



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Keeping the baby

April 18, 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).



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

Announcements

Book Study: first Wednesday of the month at 7:30

Join Ines Rombeek and others in exploring *The Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison Warren. As the title suggests it helps you find God in all aspects of life. We will be exploring the book one chapter at a time. If you would like to join in, please contact Ines.Rombeek@gmail.com or through Rev. Peter.

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 (or to practice), please contact Peter.

Contacts

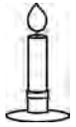
Church Office: 514-486-4559.....info@Kensingtonchurch.ca

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

Come trust in the Creator,
who transforms our distress and anger
with silence and searching.

We meet in the light of a new day, welcoming the Word of God.

The Presence of heaven brings peace to this space and time
**and may our hearts and minds
catch the vision of the Holy Spirit.**²

🎵 Hymn: Oh for a thousand tongues to sing.....pg 12 (374)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbiQ17uulKU



Prayer of approach

Stepping into the turmoil of life,
You bring peace.
Risen presence,
Your calm voice chases away the darkness and distress
of doubt and fear,
bringing new light and insight
to life, death, and change.
Gathered with your troubled followers,
You make the extraordinary experience of resurrection

an everyday encounter with food and sharing.
You offer a dream of a new way,
and show that it is not all new, but builds on what has passed.
In the peace Your passion for creation is revealed,
as Your love heals the division humanity creates
between one another,
and the world around us.

We come to you sorry for the times we have hurt people,
when we have not respected them as your precious creations.
Please help realize all the times this happens. . .

We come to you sorry for the times we have hurt parts of this
planet. Please forgive us for the times we realize it, and help us
realize the times we don't. . .

With Your woundedness
we are made whole.
May your Holy Spirit bring healing
to our relationships with others, ourselves, and the world,
as your Spirit prepares us to be the witnesses
to your continuing dreams in our ever changing times.
Amen.



Assurance of Pardon

Here the good news
To all who turn from sin in sorrow,
to all who turn to God in hope,
this is God's Word of grace:
We are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved.
This gift we have from God.
Thanks be to God.

² adapted from Rev MaryAnn Rennie [service starters](#)

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁴ or click on the name to be taken to an online version (NRSV).

[Luke 24](#): 36-48

[Acts 3](#): 12-26

[Psalm 96](#)

Sermon: Keeping the baby

Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts.⁵ Amen.

I want you to cast your mind back. Let's go further than pre-COVID, but not too far... say, 10 years. It's still spring time, but where were you? Did you live in the same house? Were you working? What did you do for fun? What were your challenges?

For me, I was finishing up my second year of seminary in Vancouver. I was living in residence looking over the water at the mountains. For fun I played music in the worship services. My challenges were the end of semester and the idea of getting married.

I've experienced some changes since then. How has your life changed?

Today's two Bible stories include some changes. When Jesus appears with the disciples they are "startled and terrified." When Peter & John heal the person who was lame, people crowd around in astonishment. Surprise, fear, and amazement are all typical reactions when the world changes on you.

Take the stress I had 10 years ago over getting married. I wasn't

startled... but I was a little terrified at times, and amazed at others. This didn't just happen one day. Ines and I had known each other for 3 years. Life without her was hard to imagine, but marriage was such a big thing... and would I make a good husband? Thankfully this wasn't completely out of the blue. There were previous relationships that had helped me prepare for this one. There were other examples of marriage, such as my parents. While I tend to wrestle with things on my own, there were friends to help me. This would be a change, but it wasn't all new.

It's like that with almost all change... maybe even all change. There are things from the past as well as the new. Jesus makes a point of this when he visits the disciples. Yes, he is able to just appear with them (something new), and he wasn't dead (which was definitely a change). He did, however, have his old body. While it doesn't say, in showing his hands and feet I suspect he is showing them the wounds from the crucifixion. He still eats (apparently broiled fish). Jesus also takes them back to the Bible - not what we call the Bible, just the part commonly called the Old Testament, or Older Testament, or the Hebrew Bible.

Just because Jesus had been resurrected didn't mean that everything was new. Yes, there was a change. It was a big one, but there were still things to guide them.

Yesterday Peggy turned 98. If you think your life's changed in the last 10 years, think back to the world of 1923. Let's take communication as an example. Since Peggy was born phones have gone from being local to in your home. The process has gone from talking to an operator to dialing a number. Now you can have the phone in your pocket and make a video call from a park. Imagine if I told somebody that back in 1923? It's an unbelievable amount of change, but it is all built on what came

⁴ If you'd like a new Bible with helpful notes, I recommend the 'Life with God Bible' NRSV from Renovaré. ISBN 0061834963 or for the more academically inclined, The New Oxford Study Bible NRSV

⁵ Psalm 19:14

before. What was normal prepared people for the new.

It's the same way in churches. I expect when Peggy was young Sunday was The Sabbath. There would be church school **and** worship. Then a family lunch and maybe some calm socializing in the afternoon. In the evening everyone would return to church. Not only would there be no work, but there would be no playing. In 2010, when you moved from the old Sanctuary the organ was on thing left behind. I'm sure there are people who miss it. Curiously, I've worked in a congregation where the first organ installed was too much change, and a group went in, removed it, and dumped it on the street. It's curious how feelings change.

Every time is a time of change. The changes and future brought on by COVID can feel harder. I've heard it said that COVID has rushed 20 years of change onto the church - and it can feel like we've been at this 20 years... until we think back to what we were like 10 years ago.

It's also important to remember that the changes now and to come aren't all new. Jesus showed the disciples he was a combination of new and what was before. He grounded them in realities like eating, in their traditions - such as looking to the Bible.

What are our traditions?

Perhaps before we do that, what is a tradition. In this case, it's when beliefs lead to a pattern of behaviour. This is different than a custom, which is a repeated action. At the moment, for me, the Bazaar feels like a custom that we do. It's a big thing, but happening more because we do it than out of our beliefs or identity.

What are our traditions?

Some at Kensington include the lighting of the candle the

start of worship. It symbolizes the belief that we come to God and God gives us light. I say the words in French and English because we are in Québec. We stay and chat after the service because we believe that community is valuable and talking with each other is an important part of that. We have a prayer group that meets because we believe that prayer is important both individually and 'where two or three are gathered.'

Then there's our Presbyterian traditions: such as Biblical learning and doing things in 'decently and in good order'. Presbyterians have valued education, both Bible studies and otherwise. Presbyterians have valued involvement in politics, even providing three Prime Ministers of Canada.⁶ There's been adaptations (changes) to some Presbyterian traditions. We now sing more than just the psalms because we believe the Holy Spirit

continues to inspire people. Session no longer judges people before communion because we now



emphasize that it is the Lord's table, not ours. We also typically use individual cups instead of a common one, and we all share the bread - changes that have happened over the centuries that we have gotten used to. (photo of typical communion token that would allow you to participate.)

And communion is a tradition we share with most Christians. This is important at Kensington because we do not all have Presbyterian backgrounds. Part of our identity is a diversity of transitions.

For over a year before COVID Session had been working on

⁶ Sir Mackenzie Bowell, Arthur Meighen, & William Lyon Mackenzie King

how to define ourselves. Who are we? We came up with this statement: *We are a Christian community committed to growing in faith and sharing God's gifts of love, hope, and healing.*

The talk of identity is important. Last week I came across the idea that the reason the very early Christians could live such an idyllic life in which everybody shared and nobody had needs was because they had a sense of identity. This week I re-entered a book about mainline churches, like us, who are bucking the trend and are growing.⁷ Diana Butler Bass did years of research in these congregations. When she tries to summarize what she saw, it included congregations with a sense of identity. They are also connected with their traditions... in ways that people could relate to. Sometimes they were fancy, sometimes casual, usually spiritual. They spent time together learning and praying, and they served their community somehow.

It sounds like a lot, but we do much of that already. I wonder how it will change in the future?



7 *Christianity for the Rest of Us* by Diana Butler Bass 2006.

The roots of people at Kensington come from a variety of cultures. Would we like to celebrate this more? Is this a way to engage the community - perhaps partnering with *Bienvenue à NDG?* or maybe people who know recipes from different cultures provide a cooking lesson? There's a lot of ministry that goes on in kitchens and sharing meals.

Music is something else that is part of our identity. How will it change as we get back together? What can we dream it as being? How can it share "*God's gifts of love, hope and healing*"? Could it be about more than just us? Do we take our music out to the Senior's homes, or even onto the street? Can we invite others in to join us? perhaps offering lessons to children who can't afford it, or free community choir, or orchestra, or big band?

One of the things about those growing churches in the book, they weren't focused on growing. They were focused on God, drawing strength from their roots, taking time to be nourished by the Spirit, taping into their passions, and sharing.

The only thing that's not changing is that the world is changing. Change isn't new, and neither is God's presence in it. One of the lessons of the resurrection is that Jesus is leading us into a new way... that includes what came before. We are not lost in change. We are not alone.

As Peggy told me of this week, "He is always there." Jesus is always there with God working through the Holy Spirit to bring about the Kingdom.

*To God be 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).

Values: Share some examples of what you value about Kensington?

Memories: Share some memories stories linked to Kensington.

Etching: Ponder what has helped your faith grow.

Wonder: Dream about what the future could look like. Don't worry about holding each other to 'reality', God can change that.

Actions: Share your memories, faith, hopes & dreams.

Spirit Sighting

This week I asked Roberta McLaren what she finds meaningful about Kensington. As you heard in the sermon, I was thinking about traditions and identity, and she kinda answered that way.

Roberta shared a couple of aspects of Kensington that are really meaningful for her. One is that the, as she put it, "the congregation never gives up on the church." The longer part of her answer were the people. All those who were around her in Sunday School and as an adult. The various ways all these people helped with the Sunday School, or keeping track of the history, or the budget, or the choir, or... "the list goes on & on & on & on." It makes her sad to say goodbye as people like Lesley and Mr. Harris have passed on. But, as she says, change always happens.

Roberta is seeing God at work through all the ways these people have helped over the years, and the identity not to give up.

 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.



Abraham's seed for web - Grace Carol Bomer

 Prayers of the people

Risen Christ,

We celebrate your presence

and ability to approach us even when we are too wrapped in
our issues to notice you.

Please open our eyes to the blessings we have,
and the places that need your hope.

We thank you for Kensington;

for the building we have

that we can share to support others.

for the facilities that you have given to help share
your gifts of love, hope and healing.

but especially we are thankful for the people. . .

for those brought here by change,

and for those who have been changing together for a long time
for the collection of skills and talents your spirit has collected,

but more than that, for the people.

for the way we all reflect aspects of you

and your love, hope and healing. . .

For those who need your gift's of love, or hope, or healing,
please let them find you... perhaps through us.

We thank you for the other blessings we have in this world;

whether it's neighbours, a home, or food in the pantry.

and we pray for those who struggle with these basics. . .

...and other basics such as freedom from discrimination
and security in their parks and streets. . .

Help us to see our blessings,

and to be a blessing to others.

We thank you for the blessings of this planet;

the amazing diversity and complexity of it;

from dainty blue flowers in the grass

to the complex web of life.

And we pray for it's health.

That we can change our ways individually and globally
to look after it better. . .

One of the blessings we have is our health care system. We thank
you that it is there when we need it, and we pray for those who
do. Whether it's with major diseases like cancer, or smaller
issues that still need attention. . .

and we pray for all those that support this system...

We give thanks for the various vaccines,

and all those working to change the world from COVID
domination to a new version of itself.

And Jesus, we thank you for change.

We thank you that you didn't stay dead,

but are alive now - and actively working on our behalf.

While change can be hard,

we thank you that everything isn't stagnant.

We thank you that we have you in our past,

preparing us for the now,

and that you are in our future,

preparing it for us.

As it says in the psalm,

we join with all the earth,

and sing to the Lord a new song

or the wonderful things we have seen.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Standing at the portal.....pg 11 (811)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFrvkn6gsts>

✦ Benediction

*Now to the one who by the power at work within us
is able to accomplish abundantly far more
than all we can ask or imagine,
to God be glory in the church
and in Christ Jesus to all generations,
forever and ever.⁸
Amen.*



8 Ephesians 3: 20-21

Sunday, April 18 ————— **MISSION MOMENT**

We give thanks for the farmers of our country who work so hard to grow and provide us with the bountiful fresh produce we are able to enjoy at this time of the year.



Equipping Farmers to Thrive

Andrew and Flora successfully grow rice, cassava, maize and groundnuts on their two acres of farmland in Malawi as a result of adopting conservation agriculture practices to help their farm flourish and better cope with droughts. Last year, Andrew and Flora attended Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported training to learn how to rotate crops and protect the soil. In addition to conservation agriculture workshops, they also attended gender training where they learned the importance of working together. With these tools, Andrew and Flora now enjoy the rewards of conservation agriculture.

DAILY PRAYERS

Monday, April 19 We give thanks for camp committees, staff and leaders who have nurtured our faith and enlivened the church, and pray that camping ministries continue to flourish in the PCC.

Tuesday, April 20 We give thanks for music and the choir members, directors and musicians who share their gifts with their congregations.

Wednesday, April 21 We pray for the members of the Committee on Education and Reception as they meet this week with the candidates and ministers who have applied to be received into The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Thursday, April 22 (Earth Day) We give thanks for the earth and all creation, and pray for the courage to make hard changes that will protect and preserve the earth's ecological systems so that all creation may thrive.

Friday, April 23 We pray for the staff at Action Réfugiés Montréal as they provide hope and assistance to asylum-seekers and refugeeed people in Canada.

Saturday, April 24 We pray for PCC mission partners who are facing so many new challenges and striving to find safe and economical ways to respond to so many enduring needs.

Deep in the shadows of the past

KINGSFOLD 8 6 8 6 D CMD

Em /D C D/C G/B Em D G/B D7/A G Am C

1. Deep in the shadows of the past, far out from set - tled
 2. While oth - ers bowed to change-less gods, they met a mys - ter -
 3. From Ex - o - dus to Pen - te - cost the prom - ise changed and
 4. For all the writ - ings that sur - vived, for lead - ers long a -

Dsus4-3 G/B Csus2-1 /B Am7 D G/B Em6 D (/C G/B Am6)

lands, some no - mads trav - eled with their God a -
 y, in - vis - i - ble, with - out a name, "I
 grew, while some, re - mem - ber - ing the past, re -
 go, who sift - ed, cop - ied and pre - served the

G /B C6 Am6 Em Bm Em D7/F#G C6 D G

cross the des - ert sands. The dawn - ing hope of hu - man - kind
 AM WHAT I WILL BE"; and by their tents, a - round their fires,
 cord - ed what they knew, or with their let - ters and la - ments,
 Bi - ble that we know, give thanks, and find its sto - ry yet

G Am G/B C Dsus4-3 G/B Csus2 /B Am

by them was sensed and shown: a prom - ise call - ing
 in sto - ry, song and law, they praised, re - mem - bered,
 their proph - e - cy and praise, re - cov - ered, kin - dled
 our prom - ise, strength and call, the mod - el of e -

G /F# Em7-6 D (/C G/B D7/A) G /B C6 Am6 Em

them a - head, a fu - ture yet un - known.
 hand - ed on a past that prom - ised more.
 and ex - pressed new hope for chang - ing days.
 merg - ing faith, a - live with hope for all.

Words: Brian A. Wren (1936-) Music: English traditional; arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) CCLI #4440603

Words: copyright © 1975, 1995 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: copyright © Oxford University Press from The English Hymnal 1906

Standing at the portal

ST. ALBAN'S 6 5 6 5 D with refrain

F C7 F /A Bb C

1. Stand-ing at the por - tal of the o - pening year,
 2. "I, your God, am with you: do not be a - fraid;
 3. God will not for - sake us and will nev - er fail;

C7/E F Bb6 F/C C F

words of com - fort meet us hush - ing eve - ry fear,
 I will help and strength - en; do not be dis - mayed,
 God's e - ter - nal cov - enant ev - er will pre - vail.

F/A Gm7 Eb/G Eb6/G D/F# Gm /Bb F/C C

spo - ken through the si - lence by God's lov - ing voice,
 for I will up - hold you with my own right hand;
 Rest - ing on this prom - ise, what have we to fear?

C7 /Bb F/A Bb6 C F

ten - der, strong and faith - ful, mak - ing us re - joice.
 you are called and cho - sen in my sight to stand."
 God is all - suf - fi - cient for the com - ing year.

Refrain F C7 F F/A Bb C

On - ward, then, and fear not, chil - dren of the day,

C7/E F Bb6 F/C C7 F

for God's word shall nev - er, nev - er pass a - way.

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879), alt Music: Franz Joseph Haydn (1732-1809)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

God in Christ
374

Oh for a thousand tongues to sing

RICHMOND 8 6 8 6 CM

Musical notation for the first system, including a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody is written on a single staff. Chords are indicated above the staff: G, D/F# D C/E, G C D7 G, Em6, D/F# G6 D/A, A7, D, C.

1. Oh for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise, the
2. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, and bids our sor - rows cease—'tis
3. He speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new life the dead re - ceive; the
4. Hear him, you deaf; you voice - less ones, your tongues a - gain em-ploy; you
5. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro-claim, and

Musical notation for the second system, including a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature. The melody is written on a single staff. Chords are indicated above the staff: G/B, Em, Am, D/C, G7/B, G7, C, G/B, C/B D7/A, G, C, G/DD, G.

glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace.
mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears; 'tis life and health and peace.
mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re-joice; the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
blind, be - hold your Sav - iour comes, and leap, you lame, for joy.
spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ours of thy name.