



Kensington Presbyterian Church
Something old, something new

January 3, 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).



Simeon en Anna - Schilderij

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

Announcements

Communion: All who want to know Jesus more are invited to join us for the Lord's Supper today. You are invited to provide your own bread and juice/wine.

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

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMck1ZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRIOFF1UT09)

[pwd=dkhMck1ZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRIOFF1UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMck1ZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRIOFF1UT09)

or phone: 438-809-7799

Meeting ID: 782 6690 4325

Passcode: 7864826

Book Club: will be starting reading *The Magicians Nephew* by C.S.

Lewis. This is the first book (chronologically) in the Narnia series.

There will be a brief discussion on Jan 6th, and then the full

discussion on Jan 27th. Please contact Antoinette for details.

Movie: Join Antoinette (over Zoom) to watch *The Lion, the witch and*

the wardrobe - based on C.S. Lewis' Narnia book. Jan 23rd at 6 pm.

Re-opening the Church: Session will consider when to reopen the

building after Montréal is no longer a 'red zone'. In the mean

time, we are continuing to improve our facilities.

Please continue to check out the website

<https://kensingtonchurch.ca/>

or facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KensingtonChurchNDG/>

Contacts

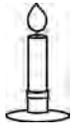
Church Office: 514-486-4559.....info@Kensingtonchurch.ca

Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor).....Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca

Antoinette (families).....Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca



Approaching God



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



Call to worship (based on Psalm 148)

Praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord from the heavens;
praise God in the heights!
Praise the creator, sun and moon;
sing praise, all you shining stars!
Praise the Breath of God from the earth,
hills and mountains,
snow and clouds,
fruit trees and forests.
Praise the Saviour,
sea monsters and krill;
dogs and ducks,
all animals: large and small.
Praise the source of love and wisdom,
women and men,
seniors and children too.
Let us all praise the name of the Lord!



Prayer of Approach

Faithful God,
We come now into your time,
and the urging of your Spirit,
to celebrate you,
and, we pray, to know you more.

May your Spirit help us to become righteous like Simeon,
so that we may see you changing the world into your better
creation.

As we move through the door into a new year,
help us to have your hope for this coming year,
and to reflect on the past.
to grieve for the suffering of 2020
and to accept responsibility for any suffering we have caused...

Jesus, we acknowledge that we sin and need your help to live in a
good community with nature, others, and even ourselves.
We pray for your Spirit's continued guidance and wisdom as we
navigate our lives.
In Jesus name
Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Read the good news from Matthew 1: 21
She will give birth to a son,
and you are to give him the name Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins.
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Come in, come in, new year.....pg 10
<https://youtu.be/m8XbwuEStEw?t=346>



Heavenly Window - Villeneuve sur Lot



Listening to God



Prayer

○ God, our beginning and end,
 by whose command time runs its course:
 bless our impatience,
 perfect our faith,
 and, while we wait the fulfillment of your promises,
 grant us hope in your Word.
 Amen.²

Intro to the readings

- Luke: So far in the Gospel According to Luke we've heard about John & Jesus being predicted by angels, and then there births. We've heard about a multitude of angels telling the shepherds, who went with great surprise and joy, now the story moves from the dark edge of a stable into the centre of the Jewish world.
- The psalm helps remind us that it's not all about us, and we're not the only ones praising God.



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

[Luke 2: 22-40](#)

[Psalm 148](#)

Sermon: Something old, something new

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

What stood out for you from the gospel passage?

Was it the idea of sacrifice and purification? or what it must have been like for a stranger to come up and take the son of God from Mary's arms? or was it the message given to Mary? or that Anna is the one identified as a prophet?

Perhaps it was something else?

For me, it was Anna and Simeon.

I love that these two are included. We have a young couple in Mary & Joseph. We have the poor and ostracized in the shepherds. Now we are introduced to more of the community.

They are people who have been around for many years. Simeon's age is vague, but he implies he could expect death by old age. Anna is 84 - which is very old with the mortality in those days.

There's no indication they are important in the church: a priest, or Clerk of Session, or the convener of a committee. They are people who think that going to church is a good thing to do. Anna is always there, and has been for decades. Priests come and go, but not to see Anna at the Temple would have been unsettling for people. Considering she is identified as a prophet, people probably came to her for wisdom and guidance.

Do you know someone like that? Somebody who's just always there? Someone who can share insight into the world? They are important to have around. I was talking with friends who are

² adapted from Worship Sourcebook D.3.1.6

³ Psalm 19:14

expecting a baby later this month, and their parents are all out of town. They are glad to know people with decades of experience raising children sharing wise words. They know these people from different generations through their church.

We don't know how Simeon balanced his time, but he's at church that day - and recognizes what's going on. This is something I admire. There would have been lots of people at the temple. It was, after all, the centre of Jewish society at the time. But Simeon sees the young couple bringing their baby, and he is open enough to the Holy Spirit to respond. We're told that he was 'righteous and devote' and looking forward to God's actions. This seems to be the secret of Simeon being in tune with God's ways. Wouldn't it be great to be like that? To look around and recognize God at work.

Sometimes God's presence can be so strong and tangible - like picking up a baby. Sometimes I feel God more in a reflection, such as in this painting by Sharon Helleman, or the world of the Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D). Sometimes my own concerns can distract me from God's presence. Anna and Simeon's lives offer hope. They are both good people. The Holy Spirit is active in their lives. Yet, they only get a glimpse of the coming glory. They see the baby Jesus, but not the adult Jesus' teachings and healings and wonders. They don't see the resurrection. They have a special moment - not a special life-time; yet they still have hope in those things unseen.

and he and Anna don't just sit back and say, "Oohhh." They don't go forward asking for autographs. Anna becomes the first evangelist by going around and telling everyone who was looking

for life to become better. She tells them about the child - which must have seemed crazy. An old woman telling them this baby will save Israel and make the world better... but I have the impression that she was respected and trusted. Her words probably stirred wonder and questions. How could this happen?

Simeon is active too. He steps up to the couple and takes the baby God has entrusted into their care. Simeon recognizes this and takes baby Jesus into his arms. I imagine the new parents were a little nervous about this, but that may be me putting my own feelings into it.



While we don't hear Anna's words, we do hear Simeon. He is amazed and honoured by this moment. For him, this is the best moment of his life. One of the things that is great about this is that it's not about great Simeon. It has nothing to do with his achievements. It has to do with his experience and vision. It's like Simeon is on a hill looking down the road, and he sees that this baby will be a light of all people, even those not part of the chosen people - the chosen community.

It is a moment of hope for everyone, but Simeon has experience with life. He knows that change for the better is still change - and change is hard.

Which is something I have noticed in talking with those with many years of experience over the last months. These are trying times. They are hard on everyone. I would expect that those who were trapped inside by ice last winter, and then by COVID in the summer, and now by both COVID and winter would be especially depressed by it all. What I find is that they find this hard, but they also remember hard times in the past. They can remember the war, and the shortages. Not because people stocked

up on toilet paper and flower, but because there wasn't any, or it was rationed so that everyone got some. They remember hard times of the past, and know that they didn't last.

Simeon builds this into the negative as well. "*This child is destined for the falling and the rising.*" His wording suggests to me that he knew an expression similar to ours, 'The rise and fall of ...the Roman Empire, or the Third Reich, etc, except that's not what he says. He says fall and rise.

It's the same with Anna. She doesn't pray day and night, but night and day. She prays in the dark and into the light.

I'm not sure what stood out for you in our Gospel passage. For me, Anna and Simeon are reminders of the importance of an inter-generational community. They are inspiration for living a faithful life, even if we only experience moments of God. And they are reminders that change happens, it's hard, and it's important to embrace it.

and one other reminder,
that they are not alone. Aside from the community of believers they shared they lives with, the Holy Spirit was at work in them - just as the Holy Spirit is at work in my life and in yours.

To God be all the glory Amen.



Responding to God

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 about someone who was a 'wise old person' in your life.

Values: Who do you have in your life that provides wisdom and a voice for God?

Etching: Psalm 148 talks about heaven and earth, animals and people all praising/celebrating God. How do you see nature praising God? How do you like to praise God?

Actions: How would you respond if you had been Anna or Simeon? Try doing that.

Values: One writer pointed out that after Jesus is recognized by the community through the circumcision, he then grows in strength and wisdom. An inter-generational community can help grow our children. Dream together how we can provide opportunities for this in our communities.

Wonder: After what would you echoe Simeon's comment, "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace"? or to put it another way, "what do you hope for?"

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.



liturgical table - Jan Richardson

Communion

Communion Hymn: For the bread which you have broken....pg 11

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z2FZ3_C7P4c

Invitation to the table

This is a strange time to share Communion.

We are not gathered at one table, or even at one time, but we are gathered with one Lord.

It is the will of Jesus that those who want to experience him should meet Jesus here.

C'est la volonté de Dieu
que tous ceux qui veulent connaître Jésus
devraient partager ce repas.

So, come,
you who have much faith,
and you who would like to have more,
you who have come often
and you who have not come for a long time,
you who have tried to follow
and have done so imperfectly.⁴

As we come together to share the Lord's Supper,
we also come together with a statement of faith that we
share with Christians of many types, around the world and
through the centuries.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

⁴ very adapted from Iona Wee Worship Book 4th ed

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.

 Great prayer of thanksgiving & the Lord's Prayer

The Lord be with you.

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Completely independent of us,
creation sings your praises.
whether in a great conjunction shining like a brilliant star,
or with mosquitoes pollinating flowers.

Even more, we praise you for witnesses to your hope,
people from history, and our lives,
who show and tell of your activity in the world.

It is with joy that we remember you are with us too,
that your Spirit works in us,
guiding us from sinful ways that break relationships
to see your hope-full future.

Therefore we join our voices
with all the saints and angels and the whole creation
to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of
your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

**Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

God of wisdom and love,

we celebrate your coming in Jesus.

Who came breaking down the barriers that had invaded your
creation: breaking social barriers, religious barriers, gender
barriers, racial barriers, physical barriers.

In Jesus you offered healing and hope for the future,
but also change.

and out of fear of that change,
you were killed

Yet that night became day,
after the fall, you rose again.

As we celebrate Jesus' birth,
we remember his death and resurrection
and Together, we proclaim the mystery of the faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

While we wait, we draw hope from your story at Christmas,
from heroes like Mary and Joseph,
the shepherds,
and Anna & Simeon.

We pray that your Spirit fills our souls with their wisdom and hope.

We especially pray for those who are struggling with isolation as sidewalks get worse and the COVID numbers increase. with those struggling to continue their efforts to heal, may you give them strength and hope. with those need healing in their body, mind, or soul.

and may your Holy Spirit move in this remembrance of your table, making us into your community and filling us with your hope so that we can bring it to the world.

Let us come together to say the prayer you left as a guide for our hopes and prayers...

 Lord's Prayer (feel free to use another version/translation)
Let us join with Christians throughout the world in praying...

**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.**



we are all One in Jesus Christ - Soichi Watanabe



Words of Institution

On the night before he met with death, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God he broke the bread and shared it, saying
“This is my body; it is broken for you.”
“Ceci est mon corps, qui est rompu pour vous”

[take and eat]

In the same way, he took the cup of wine after dinner and said,
“This is the new relationship with God, sealed in my blood
Take this, all of you, in remembrance of me.”

“Cette coupe est la nouvelle alliance en mon (saunt) sang;
faites ceci en mémoire de moi”
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

[take and drink]

Prayer after Communion

Now, Master, you are letting your servants go in peace as you promised;

for we have witnessed the salvation to the nations,
a light of revelation for the Gentiles,
and glory for your people Israel.

Jésus, il n'y a rien qui puisse te séparer de nous.

Vous êtes ici maintenant avec espoir et amour.

Amazing God, help us share your hope
in all our communities.

Amen.

🎵 Hymn: Lord of all hopefulness.....pg 11

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-D_aT8CXyc

the tune is different than our hymnbook, but familiar

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,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
rest upon you always.⁵*

Amen.



⁵ Worship Sourcebook F9.2.1

Sunday, January 3

MISSION MOMENT

Prayer We celebrate in prayer that farmers in Malawi are growing and harvesting more produce using conservation agriculture techniques taught by Presbyterian World Service & Development partners.

Frank and Joyce's Fields

In Gwebe village in Malawi, Frank and his wife, Joyce, proudly look over their lush fields. For the past three years, Frank has been using conservation agriculture techniques that were taught to him by Presbyterian World Service & Development partners to help him harvest more.

Conservation agriculture teaches farmers to protect and improve soil fertility, conserve water and make locally available resources into fertilizers. Over the years, Frank became a lead farmer in his village. His thriving fields are a reminder of how efficient conservation agriculture can be, setting an example as he teaches and empowers other farmers to use the same methods to increase their harvest.



DAILY PRAYERS

Monday, January 4 We pray for God's blessing and guidance as students begin their studies in January at PCC theological colleges.

Tuesday, January 5 We pray that congregations plan with creativity and faith as they prepare for their annual meetings.

Wednesday, January 6 We pray for the wisdom to see clearly the reality of racism and bigotry in the institutions of our country so that we may work to challenge and uproot these institutionalized concepts in ourselves, our churches and our society.

Thursday, January 7 We pray for the many Women's Missionary Society groups as they begin a new year.

Friday, January 8 We pray for people discerning how they may use their gifts to engage in God's mission in Canada or globally in uncertain times.

Saturday, January 9 Spirit of life and liberty, we pray that you save us from all that inhibits the abundant life you give us.

Come in, come in, New Year

1. Come in, come in, New Year with spar - kling win - ter
 2. Come in, New Year, and sell your wares of chance and
 3. For though De - cem - ber dies, still Christ - mas keeps the
 4. The cal - en - dar of Christ will mark the sea - sons'

day!* Your prom - ise calls us here to
 change: en - gage us with your spell to
 light, the hope in chil - dren's eyes, the
 turn; his sto - ry claim our trust; his

cel - e - brate and pray, through Jan - u - ar - y's
 risk and re - ar - range, to feel the Spir - it's
 star that shat - ters night; now Sim - e - on and
 love be ours to learn. For all the world, for

o - pen door to stride with hope - ful step once more.
 im - pulse beat, to fol - low down a dif - ferent street.
 An - na see the child who rules all time to be.
 young and old, we pray a year of peace un - fold!

* original words: shining summer day

Words: Shirley Murray (1931-) Music: William Croft (1678-1727); harmony, Hymns Ancient and Modern, revised 1950

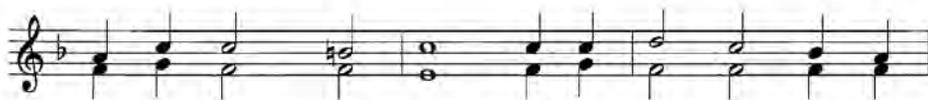
Words: copyright © 19



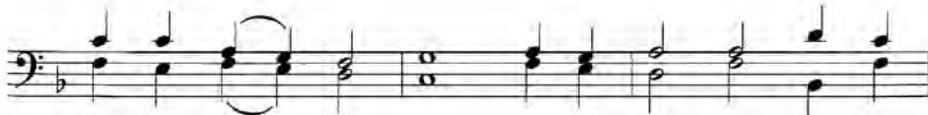
549 For the bread which you have broken



1. For the bread which you have bro - ken, for the
2. By this prom - ise that you love us, by your
3. With the ho - ly ones be - fore you, feast - ing
4. In your serv - ice, Lord, de - fend us; in our



wine which you have poured, for the words which you have
 gift of peace re - stored, by the call to heaven a -
 on your grace out - poured, may the church now wait - ing
 hearts keep watch and ward; in the world where now you



spo - ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.
 bove us, hal - low all our lives, O Lord.
 for you keep love's tie un - bro - ken, Lord.
 send us, may your king - dom come, O Lord.



Words: Louis Fitzgerald Benson (1855–1930), alt Music: Corner's Gesangbuch 1631;
 arrangement, W.S. Rockstro (1823–1895)

748 Lord of all hopefulness



1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ev - er child - like,
2. Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were skilled at
3. Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace, your hands swift to wel - come,
4. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is con - tent - ment,



no cares could de - stroy, be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,
 the plane and the lathe, be there at our la - bours, and give us, we pray,
 your arms to em - brace, be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,
 whose pres - ence is balm, be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,



your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.



Words: Jan Struther (1901–1953) Music: Walter K. Stanton (1891–1978)

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