



Kensington Presbyterian Church

## Vaccines or Variants?

February 7, 2021

WELCOME, during these times of physical isolation we are putting out these worship services that you can do at home.<sup>1</sup> 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).



Water - Phil Iriish

<sup>1</sup> note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.

## Announcements

**Communion:** is this week. All who want to know God better are welcome to participate, but you'll need to provide your own elements.

**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/>

**Lent with the Moderator: Leaning into the Promises of God**  
Sunday, February 21 from 4-5 p.m. for a shared time reflecting on Bible passages for Lent or our current challenges. Register here: <https://presbyterian.ca/2021/02/01/len-with-the-moderator/>

**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.

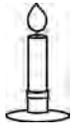
**Live Worship:** After Montréal is no longer a Red Zone, Session will reconsider when we feel it is safe to open. If you would like the Zoom information, please contact Peter.

## Contacts

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## 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<sup>2</sup>

In the beginning,  
before time, before people,  
before the world began.

**God was.**

Here and now,  
among us, beside us,  
clearer than air, closer than breathing,

**God is.**

Not despairing of earth, but delighting in it,  
not condemning the world,  
but redeeming it through Jesus Christ,  
by the power of the Holy Spirit,

**God was,**

**God is,**

**God will be.**

♪ Hymn: God of mercy, God of grace.....pg 10

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_LiFJ8pYiFk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_LiFJ8pYiFk)



### Prayer of Approach

God of mercy, God of grace,  
We celebrate that you are present with us,

creating new things around us  
(whether we like it or not).  
And that you do this not just for your pleasure,  
but so that we may all grow as well.

Sometimes we think we are so lovable,  
it's no wonder you care for us.  
and sometimes we see all our faults,  
all the ways we judge or hurt others by things we think or do,  
...or don't do.  
Please forgive us for our the wounds we leave. . .

Sometimes we are in awe of your faithfulness;  
that you want to hear about our day,  
to weep with us through the night  
and laugh with our joy in the morning.  
That your Spirit is always reaching out  
to take our hand and help us rise with you.  
Help us to repent  
to accept your forgiveness  
and live the good news.

**Amen.**

Hymn: Great is thy faithfulness.....pg 11

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



Ripple of Depth - Phil Irish



## *Listening to God*



### 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

- Today's Mark passage continues the story. It is the Sabbath (until sundown) and Jesus has just lifted heads and dropped jaws at the synagogue with his authoritative preaching. This is right after.
- The Psalm has some great lines. Which ones stand out for you?



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

[Mark 1: 29-39](#)

[Psalm 30](#)

### Sermon: Vaccines or Variants?

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

How did you feel about this week? We've been hearing about the vaccines arriving and being distributed. I even know people

who have had their first dose. While there's talk of smaller shipments than initially promised, apparently we're still on track for everyone to have their chance by the fall. Then there's the talk of the Variants. Variations in the virus that are proving more contagious, and maybe more dangerous.

I don't know whether to be feeling good that things might get better soon, or bad that they might get worse soon. I want to hope, but it's a bit up and down.

This uncertainty isn't new. If you're anxious about uncertainty - you can turn to much of the Bible for stories of people in the midst of hard situations.

Some examples:

- Joseph as the favoured son, then his brothers selling him into slavery, then getting into a good home, then accused of rape, then a leader in prison, then a leader of all Egypt and saving his family... who in later generations became slaves
- but those slaves were (eventually) saved by God through Moses, to be let into the wilderness where there wasn't food or water... until they trusted God to provide.
- Later stories have Elijah in a glorious display lighting a soaking wet alter, and then needing to go on the run for fear of his life. Did God abandon him?
- Ester wins the beauty pageant to become the Persian Queen, then learns of a plan to kill all the Jews. Can her people be saved?
- Ruth's husband dies, but she decides to stick with her mother-in-law. Will it work out?
- Peter's mother-in-law so sick she couldn't make it to the synagogue. Would she get better soon, or worse? Would she die?

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<sup>3</sup> Psalm 19:14

I don't know how she felt about her week, but we know what happened. Peter invited Jesus over after the jaw dropping sermon at the synagogue.

I wonder how she felt about that?

Did you ever have somebody bring over unexpected house guests before? How about at a time when you felt down - perhaps so sick you couldn't get out of bed? Are you the sort that want to host guests and make them feel welcome? I heard this week about a mother who felt hosting was very important, and needed to be done right. When she got to old to host for herself she drove her daughters crazy with her exacting demands (her sons didn't mind being told what to do, so they took over).

Peter invited Jesus over. He reaches down and raises her up.



Peter's mother in law - Rembrandt

(I know our usual translation says "lifted her up", but in Greek it's the same word used later to describe Jesus being raised from the dead.)

It seems like her life is looking up. Having been healed, she can return to her role in society, probably something she considered very important, serving. Not only that, this is what Jesus himself had come to do - serving people. It's interesting that she might understand Jesus' mission better than the disciples. For us, in a week of vaccines and variants, it's a story of somebody who was sick and incapable of participating until Jesus came along. Then she is up.

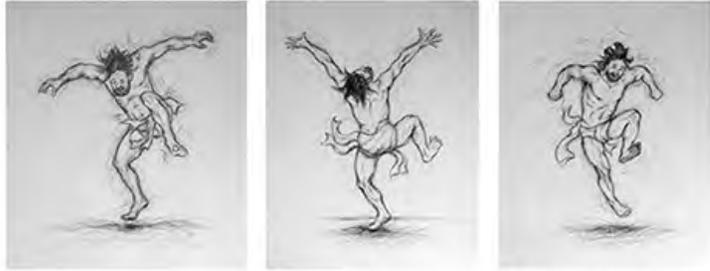
And so is the whole city. Possibly this is an exaggeration. Can people really be that excited about Jesus? The streets were probably narrow and easily crowded. But, imagine if somebody said the vaccine was available on a 'first come first serve' basis in the Jean Coutu parking lot? There'd be a lot of people showing up. People were excited about Jesus' healing. His disciples were probably excited about this powerful person they'd hooked up with. With that high, what dreams did they have that night?

Until the next morning when Jesus was nowhere to be seen. Had God left them? They go beyond feeling down. They panic. They hunt for Jesus everywhere. Do we do that? If you're feeling down, or that God has let you down, or left you... do you hunt for God everywhere? Perhaps that was easier for them when God was incarnate in Jesus... or perhaps it's easier with us where God can be everywhere.

I wondered if they remembered Psalm 30;  
it's full of great reminders.

It starts with thanking God. This isn't thank you for a beautiful day, or because we have food on the table. This is a thank you because they were near death. They were dismayed that God was nowhere to be seen. There was weeping at night, but joy

came as the sun (son?) rose. “You have turned my mourning into dancing; and clothed me with joy.” Why? because God had healed them. God had raised them up from the pit. They weren’t experiencing the uncertainty we’ve been addressing. God was hidden to them; they were down, but God responded to their cries.



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It turns out, of course, that Jesus hasn’t abandoned the fledgling disciples with their hopes up. He just needed to ground his day with prayer - with personal God time. (It’s something I also find helpful. How about you?)

The disciples find him and things are looking up again. They tell him everyone is looking for you. Can you imagine if everyone were looking to come to Kensington? Jesus takes this excitement and announces a new program... they’d leave town. Leaving their new fame (and homes) behind was probably disappointing, although there might have been excitement at what Jesus might do next. It sounds like a bit of a roller-coaster for them, and it’s only been two days.

And this pattern of the disciples being uncertain continues, especially in the Gospel According to Mark. The older ending to the book even leaves it uncertain as to whether the disciples share the good news of the resurrection... except of course somebody told, because we know.

Which brings us back to this week of Vaccines and Variants. Yes, there is good news and bad, but we know the stories. We know the stories that despite however down things may be, God is there. We know that Jesus can raise us up - even from death. We know that there is hope.

*In the name of God our Creator,  
Christ our Servant,  
present in the Holy Spirit,  
God in Community, Holy in One.  
Amen.*



## *Responding to God*

♪ Anthem: Quoniam tu solus sanctus.....Mozart  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-nl8NWaybk0>

### 🗨️ FaithTalk

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

**Actions:** Read through the lyrics of one of today’s hymns and share your reflections on them.

**Memories:** Reread Psalm 30. Which are your favourite lines? Now rework the psalm by adding or changing details to suit your life. When have you been at such a low that you cried out to God, and you (possibly slowly) arose?

**Etching:** Create a list of ‘places’ or methods you have seen God so that when you feel God is hidden or has left your hunt will be easier.

## ✦ Spirit Sighting

One place the Holy Spirit has been at work right here in our building is through New Hope. As the seriousness of the Coronavirus grew they had to stop offering Meals on Wheels. However, that didn't stop the work of providing people with food. They partnered with a local restaurant to provide the meals and donations came in to cover the raised costs. They've also found safe ways for volunteers to deliver the meals.

## ✦ 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](mailto:info@kensingtonchurch.ca).

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) are also good options.



*Communion*



♪ Communion Hymn: The love of God comes close.....pg 12  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdNp80yi71Q>

## ✦ Invitation to the table

Meals were exciting times with Jesus, but his last supper with the disciples was exceptionally special. They were on the high of

an exciting week that started with the triumphant march into Jerusalem, and then great teachings at the Temple. It would be followed by the darkest days of his trial and execution. It is a meal of God with us, and us with God. Even if things are going to get worse soon, they will get better soon.

In these strange times it may seem odd to share Communion. We are not gathered at one table, or even at one time, but we are gathered with one Lord.

Still, 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.<sup>4</sup>

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,

<sup>4</sup> very adapted from Iona Wee Worship Book 4<sup>th</sup> ed

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.

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.**

Source of beginnings

Source of love

Source of all things

Everlasting and Ever-living God

From our first stories we have told of troubles and of joy.

and through it all, you are there;

creating wonder around us

and inviting us to join in your beautiful dance of the cosmos.

Sometimes we follow your lead,  
and sometimes we try to lead you - or even leave you behind.  
You sent the prophets to guide us back into your community.  
A dance that empowers all of creation.

Therefore we join our voices with with the whole of 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 he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Then you came as Jesus;

and your love was revealed in a whole new way.

We saw you experience the downs and ups of being fully human.

You shared our tables, our hurts, and our joys.

*and* you were fully God,

teaching about the reign of God

and showing what it is like

reaching out to those who have the devil in them

and bringing them into your dance;

those who are hungry or tired

and bringing them nourishment and rest

reaching out to those who suffer

and bringing justice

You show the reign of God

by making people whole again.

To do this, you took the full consequences of our sinfulness —  
even the agony of abandonment by God —

in order that we might be spared.

But death could not hold you.

and your love burst forth as Jesus appeared again,  
shining the light of God forever in the world.

and so, Together, we proclaim the mystery of the faith.

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Living God,

let your Holy Spirit move in us

in those we love,

and in those we don't.

Bringing your healing and peace to all our souls,

their minds,

and their bodies.

Bringing nourishment, safety, and justice into all our lives.

and may your Holy Spirit move over

these basic gifts of bread and wine,

that our sharing of them may connect us

to the body and blood of Christ -

making us one with each other and with you.

through your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Even if we are separate, together we pray the prayer Jesus left us...

(feel free to use another version/translation)

**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**

Loving God,  
your Spirit connects us across any distance,  
and has fed us through this sacrament,  
making us one with Christ  
and showing your love and kingdom here on Earth.  
Lead us from here,  
to experiences of your love.  
and grant us courage to respond in ways that celebrate and share  
your love for this world.  
Amen.

🎵 Hymn: Now let us from this table rise.....pg 10  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQdymHAvMpM>

**Benediction**

Despite whatever variants to your plans happen,  
you can have hope in the sure and certain presence of God.

*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. Amen.*



**(PWS&D Sunday)** We give thanks for congregations and individuals who continue to generously support the work Presbyterian World Service & Development is doing to bring abundant life for all.

**PWS&D Sunday**

Inspired by God’s promise of abundant life, Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) envisions a sustainable, compassionate and just world. On PWS&D Sunday, we celebrate and reflect on the work our church is doing to ensure vulnerable communities around the world are able to improve their quality of life. From responding to emergencies to helping people access nutritious food, clean water, adequate health care and quality education, PWS&D is helping people thrive. Through the generous support of individuals and congregations, and in collaboration with global partners, we respond together.

**DAILY PRAYERS**

**Monday, February 8** We pray for The Presbyterian Church in Canada’s staff as they work to carry out the decisions of the General Assembly and support the church’s mission in the world.

**Tuesday, February 9** We pray for those doing interim or transitional ministry, and for the congregations they are serving, that God will work with them to bring healing, new hope and renewed vision.

**Wednesday, February 10** We pray for Sylvia Haddad, Director of the Joint Christian Committee for Social Service, as she supports Palestinian and Syrian refugees in Lebanon.

**Thursday, February 11** We pray for those offering congregational and mission outreach programs and for those who receive food and clothing from them. May they all experience the love of Christ through these caring initiatives.

**Friday, February 12** Today is the anniversary of the publication of the PCC’s letter of repentance for how it has treated LGBTQI people. We pray for those harmed by homophobia and ask for God’s guidance in becoming a more inclusive and whole church.

**Saturday, February 13** We pray for Captain Gavin Robertson, who serves as a reserve force military chaplain in Trail, B.C., and for his ministry of presence with the diverse communities that are part of the Canadian Armed Forces.

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## God of mercy, God of grace

1. God of mer - cy, God of grace, show the bright - ness  
 2. Let the peo - ple praise you, Lord; be by all that  
 3. Let the peo - ple praise you, Lord; earth shall then its

of your face. Shine up - on us, Sav - iour, shine;  
 live a - dored. Let the na - tions shout and sing  
 fruits af - ford. Un - to us your bless - ing give;

fill your world with light di - vine, and your sav - ing  
 glo - ry to their gra - cious King; at your feet their  
 we to you de - vot - ed live, all be - low and

health ex - tend un - to earth's re - mot - est end.  
 trib - ute pay, and your ho - ly will o - bey.  
 all a - bove, one in joy and light and love.

Words: Psalm 67; paraphrase, Henry Francis Lyte (1793–1847), alt Music: Conrad Kocher (1786–1872); arrangement, William Henry Monk (1823–1889)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

Rev. Peter Rombeek  
for Kensington Presbyterian Church

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## Now let us from this table rise

SOLOTHURN 8888 LM

Unison D Bm D/F# A D

1. Now let us from this ta - ble rise re -  
 2. With minds a - lert, up - held by grace, to -  
 3. To fill each hu - man house with love, it  
 4. Then give us grace, com - pan - ion - God, to

A/C# Bm7 E7sus4-3 A /G D/F# A9

newed in bo - dy, mind and soul; with Christ we die and  
 spread the Word in speech and deed, we fol - low in the  
 is the sac - ra - ment of care; the work that Christ be -  
 choose a - gain the pil - grim way, and help us to ac -

Bm A7/C# D Bm D/A Asus4-3 D

live a - gain, whose self - less love has made us whole.  
 steps of Christ, at one with all in hope and need.  
 gan to do we hum - bly pledge our - selves to share.  
 cept with joy the chal - lenge of to - mor - row's day.

Words: Fred Kaan (1929–) Music: Swiss traditional; arrangement, C.H. Kitson (1874–1944)

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CCLI #4440603

10/12

REV 7, 2021  
Vaccines or Variants?

Great is thy faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS 11 10 11 10 dactylic

Eb aug . Abmaj7 Ab6 Bb7 Eb/Ab Eb

1. Great is thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fath - er;  
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter and spring-time and har - vest,  
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

Ab Eb/G (B7/F)Eb F/C C7 F7 Bb

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee;  
 sun, moon and stars in their cours - es a - bove,  
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

Bb7 Eb Fm Eb/G Abmaj7 Ab6

thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;  
 join with all na - ture in el - o - quent wit - ness  
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

Chinese (Mandarin)

Ni de xin shi guang da, wo Shen wo Tian Fu!  
 Zai Ni yong yuan mei you zhuan dong ying er,  
 yong bu gai bian Fu Shen mei tian shi lian min.  
 Wu shi wu zhong Shang Zhi shi en bu jin.

Refrain

Ni de xin shi guang da. Ni de xin shi guang da.  
 Qing chen fu qing chen geng jing li xin en,  
 Wo suo xu yong Ni en shou feng fu yu bei.  
 Ni de xin shi guang da, xian zai wo shen.

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm (1866-1960) Music: William M. Runyan (1870-1957)

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Adim Eb/Bb Bb7 Eb

as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.  
 to thy great faith - ful-ness, mer - cy and love.  
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain Bb Ab/Eb Eb C7 Fmsus4-3

Great is thy faith - ful-ness; great is thy faith - ful-ness;

Bb7 Eb Ebm6 Bb Eb/F F7 Bb

morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;

Bb7 Eb Fm Eb/G Abmaj7 Ab6

all I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;

Adim Eb/Bb Bb7 Eb

great is thy faith - ful-ness, Lord, un - to me.

The love of God comes close

1. The love of God comes close where stands an o - pen door,  
 2. The peace of God comes close to those caught in the storm,  
 3. The joy of God comes close where faith en - coun - ters fears,  
 4. The grace of God comes close to those whose grace is spent,  
 5. The Son of God comes close where peo - ple praise his name,

to let the stran - ger in, to min - gle rich and poor.  
 for - go - ing lives of ease to ease the lives for - lorn.  
 where heights and depths of life are found through smiles and tears.  
 when hearts are tired or sore and hope is bruised and bent.  
 where bread and wine are blest and shared as when he came.

The love  
 The peace  
 The joy of God is here to stay, em - brac - ing those who  
 The grace  
 The Son

love  
 peace  
 joy of God is here to stay.  
 grace  
 Son

**GOD**  
OF  
**PRESENCE & STRENGTH**

Help us feel you here with us...  
 ...when we are anxious and afraid

WHEN THE **FUTURE** FEELS  
**UNWIELDLY** AND **UNCERTAIN**  
 we know **nothing** is **unknown** to you

**GOD**  
 WE KNOW YOU ARE OUR **ROCK**  
 AND OUR **COMFORT** IN TIMES OF  
**TROUBLE.**

Give us **WISDOM** and **COURAGE**...  
 ...to make **CHANGES** that will help...

**THINGS GET BETTER.** **Amen.**

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