



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Love, lust and lyrics

♥ February 14, 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

Church Office: 514-486-4559.....info@Kensingtonchurch.ca
Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor).....Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca
Antoinette (families).....Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca

Announcements

Lent is starting on Wednesday. Please check out various opportunities on page 8

Ash Wednesday: At Kensington we usually celebrate 'Pancake Tuesday'. Another traditional start to Lent is Ash Wednesday. The Vancouver School of Theology invites you to join in this special Zoom worship service lead by their students on Feb 17 at noon. Register here: <https://vst.edu/event/ash-wednesday-ecumenical-service/>

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

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

Live Worship: When Montréal is no longer a Red Zone, Session will reconsider when we feel it is safe to open.

Please continue to check out the website

kensingtonchurch.ca/

or facebook [www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/KensingtonChurchNDG/)

KensingtonChurchNDG/



for stille lied - Ephraim Moses Lilien

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



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

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

♪ Hymn: God is love.....pg 11

www.youtube.com/watch?v=m-tZq0zR8IE



Prayer of Approach

God, you are the source and definition of love,
all the world is held in your embrace.

Let all the earth rejoice,
with the wind in the trees,
and the buzz of the buses.

Yes, Jesus loves us,
for the stories tell us so.

Stories of how you serve and guide us;
stories of how your Spirit continues to spread your love.

We come now celebrating your wonderful love,
streaming between us and you... and each other.

We stop our wandering,
to tell share the joy of your gospel of love.

Amen.



Prayer of Confession

We know that nothing is able to separate us
from the love of God in Jesus Christ.
Let us in freedom confess the wrong we have done.²

Eternal and merciful God,
you have loved us with a love beyond our understanding,
and you have set us on right paths.
You ask us to love, but we walk away from neighbours in need,
wrapped in our own concerns..
We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
allowing selfishness, prejudice and greed to grow.
God of love, as you come to us in mercy,
we repent in spirit and in truth,
admit our sin, and gratefully receive your forgiveness
through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.
Amen.



Assurance of Pardon

While it is true that we have sinned,
it is a greater truth that we are forgiven
through God's love in Jesus Christ.
To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say,
in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven.
Thanks be to God.³



² Worship Sourcebook 2.1.8 based on Romans 8:39

³ Worship Sourcebok 2.4.32

 Lord's prayer (feel free to use another version/translation)
Jesus left us a prayer to guide us into a healthier relations with God and each other. 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: Jesus loves me.....pg 10
www.youtube.com/watch?v=LD1_CPqJusg

 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.

 Reading: ... will be within the sermon this week

Sermon: Love, lust & lyrics ♥♥♥
Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts.⁴ Amen.

^{13:1}If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

This is from 1 Corinthians chapter 13, and, basically, Paul is saying that you might be great at all sorts of things, but if you don't have love then you're nothing.

or even more simply: love is what it's about.



Love is a notion that's everywhere today (being Valentine's Day), and it's good that there is a day dedicated to love. There's been a lot said about love - from Hallmark to Shakespeare, the Bee Gees to the Bible.

And the Bible says a lot about love. If I were asked to summarize the Bible in one word I'd say, "love." It's all about God's love for us, our attempts to love back, and our other loves.

There are some popular passages on love. The most quoted is probably John 3:16 (and 17), "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world

4 Psalm 19:14

to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Then there’s ‘The Great Commandment’ which combines a couple of passages from the Older Testament. “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.*”⁵

but the most popular passage on love comes from Paul’s letter to the church in Corinth; 1 Corinthians 13. I opened with the first four verses of this chapter. The next bit you’ve heard at almost every wedding you’ve been to.

⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

It’s a lovely passage. Possibly a bit hard to live up to, but a noble ideal. Of course, Paul’s not thinking of a happy wedding day when everybody is filled with warm love thoughts. Paul sends this to a community that is not getting along. They are struggling with their diversity. Just before this he offers the analogy of the body being made up of different parts that need each other - like their community. Then he writes about how love is greater than anything they are, and that is what holds them together.

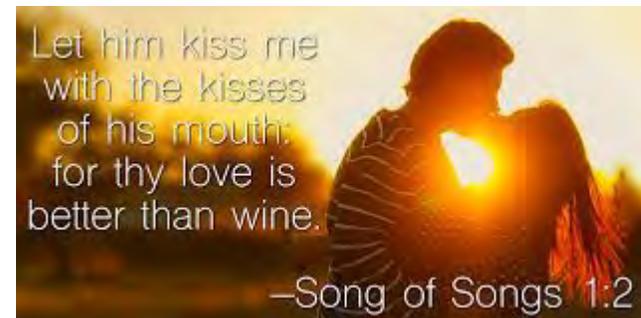
Even if it’s not at a wedding, it’s a great passage... perhaps better when relationships are strained.



5 Matthew 22:35–40, Mark 12:28–34, and Luke 10:27

Now, the Newer Testament is written in Greek, and it’s famous for having four different words for what we call love. They break it down into: sacrificial love, parental love, friend love, and romantic love (lust). Some examples would be Jesus sacrificing himself on the cross to bring God’s love (even to the dead). A parent’s love can be seen in the mother of James and John wanting them to have a better life - and so she asks Jesus to give them thrones when he becomes King. An example of friend love is Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (in the book of Daniel) who help each other defy the king in order to stay loyal to God first. And a not so good example of lust is when David sees Bathsheba bathing and makes some bad decisions.⁶

But there are examples that are positive, and more explicit. Sometimes you need to know how the language is used, like when Ruth lies with Boaz and uncovers his feet they mean she uncovers a little more. This leads to a long happy marriage - and many generations later, baby Jesus.



Sometimes the language is more open, such as the book called the Song of Songs or the Song of Solomon. You can find it at the end of the poetry section of the Bible, a bit after the Psalms. Like any good book, it opens with a hint of what to expect. “*Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine.*” We then are offered a series of poems in which the two lovers

6 [2 Samuel 11](#)

take turns describing each other, what they want to do, how they miss the other and go looking for the other. It reminds me of a pop song.

Let's hear a bit of them describing each other. She goes first (and is quite a strong character, suggesting that these poems may have been written by a woman).

^{5:10} *My beloved is all radiant and ruddy,
distinguished among ten thousand.*

¹¹ *His head is the finest gold;
his locks are wavy,
black as a raven.*

¹² *His eyes are like doves
beside springs of water,
bathed in milk,*

¹⁵ *His legs are alabaster columns,
set upon bases of gold.*

And some of his descriptions of her,

^{4:1} *Your hair is like a flock of goats,
moving down the slopes of Gilead.*

^{4:2} *Your teeth are like a flock of shorn ewes
that have come up from the washing,
all of which bear twins,
and not one among them is bereaved.*

^{7:1} *...Your rounded thighs are like jewels,
the work of a master hand.*

² *...Your belly is a heap of wheat,
encircled with lilies.*

³ *Your two breasts are like two fawns,
twins of a gazelle.*

⁴ *Your neck is like an ivory tower.*

*Your nose is like a tower of Lebanon,
overlooking Damascus.*

What do you think?

and just in case you're not sure what they want to do together,

^{3:1} *Upon my bed at night*

I sought him whom my soul loves;

I sought him, but found him not;

I called him, but he gave no answer.

It's possible she just dreamed he was in her bed, but chapter five has some suggestive uses of the word 'opening'.

Over the centuries Christians have chosen to look at this collection of poems in various ways. Sometimes it's been seen as an allegory for God and Israelites, or Jesus and the church. In the Victorian times, when table legs were too risqué to be seen, I suspect they studiously avoided it. The current thinking is that this book is what it seems: love poetry. While the church has sometimes thought that sex is bad, sex is now looked at as a powerful gift from God - in the right context. Song of Songs is the Bible's sexy book.

Getting back to their longing and their ~~appreciation~~ passion for the other, this is a type of love. All love comes from God. When it is healthy, it is even a reflection of God's love for us - and hopefully the reverse.



I heard an interesting idea recently. What if all love songs are really praise songs to God, but addressed to the wrong person. Especially after looking at a part of the Bible that sounds like a popular love song, I thought we'd take a peak at a pop song.

What do you think is the most popular Romantic Song? I was expecting something by Elvis or the Beatles, but according to Billboard the top Romantic Songs are newer than that. Their top one is 'Endless Love' with Diana Ross and Lionel Richie. Personally, I found it a bit empty. Perhaps you had to be then. In second place is one by Boys II Men with a bit of a risqué title, although perhaps not after reading Song of Songs.

In number three we get a song with enough lyrics to talk about. It's 'How deep is your love' by the Bee Gees. If we came across this as a psalm instead of a song, how would we take it?

It starts off with, "I know your eyes in the morning sun" -

Starting the day with God is always good.

The next line is, "I feel you touch me in the pouring rain."

There are many psalms about feeling God's presence in sad/rainy times.

Then, "And the moment that you wander far from me; I wanna feel you in my arms again." - which could express the desire to be always held by God.

We could go on, but let's skip to the chorus.

"How deep is your love? I really mean to learn."

This doesn't sound to me like a test or trial of the other's love, but a commitment to stick with this relationship.

It really is interesting how easily the lyrics to this song could be about our relationship with God instead of another person. (Verse two is easy to apply as well.) Maybe a way to celebrate Valentine's Day could be to look at the lyrics of your favourite love song and see how they could relate to God?

If we take the question from the Bee Gees "How deep is your love?" back to the Bible, we'll find out that God was willing to become one with our experiences in life, and to try and help us heal our ways so that we will become better - even to death (more

on that with Lent next week).

Why would Jesus stay with us? because God is absolutely in love with us - not just in the noble ways that Paul talks about, but in the passionate ways of Song of Songs.

In the name of the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



Responding to God

♪ musical reflection: A Simple Song.....Leonard Bernstein
www.youtube.com/watch?v=dWcVHxeCiPk

✦ Spirit Sighting: Bread and Beyond⁷

In March, Kirstie Jagoe's stopped. For something to do with her sons she started *Bread and Beyond* to make sandwiches for homeless people while also creating a family activity. The started by making 250 sandwiches a week. With the help of 100 volunteers they now make about 2 000 sandwiches which they pass on to 7 shelters. Although they wish they could provide a more permanent solution, the help to feed those in need... a sign of the Holy Spirit.

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

Values: Share your favourite love song (or a favourite).
Explain why you like it (words, music, your history).
Try to sing it :-)

Wonder: Read through some of Song of Songs (even just

⁷ <https://globalnews.ca/news/7583762/montrealer-not-for-profit-homelessness-coronavirus/>
<https://www.facebook.com/pg/teambreadandbeyond/posts/>

from the sermon) and try drawing (or just image) what they would literally look like (nose like a tower?).

Actions: Pick a (non-church) love song and go through the words considering how it could be applied to/from God.

Actions: How would you describe God's love (in words, picture(s), movement, music, baking, ...)?

Actions: Check out the **Lent Ideas** on page 8



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

Dearest Jesus,
We come to you,
not searching, but knowing that you are here.
Thank you for your presence,
and for love.
For your love - idealistic, sacrificing and passionate.
and for the love we have inside us,
and for the love we share with others.
from complicated interpersonal love
to simple love from a pet.
Thank you for love. . .

Lord, may your Spirit be with those who don't feel love,
who feel alone,
or who feel unlovable.

May your Spirit warm their souls with your love. . .

Lord, it is only in community that we reflect you.
We thank you for the communities that you have invited us into:
here at Kensington, with our neighbours, and other communities. . .

We thank you for partners in community, such as the St. Andrew's Homes Foundation and their work accompanying seniors with their questions and challenges. Please continue to bless them and their work.

We are in all states of health Jesus.
We thank you for the health that we are blessed with,
and ask for your healing to be with those who need it. . .

including those grieving from loss
for loved ones...
or loss of income...
or loss of community...

We thank you for people like the volunteers with Bread & Beyond who are trying to help those without homes or food. Please be with those struggling with a safe home or the lack of a home. May they find comfort and security. . .

And Lord, we thank you that with you we always have a place;
that you love us with a love more passionate than any song.
Help us to embrace you and return your love.

In Jesus name. Amen.

♪ Hymn: Come, let us sing.....pg 12
www.youtube.com/watch?v=4fJ2hiATs2s

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.⁸ Amen.*



⁸ adapted by Worship Sourcebook F.9.2.1

Lent Ideas Feb 17 - April 4 (Easter)

One Off Activities

Pancakes for dinner: Tuesday Feb 16

While it's not the same, this year you can know that there are people around the world also eating pancakes for dinner.

Ash Wednesday: Wednesday Feb 17

The Vancouver School of Theology invites you to join in this special Zoom worship service lead by their students. Register online: vst.edu/event/ash-wednesday-ecumenical-service/

Weekly Activity - Great for children... and everyone else

Fellow Presbyterians have put together weekly activities. You click on different parts of the picture and it takes you to readings, activities or videos.

www.cnob.org/?p=2153more-2153

Daily Activities

LATTE: Lent Accountability Team(s) Towards Easter

There's a long tradition of giving something up for Lent. Everytime you miss that something you try to remember what God did/does for you. If you are interested in giving something up, or adding something, and want to share the struggle with someone, Contact Ines Rombeek.

Word Bag

Each day you pull out a word and consider it a bit. Carry it with you and notice it through the day.

pres-outlook.org/2021/02/lenten-activities-for-families/

Daily Devotion book - printable

St. Andrew's Hall (our Presbyterian school in BC) has produced a booklet. If you need a print version made, Rev. Peter will be glad to drop one off. www.standrews.edu/cml/resources/

Biola University Calendar - Online only

Includes scripture, art, music, poem & prayer
cca.biola.edu/lent/

Lent Word Bag

- 1) Print or creatively write out the words
- 2) put them in a bag or box (decorated?)
- 3) pull a word each day and reflect on it.
What images or feelings come to mind?
How does this word relate to your life?
Keep it with you through the day

Jesus

Giving

Faith

Love

Healing

Joy

Prayer

Truth

Communion

Sacrifice

Discipleship

Light

Tenderness

Resurrection

Gratitude

Forgiveness

Abundance

Peace

Caring

Justice

Direction

Cooperation

Compassion

Simplicity

Honesty

Openness

Decision

Grace

Inspiration

Courage

Education

Mercy

Commitment

Strength

Friendship

Mission

Integrity

Creativity

Concern

Community

Guidance

Sharing

God

Reflection

Patience

(Transfiguration Sunday) We pray for the gift of love in our lives—love that is patient, kind, faithful and unconditional.

A Meaningful Message

St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church in Creston, B.C., is a small, remote church tucked away in the Kootenay Valley. With a grant from Presbyterians Sharing to support ministry in remote communities, they called the Rev. Stephen Vangroonen to their congregation in the hope that he would help strengthen and grow their ministry. But shortly after he and his family arrived, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and the congregation found itself adapting quickly to move their services online. Then, when churches were permitted to reopen, they had to adapt to the new health and safety protocols. Throughout it all, the Rev. Vangroonen has blessed St. Stephen's with a positive outlook, continually encouraging the new community he serves to trust God and share the love of Christ with others—a meaningful message during this turbulent time.



DAILY PRAYERS

Monday, February 15 (Family Day) We pray for families of all shapes, sizes and configurations, that they may be filled with love and joy.

Tuesday, February 16 (Shrove Tuesday) We give thanks to God for seasons of feasting and fasting, and we pray for all who have chosen a discipline to follow in the season of Lent.

Wednesday, February 17 (Ash Wednesday) Loving God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive our sins. You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until it rests in you. Help us to return to you and to your way, and create in us new hearts so that we might love you more dearly and follow you more nearly.

Thursday, February 18 We give thanks and pray for schools and teachers who are working to provide the best educational tools to engage and teach children both at home virtually and in the classroom.

Friday, February 19 We pray for those leading worship and study groups in this Lenten season.

Saturday, February 20 (World Day for Social Justice) We pray for the peacemakers and justice seekers who are working to reflect God's vision of justice

Re: in the world, where the dignity and well-being of all are protected.
for Kensington Presbyterian Church

Jesus loves me, this I know

JESUS LOVES ME 7 7 7 7 with refrain

Chord progression: D A D G G/D D

1. Je - sus loves me, this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so,
 2. Je - sus loves me, this I know, as he loved so long a - go,
 3. Je - sus loves me still to - day, walk - ing with me on my way,

lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak but he is strong.
 tak - ing chil - dren on his knee, say - ing, "Let them come to me."
 want - ing as a friend to give light and love to all who live.

Refrain

Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!

Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

Chord progression: D A D G D D/A A7 D

Chord progression: D G D/A A7 D

10) Words: Anna Bartlett Warner (1821–1910); revisions, v.2,3, David Rutherford McGuire (1929–1971) Music: William Batchelder Bradbury (1816–1868)

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God is love: come heaven, adoring

ABBOT'S LEIGH 8 7 8 7 8 7 8 7

D /F# F#m/A Bm /A G /B C/D D Bm (D) Bm Fm 6

1. God is love: come heaven, a - dor - ing: God is love: come
 2. God is love, whose arms en - fold - ing all the world in
 3. God is love, and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

D/F# Fm/G:Gmaj7 Asus+3 (G) D/F# F#m/A Bm /A G /B C/D D Bm (D)

earth, re - joice. Come cre - a - tion, voic - es soar - ing, sing ex -
 one em - brace, with un - fail - ing grasp are hold - ing eve - ry
 hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing - kind - ness guides us

Em 6 D/F# Em/G:Gmaj7 A C /B D7/A Fm (C) C6 (Am7) D7

ult - ing with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun -
 child of eve - ry race, and when hu - man hearts are
 through: all earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

Gsus 4-3 A (/G D6/F#) A7/E (D6 A9/C#) Bm/D F#7 Bm D/F# F#m/A Bm /D

da - tion, God who spread the heavens a - bove, God who breathes through
 break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, all the sor - row,
 nev - er o'er us fin - al tri - umph gain; God is love: so

C/E D/F# Bm/A Em/G B7/D# Fm A7/E D/F# G D/A A7 D

all cre - a - tion— God is love, e - ter - nal love.
 all the ach - ing wrings with pain the heart of God.
 love for - ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

Alternate tune: Hyfrydol

Words: Timothy Rees C.R. (1874-1939), alt Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907-1991)

Words: this version copyright © The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1997 Music: copyright © 1942, renewal 1970 by Hope Publishing Co.

Come, let us sing

1. Come, let us sing of a won-der-ful love, ten-der and true,
 2. Je - sus the Sav-iour this gos-pel to tell joy - ful - ly came,
 3. Je - sus is seek-ing the wan-der-ers yet; why do they roam?
 4. Come to my heart, O thou won-der-ful love; come and a - bide,

ten - der and true; out of the heart of the
 joy - ful - ly came, came with the help - less and
 why do they roam? Love on - ly waits to for -
 come and a - bide, lift - ing my life till it

Fath - er a - bove, stream - ing to me and to
 hope - less to dwell, shar - ing their sor - row and
 give and for - get; home, wea - ry wan - der - ers,
 ris - es a - bove en - vy and false - hood and

you: won - der - ful love, won - der - ful love
 shame: seek - ing the lost, seek - ing the lost,
 home: won - der - ful love, won - der - ful love
 pride: seek - ing to be, seek - ing to be

dwells in the heart of the Fath - er a - bove.
 sav - ing, re - deem - ing at meas - ure - less cost.
 dwells in the heart of the Fath - er a - bove.
 low - ly and hum - ble, a learn - er of thee.

Words: Robert Walmsley (1831–1905) Music: Adam Watson (1845–1912)

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