



Kensington Presbyterian Church
Here and then
 April 5, 2020

Welcome & announcements

For now we are putting out these worship services that you can do at home.¹ This doesn't mean you have to do them alone. You can invite those who live with you, or connect with others through the phone or computer.

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

Each of these **events** will happen through Zoom. This website enables video conferencing and phoning in. You don't need to download their app, just look for the web-browser option. At the set time, go to this web site: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4095620745> or call 438 809 7799 and the put in this meeting #409 562 0745

- **Prayer Time:** Wednesday morning prayer at 9 a.m.
- **Zoom Café:** Thursday at 3 p.m.
Join Rev. Peter for coffee (not included):
- **Good Friday:** worship at 10:30 a.m.
- **Easter Worship:** Sunday at 10:30 a.m. [many churches are planning this. If it doesn't work, there's always the text version.]

If you are interested, but these times don't work, please contact Rev. Peter: Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca

Offering: We now have a '[Donate Now](#)' button on our website.

Please continue to check out the website <https://kensingtonchurch.ca/> or facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KensingtonChurchNDG/> for news of these ideas.

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

Approaching God



lighting the candle

Jésus Chris est la lumière du monde.
 Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Prelude: I dance in the morning²

duet: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=RDPAvzL8IbTjI&v=PavzL8IbTjI&feature=emb_rel_end)

[list=RDPAvzL8IbTjI&v=PavzL8IbTjI&feature=emb_rel_end](https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=RDPAvzL8IbTjI&v=PavzL8IbTjI&feature=emb_rel_end)

Call to worship

The Holy Spirit has brought us here.

Let us embrace the word of the LORD and celebrate.

Reading: As you read through you can click on the link to read the passage, or look it up in your own Bible.³

[Matthew 21: 1-11](#)



² harp: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XonLpNGUg3U>

fun: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEAlJV6CmtA>

irish rovers: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WV8fy2s8_C8

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

Response & prayer⁴

God calls the servant-Christ to sustain the weary:

**the ones in exile,
the ones in despair,
the ones who are afraid.**

Jesus enters the city in humility:

**lauded by the crowds: “Hosanna! Save us!”
questioned by the powers that be,
betrayed and denied by his friends.**

We watch with unease and bewilderment,

**complicit with the fickle crowd,
misunderstanding true power,
frightened and looking to our own interests.**

Lord, have mercy

Christ, have mercy

Lord, have mercy

Assurance of Forgiveness

Hear these comforting words:

If you honestly try to change your ways
and believe in God’s redeeming mercy,
your sins are forgiven.

Trust in God’s promises
and begin anew your life
with God and all people
in the name of Jesus Christ.

4 Rev. Iona MacLean for the Presbyterian World Service and Development Lent Responses series 2020

Unison Prayer⁵

Creator God,

**we give thanks to you for you are good,
your steadfast love endures forever.**

We seek courage for the living of these days.

Let the same mind be in us

**that was in Christ Jesus,
so that we may give ourselves in love and humility
to further your purpose of life for the world.**

So may all people come to know

**the height and depth of your redeeming love;
through Jesus Christ our crucified and risen Lord. **

Amen.

♪ Hymn: All hail the power of Jesus’ name.....see last page
guitar & penny whistle: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-N9_SdxW4c

organ version <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HlhJ3GS5GzY>



5 Rev. Iona MacLean for the Presbyterian World Service and Development Lent Responses series 2020

Listening to God

Dear Lord, please bless the words typed here
and the meditations of our hearts. Amen.

A Story



Shalom.

My name is Baruch ben Neriah. I am a scribe. Although this is what I thought I would be, it is not quite as I expected it to be.

My Father was a scribe. He went into the palace precinct for work. He left in the morning and came back for dinner. It seemed like a quiet life. ...My position is not the same. It came as an unexpected opportunity. My father questioned me taking it, but it is hard to turn down a man of

God - and working with Jeremiah is exciting.

An advantage with being the only scribe working for him is that I get to do it all: write down what he says, then later present it to the people and the royal court.

I am glad that God did *not* choose me to say these words. Most of the time Jeremiah is yelling about how the people of Judah have failed. That we have not kept up our part of the covenant and God is going to call us on it. God will bring in the Babylonians and we will all become their slaves - or dead. This went on for years and years.

Sometimes I wish I was with one of the happy prophets. I am glad I'm just reporting the words.

[laugh at fond remembrance]

Sometimes he doesn't just use words. I remember once we went

down to the potter's house. After buying a jug he went on, again, about the various ways the people of Judah have broken the covenant he broke the jug - smashed it - bang!

Then he told everybody that this is what God will do to the kingdom - break it into so many pieces that it can never be put back the same.

Wow, what a day.

Then, a few weeks ago, the Babylonians showed up. They surrounded the city. Jeremiah did something even more shocking. He started telling people to go out and surrender - after all, these were God's actions.

I couldn't believe it.

Some of the Kings advisers decided this was bad for moral and put him down a well - as if that would stop him. When the King found out a prophet of God had been put down a well to starve he allowed Jeremiah to be brought up and kept in the Courtyard of the Guards.

Which brings us to today.

I arrive in the courtyard to record what might happen and Jeremiah starts talking about his cousin Hanamel. God told Jeremiah that Hanamel was going to come and ask Jeremiah to redeem his field.

This could be a little awkward if it did happen. When we'd last been in the area, the family had found Jeremiah too embarrassing and they said that if he didn't stop being such a prophet of doom - they'd stop him. Thankfully we were able to move on before anything more violent happened.

Anyway, God told Jeremiah his cousin would come, and he did - and he needed Jeremiah to buy the land or the family would lose it.

Now it would be nice for them if Jeremiah helped, but really, weren't they listening! For years Jeremiah's been prophesying to us about losing our homes. They shouldn't be so worried about losing their land and becoming a slave - it's about to happen to us all.

The crazy thing is - Jeremiah did it.

Everybody within earshot was struck dumb - well, not really. Word spread quickly and many people came to witness this. A man buying land that was about to be lost to the Babylonians.

Anyway, Jeremiah agrees to buy the property. Which calls on another of my scribe skills - certifying land transactions. We gathered some witnesses and I created the forms. Everything was properly signed and sealed. Then he instructed me to put them both in a dependable pottery jar for preservation. I was being entrusted with this sign of hope for the future - and as a scribe, to tell people about it.

Jeremiah was acting out a prophecy from God. This was different than most of the other prophesies. Now, with the Babylonians at the gate, he delivers a message of hope. God certainly does not go with the expected.

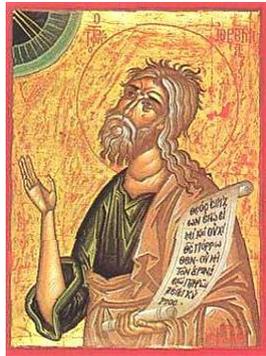
Instead Jeremiah says, "The Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, says: Houses and fields and vineyards will again be bought in this land."

We will lose our homes and way of life, but God will reshape us and bring us back to the promised land. As Jeremiah redeemed his cousin while in captivity, so to will God be able to redeem us.

Nothing is too much for God! Hallelujah!

Reading

[Jeremiah 32: 1-3a, 6-15](#) (you may also want to read the prayer 16-25)



Sermonette

Jeremiah was trapped in in a courtyard in a city trapped by an invading army that could attach at any time. Some of you have told me how you wake up with anxiety, feeling trapped and useless, worried by this virus that may attack at any time.

God had shown Jeremiah how the choices of the people would lead to suffering, and now it was starting - even for the powerful.

Now people were starting to listen.

and God gave Jeremiah another message. That there would be tough times, but not forever.

Jesus arrives in Jerusalem, and there is a celebratory parade. While the officials didn't, there were crowds of people who recognized Jesus as a person from God who would save them. Somebody to rescue them from the Romans and lead them back to glory.

Jesus saw things differently. He saw the suffering to come. In the Luke version of this passage ([Luke 19: 41-44](#)), Jesus weeps for Jerusalem. He says 'if only you recognized, even now, what brings God's peace.' Jesus hears the celebration, and knows the suffering is coming.

I wonder if he remembered Jeremiah, trapped in Jerusalem centuries before? With the death threats already received, Jesus knew he was risking his life being there. Was Jesus anxious? He doesn't seem to be afraid.

Did he remember Jeremiah's symbolic action of hope? How much did he know about the week that was to come?

Back then, here now, and in 'then' to come, the Spirit presents messages of hope, Jesus rides in, and our God is one of hope.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, 3 in 1. Amen.

♪ moment for meditation: Khutšo (6 minutes)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SWAM91Tu_FM

Responding to God

FaithTalk

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

Wonder: I wonder if Jesus was remembering how Jerusalem responded to Jeremiah as he entered the city on Palm Sunday?

Memories: Share time you felt under siege.

Etching: Where/how did you find hope?

Wonder: What prophetic action, like Jeremiah buying the field, could be done now? has God given now?

Actions: As part of the body of Christ, how could you offer hope to others this week?

Offering

What could you offer others this week? ...

How could you share God's presence? ...

How could you support the work of God in the world? ...

Financially, we have set up a donation option on our website. Just click the '[Donate Now](#)' button, and then the pretty button. It gives you various options that are easy to follow.

Prayers of the people

Note: if you would like specific prayers included here (like with our prayer book), please send an email to: prayer@Kensingtonchurch.ca

God of life, God of love unconquered and unconquerable, we long for the day when we shall all be unbound and set free from the uncertainty and the fear and the isolation and the loneliness of this dark time.

But, right now, we need you to be with us; we need to feel your presence; we need to hear your Spirit calling to our spirits; we need to know that the darkness is not dark to you.

In faith, in hope, in longing, we offer our prayers.

We pray for the people who sit alone waiting for a phone call or an email or Facebook message or a wave from the neighbour across the street. May they not wait in vain...

We pray for those who struggle with depression, for whom these strange circumstances must be especially challenging. May they not be consumed by despair...

We pray for family members and friends who are far away, some of them living where the Covid-19 virus is taking a devastating toll. May they stay safe and well and may they know of our love and concern.

We pray for the people who work in health care, for first responders and law enforcement officers, who have to carry on regardless of the risk to themselves. May they not be overwhelmed and may they find courage and strength...

We pray for the check out clerks and the shelf-stockers and all the other unsung heroes whose work allows life to go on. May they not be overwhelmed and may they find courage and strength...

We pray for the farmers and food producers. May they find the labourers they need as the growing season approaches and may they not become discouraged...

We pray for the leaders of our own and other countries who are bearing heavy burdens and facing enormous challenges. May they find grace and wisdom. May they rise to meet the demands of this hour...

We pray for the church and for all faith communities as they keep the lights shining in the night. May the dawn come quickly. God of steadfast love and mercy unfailing, hear our prayer. In Jesus' name.

Amen.⁶

⁶ by Rev. Dr. John Moses and received through an e-letter from the Vancouver School of Theology April 2

Lord's prayer (feel free to use another version/translation)

As we look for God, we are guided to pray the prayer Jesus gave us...

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
now and forever. Amen.

sending & benediction:

Last sentence of Matthew:

“And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

May God the Father bless you,
God the Son heal you,
God the Holy Spirit give you strength.
May God the holy and undivided Trinity
guard your body and soul,
leading you to a life forever with our Lord.⁷

Postlude: All hail the power of Jesus' name

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dIk9w_lpXtM

Prayer Partnership

These are invitations compiled by the Presbyterian Church in Canada for our prayers. They were created months ago, and so serve as a reminder that there is more than COVID19 in our world. (That said, I did adapt one.) Should you add these prayers to your own, you will be joining with others throughout the church.

Sunday, April 5 (Palm Sunday) We pray for PCC-partner, the United Mission in Nepal.

Monday, April 6 Thank God for the gift of racial diversity in the PCC. Give thanks for people who are working to build more inclusive church communities.

Tuesday, April 7 We pray that leprosy patients who visit Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported clinics in Nepal will once again feel the warmth of community, free from stigma.

Wednesday, April 8 We are thankful for volunteers Hastings Phale, Rammy Zuwayo and Lyca Mhone who are bringing hope, medication and delivering Bible teachings to prisoners in southern Malawi.

Thursday, April 9 (Maundy Thursday) As our thoughts turn to spring, give thanks to God for the wonder and beauty we find in creation. May we be faithful stewards of the earth.

Friday, April 10 (Good Friday) We pray for all those who are denied their rights, imprisoned, tortured or martyred for their faith. Pray that they may be protected.

Saturday, April 11 On this Saturday before Easter we pray for all those who feel that hope is gone.

Sunday, April 12 (Easter) Christ has risen and gives us new life, making us new creations, and commissioned us to continue his ministry in the world. Pray that we love and serve our neighbours with the same love God shows us..

⁷ adapted from Worship Sourcebook (2004) 9.2.17

All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

G D D7 G

1 All hail the power of Je - sus' name! Let an - gels pros - trate fall.
 2 O seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race now ran - sored from the fall,
 3 Let ev - ery tongue and ev - ery tribe on this ter - res - trial ball,
 4 Oh, that with all the sa - cred throng we at his feet may fall!

D G D G D/F# Em A D

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem,
 hail him who saves you by his grace,
 to him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all.
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song

G D7 G C G/D D7 G

Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem,
 Hail him who saves you by his grace,
 To him all maj - es - ty as - cribe, and crown him Lord of all!
 We'll join the ev - er - last - ing song



*Add more people, and yourself, to the picture.
 Where would you want to be?
 Are there instruments? Angels? Animals?*