



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Fishing for _____

January 24, 2021

WELCOME, during these times of physical isolation 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, or even in small groups outside.

If you have any prayer requests, ideas, or just want to talk, please reach out to your elder or Rev. Peter (Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca).



Contacts

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

Announcements

Prayer Group: will be meeting through Zoom on Wed. at 11:30 a.m.

If you would like to pray at a different time, please contact Peter.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMck1ZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRIOFF1UT09>

or phone: 438-809-7799

Meeting ID: 782 6690 4325

Passcode: 7864826

Book Club: Is reading *The Magicians Nephew* by C.S. Lewis. This is the first book (chronologically) in the Narnia series. If you are interested in joining the discussion on Jan 27th, please contact Antoinette for details.

New Hope Seniors Centre: is offering three programs through Zoom. If you are interested, you can register through email or phone: newhope.programs@videotron.ca or call 514 503 5649.

Watercolor Practice: Tuesdays from 1:00-3:00

Mediation with Giovanna: Mondays from 10:00am -10:30

Chair Yoga with Giovanna: Wednesdays from 10:00 am -10:45

Refugee Letter: Session has decided to write a letter to the provincial government regarding their decision not to allow organizations to sponsor refugees. If you would like to know more, or write your own letter, please contact Rev. Peter or your elder for more details.

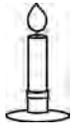
Visiting: The government considers ministers to be essential workers. If you need a visit, please contact Rev. Peter.

Live Worship: Currently we are not allowed to have anybody join us for worship. We pray that it will become safe to do so sooner rather than later. As we are an essential service, we are continuing to broadcast live on Zoom from our Sanctuary.

Please continue to check out the website [kensingtonchurch.ca/](https://www.kensingtonchurch.ca/) or facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KensingtonChurchNDG/>



Approaching God



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



Call to worship²

The Word of the Lord came,
hope for all people cradled in his arms.
the Word of the Lord comes,
calling us out of our comfort zones,
to go where grace is needed most.
The Word of the Lord will come,
gathering all the outsiders and insiders
into one community of the kingdom.

♪ Hymn: Come, thou almighty King.....pg 9
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMs6t6X3UPg>



2 by Thom Shuman <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>



Prayer of Approach

God of all,
we come before you now.
While we are never without you,
now we turn and focus on you
and your ways.

...

You created the world with so much diversity and detail;
full of power and delicacy;
sweet and pungent;
full of people of every colour and skill and personality,
that together we can glimpse your glory.

...

Jesus, you come to use and invite us to join you
in spreading the Good News;
but we have difficulty living it ourselves.

We often take advantage of the things around us to live
comfortably at the expense of those who grow and
manufacture what we consume.

We fail to notice the 'little people' and their quality of life,
and still forget about those who have been sent to live in
residences or reside by themselves.

And we fail to challenge those who aren't using their power or
privilege to bless others

...

We pray for your vision to fill us,
for your invitation to pull us
and your reign to come.

In Jesus name
Amen.

✦ Assurance of Pardon

To all who turn from sin in sorrow,
to all who turn to God in hope,
this is God's Word of grace:

We are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved.
This gift we have from God.

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

Jesus left us a prayer to lead us into better living. Let us join with
Christians around the world, saying...

**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.**



Listening to God

🎵 Hymn: Seek ye first.....pg 9

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9LMQfOp9w8k
www.youtube.com/watch?v=yVTZ9DmnXvM (interesting version)

🧎 Prayer

Our Lord and our God,
as we hear your Word,
may your Spirit descend on us.
Softening our hearts so that we may see your ways.
Fill us with your light.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Amen.

Intro to the readings

- Mark passage continues on from last week. As you read it, do you wonder about any of the details?
- Jeremiah passage is skipping a few verses. The reason that the editors way way back broke up the hard accusing verses with some encouraging verses that are a bit jarring. You're welcome to read them.
- Amos includes an insult that is still used today (something I don't remember from the course I took on this short book). More to the point thought, how are Jeremiah, Amos and Mark using the image of fishermen?



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

[Jeremiah 16](#): 10-13, 16-18

[Amos 4](#): 1-3

[Mark 1](#): 12-20

Sermon: Fishing for _____

Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts.³ Amen.

Do you remember seeing action movies? They might give you a brief intro, but quickly dive into the action. The Gospel of Mark's a bit like that. Last week we were introduced to Jesus down by the riverside. Although it wasn't quiet as the heavens were torn open.

Now we heard a brief quiet bit (perhaps as the opening credits rolled) and the action starts.

You read only 8 verses, and in it

- Jesus was driven out into the wilderness
- tempted by Satan

³ Psalm 19:14

- been with wild animals
- served by angels
- John was arrested (literally ‘delivered up’)
- Jesus went to Galilee
- and started telling the good news that the reign of God has come near
- and calling for people to repent
- and then called some people to follow him
- and they dropped everything and did all in 8 verses!

Did it leave you breathless? Did it leave you with questions? Questions are a good thing. Curiosity is the main way that God created us to learn. Reading through this passage I wondered about a few things. Other Gospels tell about the temptations, but what we Jesus tempted with here? Was he threatened or served by the wild animals - or perhaps just a photo safari? What happened that John went from the talk of the land to arrested within 40 days? ...

This lack of details and events happening “immediately” after each other is very typical in Mark.⁴

Have you ever gone off for some intentional time ‘away from it all’? I’m not talking about times when you’ve found yourself at home without anyone else, but times when the solitude⁵ has been intentional - and extended. Maybe you chose it, or maybe you were like Jesus and ‘driven into the wilderness.’ What was it like?

Here we aren’t given much, but Jesus is faced with his demons.

⁴ the word ‘immediately’ is used 41 times in Mark. The translators find that repetitive and so use alternates, reducing it in the English to only 25 times or so. It’s only used 10 times in the rest of the Newer Testament.

⁵ not really possible as God is always with us

It’s harder to escape them with no obligations or TV to hide in. He comes back strengthened and with a vision.

Jesus immediately heads for the edge of Jewish territory and starts “*proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, ‘The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.’*”

What’s this mean?

We tend to take this as word of personal encouragement. Jesus is telling us that God is with us. We’re not alone - which with angels attending him by the end of his time in the wilderness is something Jesus would know. We also take it as a philosophical comment. Jesus is telling us that it’s time to consider how we live. This really makes sense with the challenge to repent (change directions).

What about the people who first heard him?

They lived in the Roman Empire with a local king. The soldiers and taxes made that obvious. Along comes Jesus talking about the Kingdom of God being near. Would they have been thinking personally change or a political revolution?

and then Jesus walks past some fishermen⁶ and says, “*Follow me and I will make you fish for people.’ And immediately they left their nets and followed him.*”

What does Jesus mean?

presumably not taking people away with fish hooks.

What do you think Jesus meant by saying they would ‘fish for people’? ...

⁶ It seems that the term ‘fishermen’ is the one of choice for people of any gender who professional fish. <https://thewalrus.ca/why-women-who-fish-are-still-fishermen/>
<https://www.cbc.ca/news2/indepth/words/fishermen.html>



Fishers of Men - S. Dewey

Growing up, I heard this passage used to describe Jesus collecting his students from the ordinary folk to train them to spread the good news and getting others to join in. Is Jesus calling them to start Christianity? Are they to collect people together like fish in a net and form a new religion? They did, but I don't think that's what Jesus means here. Reading through the rest of the book Jesus doesn't seem interested in setting up an institution.

Or are they to hook people into following Jesus as their saviour? I think this is often how being 'fishers of people' is thought of. One of the great things about Jesus coming is that he was physically present as a human. It helps us have a personal relationship with Jesus. Peter and the rest of the fishermen not only have this relationship, but share this good news - but is this what Jesus and those fishermen were thinking of at the time? Is it what the original hearers would have thought as the stories were told and written down after?

There were aspects of it,

but it was much more than any personal relationship. Considering this is 'immediately' after talking about the Kingdom of God being near there is political dimensions. How could there be God's Kingdom and Rome's kingdom at the same time?

But how could being called to be 'fishers of people' be political?

The two passages we read from Jeremiah and Amos, and another in Ezekiel⁷, give an indication. These prophets talk about God sending fishermen to round up those who have broken the relationship with God - especially those who have oppressed others. Amos even uses the descriptive language of being taken away by fish hooks. Is this what Jesus had in mind when he called those fishermen? Did these fishermen think they were being called up to the revolutionary army to drag off the oppressors?

and what was the revolution supposed to bring about? Well, the Reign of God.

I say the Reign of God rather than the Kingdom of God. Kingdom brings to mind a geographic area. Reign is more about a time period. It's not about a carving out a territory from Rome, but a new beginning. This is about God being the leader - not Rome - not even priests in Jerusalem. It's revolutionary. One person I read this week put it this way, "What Jesus is beginning is the transformation of this world. That is why those in charge of this world as it was ended up killing him."⁸

The Reign of God is about making the world a better place for everyone - even the leaders who fear the changes. More is revealed through Mark as the action continues, but the Reign of God is a special world. It's not one of mindless bliss, but it is

⁷ Ezekiel 29:4

⁸ William Placher, *Mark* Westminster John Knox Press 2010

one where nobody is stressed about having a place to live (though probably not in a mansion), or having enough food (though not anything environmentally hurtful), or stressed about their health (no longer a barrier to joy), or about their place in society (comfortable with God at the top), or if they are worthwhile or valued (all are loved). It will be a reign in which people will know peace with themselves, each other, with creation, and with our God.

and Jesus is calling forth 'fishermen' for this revolution - to help everyone experience the blessing of living in the Reign of God.

In the Gospel of Mark we don't get a lot of details. We are invited to wonder.

I wonder about our role as fishermen?

*in the name of God our creator,
Jesus, our saviour,
and The Spirit, our guide,
Holy and One.*

Amen.



Responding to God

🎵 musical reflection: Day by day.....Victor Johnson
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BKsjGDKJBnM>

🗨️ FaithTalk These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies. Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Wonder: Share things you wonder about sparked from the Mark passage.

Wonder: How do you envision living in the Reign of God?

Memories: Can you share about an intentional time in away from the business in 'solitude' - not that that's possible as God is there... but perhaps that's the point. Did you face your temptations? gain a vision for going forward?

Actions: How could you be a fisherman/revolutionary? In this case, bringing about the reign of God. What would you like to see Kensington do?

✦ Offering

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.

You can now 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

Gracious God,
We hear about your passion for creation in the Bible.
Passages like those in Amos and Jeremiah that tell of using fishermen to drag people in to account for their actions.
and we hear about your passion for all,
so that you would even die on the cross
to cross the divide of death to bring healing.

You love and care for us,
and like all healthy relationships, you invite us
to share with you what we're thinking and feeling.

Jesus, you are called the great physician, and we need you.
The Coronavirus and it's variants are plaguing the world.

We thank you for the people and skills that you have
birthed so that we might bring healing to people and the
economy.

We pray for those who are sick with COVID,
that they might heal quickly and easily.

We pray for all those who are essential workers,
that they may be kept safe,
and be able to manage the stress and demands.

We pray for those who are not considered essential,
that they may know they are valuable,
and be able to manage their expenses.

We pray for leaders: political and corporate,
as they decide how to manage COVID,
and many other issues.

We pray for ourselves,
that we may have the courage to be fishers of people;
inviting everyone to live in your reign
so that we can all live in a world without fear
knowing that we are safe and loved in you.
Help us to find opportunities to share this good news
with those your Spirit has prepared to hear us;
and help us to make opportunities to challenge those with
power when they are not blessing others.

Jesus, we thank you for all those who support us: our family,
friends and professionals.

We also thank you for those blessing our community, such as the
New Hope Seniors Centre, Action Réfugiés and their support
and advocacy for your children looking for a safe place to grow,
and for Head and Hands, as they help youth to lead safe lives.

Especially, Jesus, we thank you for your presence among us;
for the nurturing of your Spirit;
and for your faithfulness God.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Sent forth by your blessing.....pg 10
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fA6ywU_KxkM

Benediction

*May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
Shine in our hearts, transform our lives,
and brighten the world.*

*And the blessing of God almighty,
rest upon you always.⁹ Amen.*



Prayer We pray that, with the support of food baskets provided by PWS&D partners, the many Syrians facing food insecurity due to ongoing conflict will find the sustenance they need.

Providing Food for the Displaced

In Syria, conflict continues to plague the population, causing over six million people to become internally displaced. As a result, many people are faced with a lack of access to food, loss of employment, high prices and inflation, making them very vulnerable. COVID-19 has only exacerbated the situation. Working with partners at Canadian Foodgrains Bank, Presbyterian World Service & Development is providing food baskets to 7,400 families to help meet daily food requirements. During these times of uncertainty, the food baskets will provide a source of sustenance for the families.



DAILY PRAYERS

Monday, January 25 We pray for children, and that their parents and guardians demonstrate the kind of love we have been shown by God.

Tuesday, January 26 We give thanks for the beauty of God's creation, and pray that we cherish the earth and treat it wisely.

Wednesday, January 27 We pray for vacant congregations; may they find ministers who will help them faithfully live out Christ's calling.

Thursday, January 28 We pray and give thanks for Phulu Rai, manager at the New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Center in Nepal, and the staff, for their dedication as they care for residents.

Friday, January 29 We pray for healthcare workers who put their own health and life at risk every day to bring healing and comfort to people who suffer.

Saturday, January 30 We pray for the staff and volunteers serving in the Presbyterian Church Archives as they preserve the church's historical records.



Come, thou almighty King

Moscow notation

1. Come, thou al-might-y King; help us thy
 2. Come, thou in-car-nate Word; gird on thy
 3. Come, ho-ly Com-fort-er; thy sa-cred
 4. To the great One-in-Three e-ter-nal

come and reign o-ver us, An-cient of Days.
 Spir-it of hol-li-ness, on us de-scend.
 and ne'er from us de-part, Spir-it of power.
 and to e-ter-ni-ty love and a-dore.

name to sing; help us to praise. Fath-er, all
 might-y sword; our prayer at-tend; come, and thy
 wit-ness bear in this glad hour! Thou who al-
 prais-es be hence ev-er-more! His sov-ereign

625

Seek ye first

1. Seek ye first the king-dom of God and his right-eous-ness,
 2. Ask, and it shall be giv-en un-to you; seek and ye shall find;
 3. We do not live by bread a-lone, but by eve-ry word

and all these things shall be add-ed un-to you.
 knock, and the door shall be o-pened un-to you. Al-le-lu, al-le-lu-ia!
 that pro-ceeds from the mouth of God.

See also: Moscow 291

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Sent forth by your blessing

ASH GROVE 12 11 12 11 D

ACF) F C/E F Dm Gm /Bb C (Dm) C/F)

1. Sent forth by your bless-ing, our true faith con - fess - ing, your
The sup - per is end - ed: oh now be ex - tend - ed the

2. With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing the
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing, em -

F C F C#dim Dm C/G G

reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for all hu - man -
led us, u - nite us as one in your life that we

F /A Bb (/D) F /C C7 F

peo - ple, O God, from your ta - ble take leave,
fruits of your ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
task of our eve - ry - day life we will face,
brac - ing as neigh - bours all those of each race.

C /E F C/E F Dm Gm/Bb (Cm) C (Dm7)

kind. Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
share. Then may all the liv - ing, with praise and thanks - giv - ing,

F/A (F) C7/E F C7/G (/E) /G)

The seed of your teach - ing, our hun - gry souls
One feast that has fed us, one light that has

C/E) F /A Bb (/D) F/E C7 F

to work for your king - dom, your pur - pose to find.
give hon - our to Christ and his name that we bear.

Words: Omer Westendorf (1916-) Music: Welsh traditional

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