



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

Giving thanks for our harvest

October 11, 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

Help Change the World - through prayer:

Women's Prayer Group: Tuesday afternoon (ask for details)

Zoom Prayer Group: Wednesday at 6:30 am

Safe places to ask questions and build foundations

Bible Study: Wednesday 7-8 online and in minister's office

Join us in exploring the upcoming week's passage

Help local people through our dropbox,

collecting non-perishable food for local food pantries, and children's items for *Head and Hands* (especially diapers).

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



Friday's Food & Film: Join the community pizza at 6:30 (contributions/donations & RSVP appreciated) followed by watching episodes of **The Chosen**, a well made TV show about Jesus' very human disciples who help us wonder how to follow Jesus.

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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 (based on Psalm 105)

Give thanks to the Lord, proclaim God's greatness.

Tell the nations what God has done.

Sing praise to the Lord.

Tell the wonderful things God has done.

Be glad that we belong to God.

Let all who worship God rejoice.

The Lord is our God;

God's commands are for all the world.

God will keep his covenant forever,

God's promises last for a thousand generations.

Praise the Lord!



♪ Hymn: We praise you, O God.....pg 9 (425)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wYMO9vPXtQ



Prayer of Approach

Loving God,

your imagination is really amazing
thinking of so many things to create
from pineapples and the Fibonacci sequence²
to all the textures and taste that food can have
not to mention the colours and smells.
LORD, you are amazing!

Even more amazing than your creations
is that you don't just forget about them and move on.
You want to keep having a relationship with us
You think we are all important.
LORD, you are amazing!

LORD, we admit that sometimes we take
what you've created for granted. . .
Sometimes we take who you've taken for granted. . .
Sometimes we even push some people aside,
forget about them
and don't care about them,
or for them. . .
Jesus, please forgive us...

...and help us to accept your forgiveness
and the guidance of your Holy Spirit.
so we can see our blessings
and share them with those who need them.

² www.discovermagazine.com/are-these-10-natural-occurrences-examples-of-the-fibonacci-sequence-46574

To help us, 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
What are your favourite foods?
What goes into them?
Where does that come from?

And who created all this, and gave us the power of creativity to come up with all the different ways to grow and transport these foods - and the recipes to add enjoyment.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus.

*Thank you for creation,
and all the different foods
and all the taste buds we have to enjoy them.
Help us to remember you imagined it all first,
and to share all the good things. Amen.*

♪ Hymn: Who made the earth and the heaven.....pg 10 (339)
all videos with traditional words...

www.youtube.com/watch?v=tCenb2WKG7U (very fun)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=dtmYJ-TiDks (Loretta Lynn)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ab6AkVjYj0 (Johnny Cash+)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=A7qsOOHnFMw (Dolly & Kenny)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=MR_z6QzESps (Reggie)



In Our Hands - Lauren Wright Pittman

 Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
to will recognize what you've done and be thankful
Amen.

✧ Intro to the readings

Today's main passage does double duty. It continues our series following God's relationship with Abraham and his descendants as the LORD tried to help them live in healthy relationships. It comes from the book of Deuteronomy, which is mostly rules

building on the 10 Words (or 10 Commandments) as the Israelites figure out how to live in the Promised Land. And it links to this weekend's context in Canada.

One of the words may stand out a bit as the usage has changed. 'Alien' now often refers to people from another planet, but used to mean (and still in some official context) someone from somewhere else. It could be translated as 'foreigner', but using a word that is a little jarring can help you make connections in the text.

Another word that stood out of people at the Bible Study is the reference to a "wandering Aramean". Abraham was an Aramean, part of a loose group of groups that lived North and East of the Promised Land. Through the Bible they are sometimes friendly, and sometimes not.

We'll also have a short passage from the Gospel According to Matthew. The vision of Heaven here is not some other Kingdom that we go to after dying, but of this world being reborn into God's intentions.

and a psalm that fits wonderfully.

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

[Deuteronomy 26](#): 1-11

[Matthew 13](#): 31-33

[Psalm 100](#)



Sermon: Giving thanks for our harvest

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

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

Thanksgiving weekend is a time of rituals. In my family it involved a big dinner. I remember a full table: full of food, and full of people. We were thankful for each other's company, and food. At another time in my life I joined friends in their ritual hike appreciating changing leaves.

Have you had any Thanksgiving rituals?



Peanuts - Charles Schulz

Our passage from Deuteronomy gives the Israelites a ritual to do. This one is linked to their first harvest of wheat (Shavuot), which in their climate is in the spring (when we celebrate Pentecost). They have another festival (Sukkot or Tabernacles or Booths) for the Autumn harvest. There are important points in what they are told to do.

All through it they are remembering what the LORD has done. They could have said what Joseph had done or what Moses had done, but they didn't do that. They are remembering what the LORD has done. Perhaps it's easier for them to do as some of the things that happened they had no other explanation for: the parting of the Red Sea, or the arrival of Manna every day. People since then have come up with some ways it could have happened. For us, we find it easier to come up with reasons. Why are we here? We (Howie) can name people who chose this plot of land. Why are you living here? You can talk about a job and a good

opportunity at a place to live. This creates two challenges for us. One is not to explain God away. True, there are specific people and situations that we can name, but this does not mean that God wasn't involved. Rethinking these explanations out loud with God as an actor in them is a good exercise... and can lead to thanksgiving.

The other challenge for us is actually remembering to be thankful. In their case they had various events to remind them to be thankful - such as the first harvest. Few of us grow food, and so are rather disconnected from all the work involved in growing a crop, nurturing & praying for its survival, and then harvesting it. Despite not growing food, there is food. Those with enough money can even buy anything they want and any time of the year - harvest time doesn't play into it.

So, one aspect of their giving thanks is to remember what God has done in their collective past. Another is recognizing what God is doing now... and giving the first product of that back to support God's work. Since we don't grow our food, what do we do? First we need to broaden our idea of what we are harvesting. What benefits or nourishes us? Our access to tech? clothes? food? money? What about our education? our wisdom? our creativity? our safety? freedom? hope? What do we harvest from the world?

Some of that you can put in a basket and bring back the LORD's work, others aren't so tangible. Food you can put in the drop box, or invite somebody to share your table (at home or elsewhere). Money you can put in the collection basket, or to other places God is working. Creativity you can use to create ideas, or paintings, or other gifts. Maybe you can draw, and leave sidewalk chalk pictures around? or send cards and poems to shut ins? Education and Wisdom and hope... are hard because they aren't solid. But you can seek out situations where there are

people who need those gifts that you have harvested. Maybe you can help people learn English or French with Bienvenue NDG. Maybe you can visit people at the St. Andrew's Home, or work in their garden. You can pray.

And it's important to note which part of the harvest they are to give. They don't wait to see which is the biggest pumpkin, or the best of the harvest. They are to bring the first of the harvest. Why? Because, as we talked about last week with the 10 Commandments, God comes first. They don't give it all to God, but God comes first.

Without a distinct harvest start, how can you give to God first? It's a challenge. It helps to set up a ritual or a pattern. To recognize what God has done: historically and recently. What are your gifts? How can you give back the first fruits? Perhaps you set up a time with a journal or conversation partner to do this at the end of each month. ...and can you prioritize God before yourself?

I don't know which came first, the establishing of this ritual of thanksgiving or psalm 100, but they work well together. I can imagine the people singing psalm 100 in praise to God as they bring their offerings to God for the priests to use for God's work. Perhaps you make a song part of your ritual? or a responsive phrase?

And these ideas are important parts of this ritual. It's not a chore. Giving the first of what you get back to God is a time of both thanksgiving and celebration. And it's a time of sharing with those who don't have a harvest to give. The Levites are mentioned because they are the dedicated priests for everybody else, and so have other communal tasks than farming and harvesting. Aliens are invited because the Israelites remember that when they did not have a home God brought them to communities that invited them in. God gave them this blessing,

and they should remember and include others.

Who can we include?

My parents tended to invite anyone they came across who was without a family to gather with. Are their people in your community? your neighbours? refugees through Action Réfugiés? newcomers through Bienvenue NDG? isolated seniors through New Hope?

Will this make a difference?

That's where the parables come in. They remind us that even something as small as yeast or a seed can make a huge difference given enough time and the right conditions. God is planting seeds all the time. We all had troubles, but also some good conditions for growth. Can we share some of those conditions to help the seeds grow and bring hope into others lives?

Our Thanksgiving Appeal is to help people gain food security. We do this regularly here, but it's important to think broader as well. You can learn more about the global situation at the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization website (fao.org). I'm also going to show you the first part of a video available through the Presbyterian World Service & Development. It's gives an idea for how some of the money given to food security is used, though this program includes other aspects.⁴

To God be all the glory. Amen.



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: For the fruits of all creation.....pg 9 (802)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBXHDbesb7k

⁴ you can watch the rest here: presbyterian.ca/pwsd/seeds-of-resilience



Lord of the Harvest - Shin Maeng

☞ 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: Starting with God: identify events that have brought you here and now? Who was involved? Now name God (out loud) as being involved.

Memories: What Thanksgiving traditions or rituals have you experienced?

Action: Who can you include in your thanksgiving 'rituals'? If it's too late for this year, when can you next include them?

Action: Friday is World Food Day, as organized by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. Check out their website at: www.fao.org

Reflecting: What has been your harvest in the last _____ (ex. month)? How can you give the first of this back to God's vision?

Prayer: ...that we will recognize God's presence in our past, present, and future - and be thankful for all the good things we harvest.



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 our prayer will be based on what people write in our communal prayer diary. Please feel free to also create your own prayer, or adapt this one from *The Worship Sourcebook* C.4.4.12.

Let us give thanks to God our Creator
for all the blessings we share this day.

For all of those who have gone before, people strong and brave,
willing to put their lives on the line
for the causes they believe in,

we give you thanks.

**Grant us, our God, the courage
to step out in faith for that which is true and right.**

For freedom of speech and of the press,
for the avenues open to expressing ourselves,
for opportunities to effect change,
we give you thanks.

**We pray for those who are voiceless victims of unjust
governments.**

For fertile soil, abundant rain, and seasons of refreshment,
we give you thanks.
**We pray for those whose land is parched and whose wells are
dry.**

For our families, friends, and the church,
who provide us with food and drink for our journey,
we give you thanks.

**We pray for those who are hungry and tired,
hopeless and wandering, finding no place to rest.**

For strong bodies and minds,
for opportunities that encourage us to grow
and become more the servants of thanksgiving
you call us to be,
we give you thanks.
**We pray for the sick,
as well as for the stagnant who are unwilling to dream or
change.**

Help us, O God, to be responsible stewards of your blessings,
 people who care for the earth and all its people.
 Keep us connected with all humanity,
 even though miles and cultures tend to separate us.
**May we always respond to your call
 with a true spirit of thanksgiving. Amen.**

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Let all things now living.....pg 11 (338)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ow9JJ6Y-Xoo (organ & choir)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=hL1YF2iS1TY (voice, cello, guitar)

✦ Benediction
*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
 the love of God,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
 be with all of you.⁵*
 Amen



⁵ 2 Corinthians 13:13

MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, October 11

With support from Presbyterians Sharing, St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Eckville, Alberta, has been a dedicated contributor to the Canada Foodgrains Bank for more than 35 years. What began as a small growing project on donated land has expanded into a community-wide effort, with local farmers, families, and town leaders working together to plant, grow, and harvest grain. Through their commitment and generosity, the congregation helps provide food assistance to people facing hunger during crises such as conflict, drought, and natural disasters. Their growing project is a powerful example of faith in action and community partnership.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, October 11 (Harvest Sunday; Coming Out Day; International Day of the Girl Child) We pray for farmers who work tirelessly during this harvest season to provide food for our communities, and for those around the world for whom hunger is a daily reality.

Monday, October 12 (Thanksgiving Day) We give thanks to God for the gifts of creation and pray for the wisdom to be faithful stewards of God's resources.

Tuesday, October 13 We give thanks for the farm staff at Crieff Hills Retreat Centre as they celebrate another year of abundance on the culinary farm.

Wednesday, October 14 We pray for the Committee on Church Doctrine, that the Holy Spirit may guide their conversations and discernment amid differing perspectives.

Thursday, October 15 We pray for the Board of St. Andrew's Hall and ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance as they support the impactful work of campus-based ministries and the formation of Christian leaders in theological education through the Centre for Missional Leadership.

Friday, October 16 (World Food Day) We pray for those participating in sustainable food security programs through PWS&D's partners in Ghana, Guatemala, India, Malawi, Nepal and Pakistan.

Saturday, October 17 (International Day for the Eradication of Poverty) We pray for a world where peace prevails, where hunger is eradicated and where the rights of all are respected. (Written by EHAP, a PWS&D partner in Malawi.)

We praise you, O God

D G/D D Fm7sus D/F# Em7 A D

1. We praise you, O God, our Re-deem-er, Cre-a-tor; in
 2. We wor-ship you; God ev-cr-faith-ful, we bless you; through
 3. With voic-es u-ni-ted our prais-es we of-fer, and

A/C# Bm7 E7 A D6 E7 A

grate-ful de-vo-tion our trib-ute we bring. We
 life's storm and tem-pest our guide you have been. When
 glad-ly our songs of true wor-ship we raise. Our

A/G D/F# Em7sus A7 D

lay it be-fore you; we kneel and a-dore you; we
 per-ils o'er-take us, you will not for-sake us, and
 sins now con-fess-ing, we pray for your bless-ing; to

G/B D/A G (/B) A/C# 7 D Em A7 D

bless your ho-ly name; glad prais-es we sing.
 with your help, O Lord, life's bat-tles we win.
 you, our great Re-deem-er, for-ev-er be praise.

Words: Dutch, anonymous, 1626, translation, Julia Bulkley Cady Cory (1882-1963); alt
 Music: Netherlands folk song, 1626; arrangement, Edward Kremser (1838-1914)

Words: public domain Music: public domain
 Kensington Presbyterian Church

For the fruits of all creation

AR HYD Y NOS 12 12 8 8 12

F /A Bb F/A Gm /Bb C Am Bbsus2-1 C6 7 F

1. For the fruits of all cre-a-tion, thanks be to God;
 for the gifts to eve-ry na-tion,
 2. In the just re-ward of la-bour, God's will is done;
 in the help we give our neigh-bour,
 3. For the har-vests of the Spir-it, thanks be to God;
 for the good we all in-her-it,

Bb/DF Bb/D F/A Bb Cm Bb/D Dm Gm F/A Bb6 Dm Gmsus9/Bb F/C C

for the plough-ing, sow-ing, reap-ing, si-lent growth while we are sleep-ing,
 in our world-wide task of car-ing for the hun-gry and des-pair-ing,
 for the won-ders that as-tound us, for the truths that still con-found us,

F/A Bb F Gm /Bb C Am Bbsus2-1 C6 7 F

fu-ture needs in earth's safe-keep-ing, thanks be to God.
 in the har-vests we are shar-ing, God's will is done.
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-), alt Music: Welsh traditional

Words: copyright © 1970 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: public domain

Who made the earth and the heaven / He's got the whole world in his hands

HE'S GOT THE WHOLE WORLD 8 3 8 3 8 3 8

Swing D

1. Who made the earth and the heav - en?
2. Who made the stars and the chil - dren?
3. Who made the swan and the swal - low?
4. Who sent the storm and the thun - der?
5. Who loves the man and the wom - an?

/F# G D A7

—Might-y hands! Who made the man and the wom - an?
Who made the stream and the sal - mon?
Who made the wind and the wil - low?
Who sent the flood and the fire?
Who sent the Lamb and the Li - on?

Em7 A D

—Awe - some hands! Who made the tree and the gar - den?
Who made the lamb and the li - on?
Who makes to - day and to - mor - row?
Who sent the dove and the rain - bow?
Who makes a new earth and heav - en?

/F# G6 A F#m7 Emsus A7 D

—Lov-ing hands! Who's got the world in might-y hands?

6. You've got the whole world—Mighty God!
You've got the whole world—Awesome God!
You've got the whole world—Loving God!
You've got the whole world in your hands!

Words: Andrew Donaldson (1951–); traditional words, African-American spiritual
Music: African-American spiritual; arrangement, Andrew Donaldson (1951–)

Words: this version, copyright © Andrew Donaldson, 1997 Music: arrangement, copyright © Andrew Donaldson, 1996
CCLI #4440603 One License #A-719461

Traditional Version

1. He's got the whole world in his hands (3x)
He's got the whole world in his hands.
2. He's got the sun and the moon in his hands...
He's got the whole world in his hands.
3. He's got the wind and the rain...
4. He's got the tiny little baby...
5. He's got you and me, brother,...
he's got you and me, sister,...
he's got you and me, brother...
6. He's got the whole world...

Let All Things Now Living

1. Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise,
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us;
pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth
in the night,
till shadows have vanished
and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel
from light into Light.

2. By law God enforces the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine.
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise,
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving:
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise!