



# Kensington Presbyterian Church

## Seeing Jesus

March 21, 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).



Zacchaeus  
John Steel

### Contacts

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

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

### Announcements

#### Holy Week Services:

Palm Sunday: March 28 @ 10:30

Good Friday: April 2 @ 10:30

Easter: April 4 @ 10:30

**Presbyterian World Service & Development contact:** Some people have asked how to contact PWS&D directly to offer their support. PWS&D partners with organizations around the world to help build God's vision through development. There is also **Presbyterian Sharing**, which supports the work of churches, our seminaries, and outreach programs within Canada. They both work out of our National Office, and can be reached there.

[presbyterian.ca](http://presbyterian.ca) (look under *Our Ministry*)

1-800-619-7301 (there's a receptionist during business hours)

50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7

**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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMck1ZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRlOFF1UT09)

[pwd=dkhMck1ZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRlOFF1UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMck1ZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRlOFF1UT09)

or phone: 438-809-7799

Meeting ID: 782 6690 4325

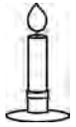
Passcode: 7864826

**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.



## 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 (which is from the PWS&D (Presbyterian World Service and Development) and is being used by congregations across Canada)

We are closer to the events in Jerusalem every day.

**We are pilgrims on a journey.**

**We are travellers on the road.**

When your people were slaves,  
you led the faithful through the waters and set them free.  
But we struggle with the freedom you give us.

**We are pilgrims on a journey.**

**We are travellers on the road.**

Always you reach out to us.  
Yet so often we have ignored your open arms  
and fled from your grace and freedom—and our responsibility.

**We are pilgrims on a journey.**

**We are travellers on the road.**

Let us pray.

**Loving God, you have loved us  
beyond all measure,  
but we continue to look for  
life outside of your embrace.  
On this journey, remind us  
that true freedom comes  
in obedience to you and**

**following where you lead.  
In the name of Jesus we pray,  
Amen.**

♪ Hymn: Praise Him, praise Him.....pg 9 (372)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZ\\_VDnw0-eo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WZ_VDnw0-eo)



Prayer of Confession

Almighty and loving God,  
We come now hoping to see you...  
except we tend *not* to look for you now,  
but buried in the past.

**Forgive us and help us to see you beside us.**

We tend to focus on our own lives,  
what we like and don't like,  
and forget to focus on you.

**Forgive us and help us to live in your light.**

We can even ignore the seeds you've planted in us,  
or keep the fruit you've given us all to ourselves.

**Forgive us and help us share your gifts for life.**

We ask your forgiveness and help through Jesus, our light.

**Amen.**



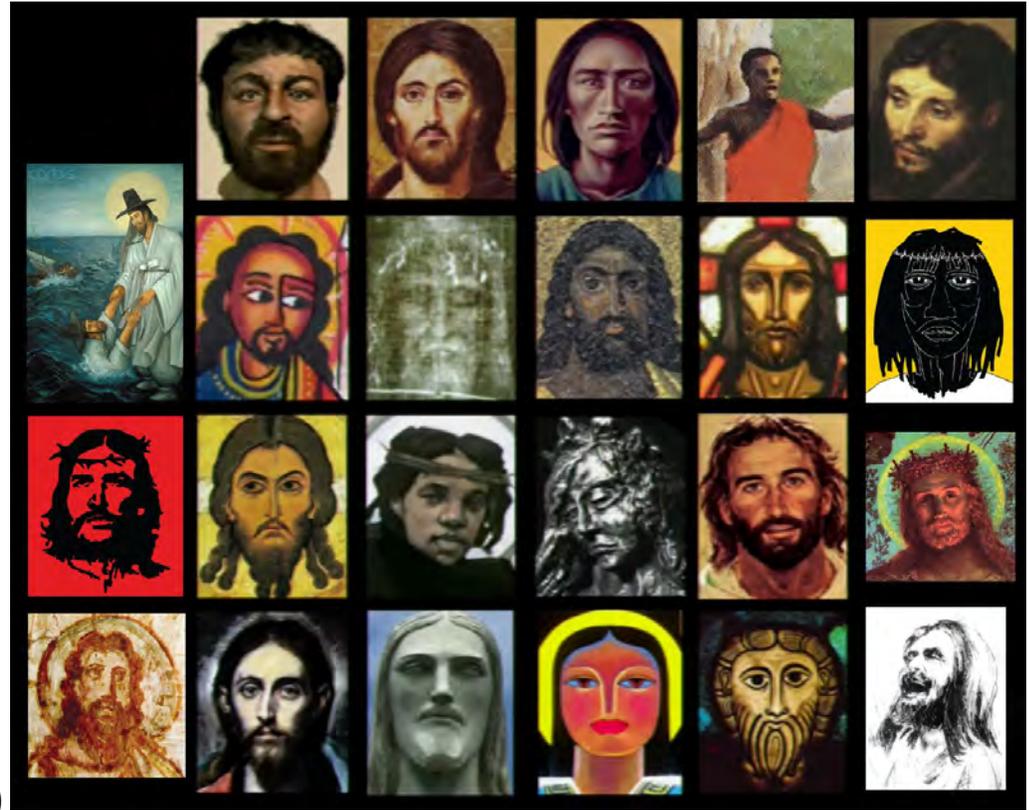
Assurance of Pardon

Here the good news from the Gospel of John  
Jesus said, "I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness  
but will have the light of life."  
Praise be to God!

 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.

🎵 Hymn: Tell me the stories of Jesus.....pg 10 (348)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=lf5uc0aA8Yg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lf5uc0aA8Yg)



## *Listening to God*

 Prayer  
 Send you Spirit among us, O God,  
 as we look to see Jesus.  
 Prepare our minds to hear your Word.  
 Move our hearts to accept what we hear.  
 Purify our desires to follow you with joy and trust.  
 This we pray in the light of Jesus,  
 Amen.

## Intro to the readings

- The prophet Jeremiah has been warning the Israelites that their actions will lead to doom - and now the Assyrian army is about to tear down the walls. Jeremiah gives words of hope and talks about a new covenant. We need to remember that is in addition to the old ones. It's not about the new covenant punishing, or even replacing, the old.
- Every book has themes to look for. Some themes in the Gospel According to John are: time, the world, witness/discipleship, and light/dark. Listen for those in today's passage.

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

[Jeremiah 31](#): 31-34

[John 12](#): 20-33

[Psalm 119](#): 9-16

## Sermon: Seeing Jesus

Dear Lord, please bless these words  
and the meditations of our hearts.<sup>2</sup> Amen.

Our Gospel passage today starts with some Greeks who want to see Jesus. So they ask Philip, who asks Andrew. Then they both go to ask Jesus.

Bureaucracy is already in the church.  
The desire is good - seeing Jesus. But how do you do that?

One way is to see Jesus is in the stories that are told - the scenes by the wayside and tales of the sea. The stories we have of Jesus in the gospels are full of images/ideas about Jesus.

- There's Jesus the teacher, telling stories of ordinary things like seeds and housecleaning that describe the Kingdom of God.
- There's Jesus the healer, making people whole in themselves, in their community, and with God... and then there's Jesus who's challenging teaching divides families.
- There's Jesus the King who can command even the wind and waves... and there's Jesus the peasant, living off the generosity of others.
- There's the human Jesus crying at his friend's death and

troubled by the difficulties he knows is coming.... and there's the divine Jesus who defeats death.

- There's the revolutionary Jesus who challenges 'the system'; and there's pacifist Jesus who *doesn't* call on armies of angels, or even his disciples, through his arrest, torture and death.

This is one way to look for Jesus. I find it helpful ...but it's not the answer the Greeks get. Those are all about where Jesus was. It's not seeing Jesus.

Have you ever asked somebody how they're doing and gotten a much much longer answer than you were hoping for?

We don't know what the Greeks had in mind. They were in Jerusalem checking things out. They hear about Jesus and want to see him. Perhaps they want to witness some teaching or a wonder.

Jesus doesn't say, "Hey, nice of you to stop by. Why don't you chat with some of the folks and hear what's been going on."

Instead Jesus says, "*The hour has come*" - which sounds pretty ominous. He goes on to say, "*Truly truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit.*"

Where people hoping for an easier answer?

Would you like an easier answer?

What's this mean? The seed must die,  
and if it dies it will bear fruit.

Like much of John, there are different things going on. One is that Jesus is talking about what's coming up. That he must die, and through that there will be fruit/life.

But how does it answer the question of seeing Jesus?

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<sup>2</sup> Psalm 19:14

How do you see what a seed is about? Look at it's fruit. If Jesus is the seed, how do you see Jesus? Look for the fruit that grows from the hearts it's been planted in.



[www.wilsonbrosgardens.com/assets/images/Blog%20Pics/Fertilizing-Grape-Vines.jpg](http://www.wilsonbrosgardens.com/assets/images/Blog%20Pics/Fertilizing-Grape-Vines.jpg)

This invites us to consider what fruit we see.

Where do you see fruit growing?

How does this fruit bring life?

Who is involved?

Perhaps you see it in organizations like Presbyterian Sharing supporting churches, or the New Hope Seniors Centre's programs. Perhaps you see it in neighbours supporting each other. Perhaps you see it in scientists using their skills to save lives by developing and testing vaccines.

What is the fruit we see growing at Kensington?

Does it bring life?

What doesn't bring life?

Perhaps it's the connections that happen between people. Perhaps it's the way that people reach out to those outside Kensington. Perhaps you see some fruit that isn't ripe, that needs development.

What fruit is your life producing?

Not exactly a light answer to the simple question of 'how to see Jesus.'

Then Jesus goes on to say, "Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life."

Couldn't Jesus have put a joke in here? I don't know about you, but I'm generally okay with my life. There's a number of things I'd like to change, but I definitely don't hate it. What's going on here?

How does this help us see Jesus?

One thing to know about this line is that when Jesus says 'this world' he's not talking about God's wonderful creation. He's talking about the corrupt/sinful order of things - 'the system'.



The other part is the emphasis is on loving their life. If you are focused on you, then you won't see Jesus.

You've probably experienced this in relationships with a colleague, neighbour... even a friend. When they get too wrapped up in themselves they stop seeing anything else. They don't see the any other point of view. Others become ways to serve their desires.

Perhaps you've even gotten so wrapped up in life that you've forgotten others?

Basically, this reply about loving or hating your life is about where your life is focused. If you're in love with yourself you won't see Jesus.

and then Jesus talks about following him, which doesn't sound fun. Even Jesus says "my soul is troubled." If Jesus is troubled, how should we feel? Jesus talks about darkness in the world. We can't

avoid this. What do we do? Where do we see Jesus?

Jesus shows us that he is there in the darkness. He models trust for us. Trust that God is going to make things glorious. He also reminds us that he is light in the darkness. He lights a pathway forwards. He is the way out of the dark.

Jesus may be troubled by what is going to happen, but he is confident that God is present and it will end with God's blessing.

And we can be confident that Jesus is around us and in us. We can be confident that we can see Jesus, if we stop focusing on ourselves and lift our eyes to God.

and if we want to see Jesus now, look for the fruit that is bringing life and light to the world.

*and 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 something that made you feel better this week.

Values: Where is your life showing the fruit of Jesus?

Actions: Are their seeds in you that need attention?

Wonder: What seeds has Jesus planted in Kensington that we could share with others? What skills and resources do we have?

### Spirit Sighting

Along with our call to worship and opening prayer, Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) is providing us with stories of God's Spirit working through people. Presbyterian also shares a story on the Prayer Partners page.

Please see more on page 7 & 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](mailto:info@kensingtonchurch.ca).

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

### Prayers of the people

Faithful God,  
We come to you now in prayer  
with confidence that you see us and hear us.

As we welcome Spring, we thank you for reminding us of how a seemingly dead seed can bring life;  
and we pray for those who are having difficulty finding hope...

We thank you that we live in a country where the government does not use violence to enforce its will;  
and we pray for place like Myanmar & Syria where this is not true. . .

We thank you that we live in a diverse community that helps us see more faces of you;

and we pray for your peace when this when racism, ageism, sexism, and other 'isms' struggle with this blessing. . .

We thank you for your church, both here at Kensington and throughout the world;  
and pray that we may bear your fruit. . .

We thank you for our lives;  
and we pray for those who struggle in their lives  
whether with health, or money, or relationships. . .

We give these prayers to you,  
confident that you are protecting us from the worst.  
In Jesus name,  
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Lord of all power.....pg 8 (626)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=u23H1JJFars](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u23H1JJFars)

### ✦ 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.*  
Amen.



**(5th Sunday in Lent | International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination)** Holy God, Creator of all, we pray for courage to live lives of truth, reconciliation and healing, to face our complicity in perpetuating racism, and to work towards eliminating racial prejudice and injustice so that all your world can live in harmony.



### Summer Student's Virtual Ministry

Presbyterians Sharing provides financial assistance for seminary students to gain ministry experience by serving in rural and remote congregations across the country. Last summer, Samuel Andri, a student from the Vancouver School of Theology, served in the Synod of Saskatchewan. Due to COVID-19, Samuel led online worship and helped deliver a Vacation Bible School program virtually. Though his responsibilities were fulfilled online instead of in person, it did not make his experience any less meaningful. When asked about his summer experience, Samuel said, "I am forever grateful for the opportunity to reflect on what it means to serve God in more rural areas of Canada and to reflect on the beauty of serving God in a more close-knit community even through online platforms."

### DAILY PRAYERS

**Monday, March 22 (World Water Day)** We give thanks to God for the gift of safe, clean water.

**Tuesday, March 23** We give thanks for people and projects that help provide access to safe water and sanitation for vulnerable communities in Canada and abroad.

**Wednesday, March 24** We pray for the treasurers of congregations who work hard all year to keep the financial books in order.

**Thursday, March 25** We pray for members of the Assembly Council Design Team and Assembly Office staff as they prepare in new ways for the 2021 General Assembly.

**Friday, March 26** We pray for the ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Cape Breton in N.S.

**Saturday, March 27** We pray for Jewish families and communities celebrating Passover.

# Women Farmers Ensure Food Security

In the village of Mwenitanga in Malawi, Twambilire inspected the soil that lay beneath the layers of flimsy husks on her plot of land.

Twambilire had witnessed the effects of climate change on her farm in the frequency and severity of both droughts and rain—events that make it difficult for her to grow enough food to eat and sell at the market.

One day, Twambilire decided to sign up for a PWS&D-supported program teaching conservation agriculture. At the workshop, she learned to farm in a way that encourages crop rotation, organic fertilizers and minimal soil disturbance.

Twambilire proudly shares that since mulching her plot and implementing what she had learned, her once-degraded soil is now fertile and healthy. She has also become a lead farmer with the PWS&D project, teaching other farmers in her community about conservation agriculture.

This Lenten season faithfully respond with PWS&D as we help farmers adapt to climate change so that they can increase their yields and improve nutrition for their families.

[WeRespond.ca](http://WeRespond.ca)



The development and relief agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Rev. Peter Rombeek  
for Kensington Presbyterian Church

626

## Lord of all power

SLANE 10 11 11 11

1. Lord of all power, I give you my will,  
 2. Lord of all wis - dom, I give you my mind,  
 3. Lord of all boun - ty, I give you my heart;  
 4. Lord of all be - ing, I give you my all.

in - joy - ful o - be - dience your tasks to ful - fil.  
 rich truth that sur - pass - es our know - ledge to find.  
 I praise and a - dore you for all you im - part:  
 If e'er I dis - own you, I stum - ble and fall,

Your bond - age is free - dom, your serv - ice is song,  
 What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard  
 your love to in - spire me, your coun - sel to guide,  
 but, sworn in glad serv - ice your word to o - bey,

and, held in your keep - ing, my weak - ness is strong.  
 is taught by your Spir - it and shines from your word.  
 your pres - ence to cheer me, what - ev - er be - tide.  
 I walk in your free - dom to the end of the way.

8/10

Words: Jack C. Winslow (1882–1974) Music: Irish traditional; harmony, Erik Routley (1917–1982)

Words: copyright © Mrs. J. Tyrrell Music: harmony, copyright © 1975 Hope Publishing Co.

808

21  
JS

Praise him, praise him,  
Jesus our blessed Redeemer

G C G

1. Praise him, praise him, Je-sus, our bless-ed Re-deem-er!  
 2. Praise him, praise him, Je-sus, our bless-ed Re-deem-er!  
 3. Praise him, praise him, Je-sus, our bless-ed Re-deem-er!

G/B Em A7 D

Sing, O earth, his won-der-ful love pro-claim!  
 For our sins he suf-fered and bled and died;  
 Heaven-ly por-tals loud with ho-san-nas ring!

G C G

Hail him, hail him, high-est arch-an-gels in glo-ry;  
 he, our Rock, our hope of e-ter-nal sal-va-tion,  
 Je-sus Sav-iour, reign-eth for-ev-er and ev-er;

G/B C Am G/D D7 G

strength and hon-our give to his ho-ly name!  
 hail him, hail him! Je-sus the Cru-ci-fied.  
 crown him, crown him, Pro-phet and Priest and King!

D G/D D 7 G/D D7 G/D D

Like a shep-herd, Je-sus will guard his chil-dren;  
 Sound his prais-es! Je-sus who bore our sor-rows,  
 Christ is com-ing, o-ver the world vic-to-ri-ous;

G A7 D

in his arms he car-ries them all day long.  
 love un-bound-ed, won-der-ful, deep and strong.  
 power and glo-ry un-to the Lord be-long.

Refrain G C

Praise him, praise him! Tell of his ex-cel-lent

G G7/B C G/D D G

great-ness; praise him, praise him, ev-er in joy-ful song!

Words: Fanny J. Crosby (1820–1915) Music: Chester G. Allen (1838–1878) *Words: public domain Music: public domain*

# Tell me the stories of Jesus

C /G C /G G/D G C

1. Tell me the sto-ries of Je - sus I love to hear,  
 2. First, let me hear how the chil - dren stood round his knee,  
 3. Tell me a-bout the dis - ci - ples from far and near,  
 4. Tell me, in ac - cents of won - der, how rolled the sea,  
 5. In - to the ci - ty I'd fol - low the chil-dren's band,

C /G C A/C# G/D D7 G

things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:  
 and I shall fan - cy his bless - ing rest - ing on me:  
 and I will lis - ten a - mong them ea - ger to hear.  
 toss - ing the boat in a tem - pest on Gal - i - lee,  
 wav - ing a branch of the palm tree high in my hand;

Words: William Henry Parker (1845-1929), alt Music: Frederick Arthur Challinor (1860-1952)

G7 C6 C C9 (Am/C C7) A7/C# Dm

scenes by the way - side, tales of the sea,  
 words full of kind - ness, deeds full of grace,  
 Whose loaves and fish - es did Je - sus bless,  
 and how the Mas - ter, read - y and kind,  
 one of his her - alds, yes, I would sing

G7 Am dim 7 C/G G7 C

sto - ries of Je - sus, tell them to me.  
 all in the love - light of Je - sus' face.  
 show - ing the peo - ple God's ten - der - ness?  
 chid - ed the bil - lows and hushed the wind.  
 loud - est ho - san - nas: Je - sus is King!

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## Agnus Day



<http://www.agnusday.org/comics/812/john-12-20-33-2018>