. Friends of the cov - e - nant re - newed each morn;
2. Born of a fam - i - ly, the young and old,

Fine

1. F 2. F Last time

F G7 C

bap - tized and lov - ing it, we've been re - born.
we'll be on hand to see new life un - fold.

F Bb F

Gift of the dove is ours for - ev - er - more. A -
We un - der - stand the need to be made whole.

Bb F Bb F C7 F Refrain D.S.

mi - gos de Cris-to; we're friends of the Lord. A -

Words: Latin American traditional Music: Traditional

Words: public domain Music: public domain