



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Peace be with you

April 11, 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).



Barbara Reich

Contacts

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

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

Announcements

Annual Meeting: April 11th

We will be holding it over Zoom. The details will be emailed out to those who normally receive emails. If you are not on this list and would like the details, please contact the office or Rev Peter.

Reports will be available next Friday, and emailed out to those on our list. If you would like a print copy please let the office know.

Book Study: *The Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison Warren
Ines found this to be a very helpful book when she went through it a couple of years ago looking at God in ordinary things. She would like to explore it again with you. NOTE: We will be sharing one chapter at a time - not the whole book at once. If you are interested, please contact Ines at Books@kensingtonchurch.ca 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?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.



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

Peace be with you
and also with you

Fear was present but subsided –

Christ is Risen!

Doubt was present but subsided –

Christ is Risen!

So, fearless and sure of Christ's risen presence –

we draw near to God in worship.

♪ Hymn: Now let the vault of heaven resound.....pg 9 (255)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prm7HHU2UIU>



Thomas the Doubter - Gebhardt



Prayer of approach

From the high excitement and marvel of Easter Day last week,
we humbly approach and worship You now,
seven days on.

Death could not contain nor hold down Jesus Christ.

So this Sunday,

and indeed every moment of every day,

we offer You thanks for Christ's risen presence.

We remember that that first Easter Sunday was a muddle.

What might it mean for the futures?

They did not expect an empty tomb

or a voice in the graveyard calling their name.

They did not expect a visit

and words of peace and reassurance.

They did not expect a gift

as You breathed on them

and offered the Holy Spirit.

But all these things happened

shaping their future - and ours.

We offer our thanks for their dedication and faithfulness,

and those who followed,

who brought us the Good News of your peace.

As we hear you sending us peace,

we recognize that we do not always follow your example;

that there are situation where we do not bring peace:

in not being honest with ourselves,

in not loving, forgiving and reconciling with those in our lives

May your Holy Spirit help us to accept your peace, to live in your peace, and to share your peace everywhere.

Amen²

✦ 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.

✦ 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.

² adapted from a prayer by Rev. Allan McCafferty. <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly-worship/monthly/april-2021/11-april-second-sunday-of-easter#prayers>

♪ Hymn: The church's one foundation.....pg 10 (479)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v-AzLnm1Tws>



Listening to God

✦ Prayer

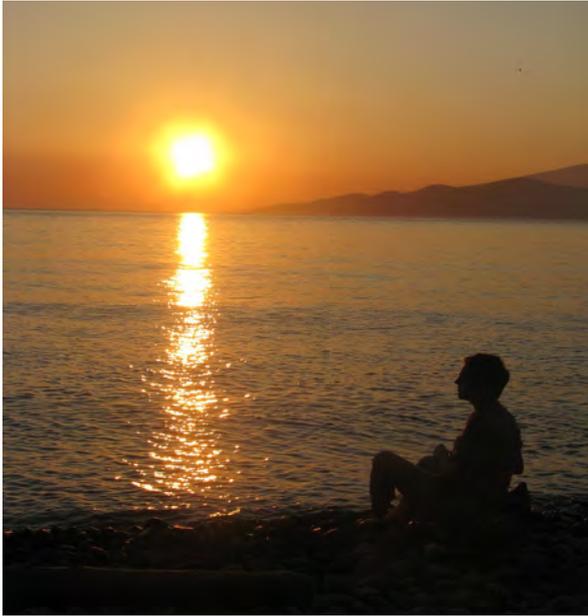
God of life,
your Spirit raised Jesus from dead.
Your Spirit inspired the prophets and writers of Scripture.
Your Spirit draws us to Christ
and helps us to acknowledge him as Lord.

We ask that you will send your Spirit now
to give us deeper insight, encouragement, faith, and hope
through the proclamation of the Easter gospel. Amen.³

📖 Intro to the readings

- We'll start with the gospel reading. Last week we heard the resurrection story from the version in Mark - which left us to finish the story. Today we'll heard from the version in John. Before the part we will hear, the women have found the tomb empty, some of the men checked out their claims (which were true), and Mary met a gardener... who gently helped her realize he was really Jesus. Mary shared her experience with the disciples. That was the morning; this is the evening.
- Then we're hear how the very early Christians lived. It might be idealized, but it also might have been true at the time - having an identity somewhat distinct from those around them.
- and then we'll have the whole of Psalm 133. It's a psalm about coming together and extravagance.
- What stands out for you? (a phrase? an image? a memory?)

³ Worship Sourcebook N.3.1.1



P Rombeek

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

[John 20: 19-31](#)

[Acts 4: 32-35](#)

[Psalm 133](#)

Sermon: Celebrating Jesus

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

What stood out for you in these passages?

For me it was the phrase, “*Peace be with you.*” Jesus says it three times in the passage from John. I suspect that’s one reason it stood out for me. It’s also very familiar. Back before COVID we used to take time saying this to each other as we came together to

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

worship God. I’ll also admit to wanting some more peace.

In talking with people, I know I’m not alone. There are all sorts of reasons for people to be feeling stressed, and COVID is sometimes the source and sometimes it just magnifies issues.

Almost everyone I know has been suffering individually. Many people are feeling isolated. Some seniors, especially those who live alone, have rarely left their house in the last year and now, literally, have difficulty moving. Other people have had their income or jobs cut, or demands increased. How we process the stress and other feelings is different for each of us, but that’s okay. While it can sometimes be hard for us to relate to each other - God can. We see that in the personal way Jesus approaches people. Just before today’s passage Mary meets Jesus in her overwhelming grief, and Jesus gently helps her back. Then he comes among the disciples in their fear and shows them he is with them. Then he breathes on them the Holy Spirit. However we are processing, or not, Jesus will take the time to be with us - to offer us peace.

One thing that is really emphasized in this passage, Jesus still has the wounds he suffered from. His resurrection did not make him unblemished. It did not wipe out the journey he had walked... but these negative experiences had no power over him. They weren’t who he was. He is at peace with them.

I remember talking with somebody who came to the Blue Christmas service. She shared that although her husband had died years ago, she still felt the hole every Christmas. She appreciated the Blue Christmas service as it allowed her to be with that loss, but not to let it define her. With that peace, she was able to celebrate Christmas and enjoy it.

For those who are thinking of loved ones who have died with

broken bodies or minds, know that they will not be resurrected broken. Their suffering and pain will not define them. May peace be with you knowing that they are experiencing peace through God's grace and love.

Thinking of others is only natural. A non-Christian commented to me the other day that we are built to live in community. Personally, I would have said 'created', but that doesn't upset our peace.

There's many types of community, and they all have struggles. Today's psalm highlights one of them. "*How very good and pleasant it is when kindred live together in unity!*" Some of the most bitter relationships are within families. I expect you know some examples. You might even be in one.

The psalm also suggests the blessing of having different parts of a nation or people together by linking together Mount Hermon and Mount Zion - one in Israel and one in Judea. The two kingdoms were united briefly under King David, but it didn't last. Still, would it not be a blessing if different parts of a nation could live together in unity? Since moving to Québec I can relate to that even more than before.

And then there's community in a more strict sense - those who live around us, or those with whom we interact. The passage from Acts shows us a vision of that. The early Christians sharing everything so "*there was not a needy person among them.*" Sounds idyllic. Was it true? Why not? We know it didn't last, but this community had been given a vision for living and definitely wasn't reabsorbed into the larger society. They were distinct from the larger community, but unified in their identity - and that lasted.

It also gives us insight into communities experiencing peace.

All their needs were met: material, psychological and spiritual. It sounds like the advice I've been hearing on the radio for how to help meet the needs of the police, or the homeless, or various other parts of the community that are not experiencing peace.

Which brings us to something else Jesus said. "*Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.*"

This isn't stagnant. God offers us peace, and then we are sent. Did you think of that when you were saying to people, "Peace be with you"? Was it just a way of saying "hi"? or were you saying that you had no negative feelings for them? or did you mean it more as a prayer/blessing that God would give them? or did you mean something more proactive? Can we bring this peace out of Sunday morning worship?

Thinking about meeting the needs of the community, we could (and do) look to help meet people's needs by supporting groups like *The Depot* in NDG and *Tyndale -St. Georges* in Little Burgundy. And I know that individuals within Kensington support a number of other initiatives that help meet people's physical, mental and spiritual needs. One of the debates that goes on is whether this is really the way to help. It waits for there to be a problem and then provides what is usually intended to be a temporary fix... but the need increases. Can we be inspired by those first Christians to change society in a way that meets the needs before they are a problem? I don't have an answer to that, but I think it's a good question. How can we act out '*Peace be with you*'?

and how about peace between people?

I recently heard a new term: COVID anti-buddies. It's when friends (buddies) have a falling out due to miscommunications and stress under COVID. How can we bring 'peace be with you'



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 a time when you felt at peace.

Actions: When you are not feeling at peace, what do you do that helps?

Etching: Share memories of people you have met who seem to be filled with the peace of God. speculate why they are like that?

Wonder: Wonder together possible ways to meet people's needs.

Actions: How could you/we act out the *Peace of Christ* within yourself, family, or community (perhaps even the global village)?



Spirit Sighting

On Thursday I was at an information session organized by Jennifer Auchinleck given an update on the COVID-19 situation in NDG. Not only was it informative and encouraging, but I also appreciated that there were at least 32 people logged in from different community organizations. I don't know the beliefs of many of these people, but I can't help thinking that the Holy Spirit is at work helping mobilize the community to bring peace back from COVID-19.



Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on **our website**. Just click the '[Donate Now](#)' button, and then the pretty

to anti-buddies, or family?

I came across some advice.⁶ Like many bits of advice, it can sound familiar and simple, as well as being unbelievably hard at the same time. It comes from Mennonite wisdom, which has been prepared to sacrifice a lot for peace. Here it is:

1. **love** God, neighbour, self, *and* enemies
2. **forgiveness** which ends retributive justice but instead focuses on rehabilitation
3. **reconciliation** which redeems our (not my) past and restores our future

Could this be a recipe for living out Jesus' blessing of "*peace be with you. As my Father sent me, so I send you*"? It sounds as hard as changing society, or working through trauma or other personal issues.

Thankfully we are not alone.

Jesus shows us that God is not afraid to enter into situations of fear, loneliness, the lost, or any other situation. God doesn't shy away from it, but the Holy Spirit can transform the wounds to take away the power and bring peace and life.

and so I say to you,
Peace be with you
and also with you.

and to God be all the glory.
Amen.

⁶ from Sharon Baker in *Peace Be with You: Christ's Benediction amid Violent Empires*. Cascadia 2010

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.



Peace Justice Unity - Public Art Squad

Prayers of the people

- One of the people we have been praying for this week is

Peggy. She is experiencing some non-COVID health issues, but is happy to be back home.
Behind closed doors... afraid.
That was how Your disciples found themselves that first Easter evening.
Then You appeared and said, "*Peace be with you.*"
In the world today so many places lack peace -
Those places where lockdowns are in place,
people indoors struggling with relationships,
a lack of space and freedom applying added pressures.
Those wrestling with emotions
because they have not been able to be with
some of their loved ones as they would have liked
at significant moments - from birthdays to serious illnesses.
Those patients, residents and staff,
in hospitals and care homes around the world
where staff are stretched,
where resources are scarce,
where illness either threatens or dominates.
Those suffering the pain of bereavement.
Those living in places of turmoil where wars still rage.
Those people and situations uppermost in our minds
which we lift up to You now in this silence....

So many places lack peace -
Breathe on these situations.
May Your peace offer some respite
in the midst of today's concerns
and may it point to better days to come.

As well as peace
You gave the Holy Spirit;

present with us in all we do.
May we be guided by that Spirit,
to offer help and convey peace
wherever that is possible.
Hear our prayers,
through Jesus Christ, our risen Saviour. Amen⁷

♪ Hymn: God of grace.....pg 11 (490)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1G6uArjXYI>

✦ **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.*



⁷ by Rev. Allan McCafferty. <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly-worship/monthly/april-2021/11-april-second-sunday-of-easter#prayers>

We pray for all those who are suffering from illness or long-term health conditions. May Christ's healing be received and experienced.

Annakala Finds Answers at Shining Hospital



In Nepal, Annakala Nepali was living in significant discomfort. Severe problems with her fingers, along with loss of sensation in her legs and tingling in her body were followed by vision problems. In Annakala's community, many people prefer traditional healers to address their medical problems—Annakala decided to do the same. However, she still suffered after the visit. Her daughter-in-law, on seeing her in pain and suspecting that it might be due to leprosy, encouraged Annakala to visit the Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported Shining Hospital. Once she was admitted to the hospital, she was officially diagnosed with leprosy and started treatment, which has improved her symptoms and pain. Annakala is very grateful for the Shining Hospital's care, love and support.

DAILY PRAYERS

Monday, April 12 We pray for those in the Order of Diaconal Ministries who serve the church in areas of Christian education, pastoral care and social ministry.

Tuesday, April 13 We pray for our Muslim neighbours as they fast and pray during the month of Ramadan.

Wednesday, April 14 We pray for the ministry of congregations and missions receiving grants this spring, that their programs and initiatives will share the love of Christ in their communities.

Thursday, April 15 We pray for the Continuing Education Grants Committee as they meet this month and consider applications from ministers seeking to enrich their ministry with further study.

Friday, April 16 We pray for the ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Central Alberta.

Saturday, April 17 We pray for farmers in Guatemala receiving support from Presbyterian World Service & Development to improve their harvests by protecting their soil and water resources.

Now let the vault of heaven resound

LASST UNS ERFREUEN 8 8 4 4 D with hallelujahs

Unison Eb Cm Fm7 Bbsus4 - 3 Eb/G (Ab)

1. Now let the vault of heaven re - sound in
 2. E - ter - nal is the gift he brings; where -
 3. Oh fill us, Lord, with daunt - less love; set
 4. A - dor - ing prais - es now we bring, and

Fm6 Eb /D Cm Fm7 Bbsus4 - 3 Harmony Eb/G Ab(sus2-1) Eb

praise of love that doth a - bound, "Christ hath tri - umphed,
 fore our heart with rap - ture sings, "Christ hath tri - umphed,
 heart and will on things a - bove, that we con - quer
 with the heaven - ly bless - ed sing, "Christ hath tri - umphed,

Cm Bb/D Eb6 F Bb Unison Eb/G (Fm7) Eb Cm7 Bb7/D Eb Ab/C

hal - le - lu - jah"; sing, choirs of an - gels, loud and
 Je - sus liv - eth!" now doth he come and give us
 through thy tri - umph; grant grace suf - fi - cient for life's
 hal - le - lu - jah!" Be to the Fath - er and our

Bbsus4 - 3 Eb/G Bb7/F Eb Ab/C Eb/Bb Ab Eb/G (Bb/F Eb Bb/D)

clear, re - peat their song of glo - ry here,
 life; now doth his pres - ence still all strife
 day, that by our life we ev - er say,
 Lord, to Spir - it blest, most ho - ly God,

Harmony Ab/C Cm/Bb Ab6 Bb/AbEb/G Fm7 Eb/G Ab6 Bb7 Cm Bb/D Eb6 F Bb

"Christ hath tri - umphed, Christ hath tri - umphed!"
 through his tri - umph; Je - sus reign - eth!
 "Christ hath tri - umphed, and he liv - eth!" Hal - le - lu - jah,
 thine the glo - ry nev - er end - ing!

Unison Cm Bb/D Eb6 Fm Bb/D C7/E Fm Eb/G Ab6 Bb 7 Eb

hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

Words: Paul Zeller Strodach (1876-1947) Music: Auserlesene Katholische Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne 1623; harmony, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Words: public domain Music: harmony, copyright © Oxford University Press

The church's one foundation

AURELIA 7676D

D G/D D /A A/G D/F# G6 D/A A7 D

1. The chur-ch's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord;
 2. Called forth from eve - ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,
 3. Though with a scorn-ful won - der the world sees us op - pressed,
 1. L'é - glise u - ni - ver - sel - le a pour roc Jé - sus - Christ;
 2. L'é - glise en sa pri - èr - e u - nit à leur Sau - veur

A7/E D/F# Daug/F#F#7 /G G A6 Gmaj7/B A/C# D E7/B A

we are his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;
 our char - ter of sal - va - tion, one Lord, one faith, one birth,
 by schi - sms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 elle est l'oeu - vre nou - vel - le que sa pa - ro - le fit.
 les peu - ples de la ter - re, sou - mis au seul Sei - gneur.

4. 'Mid toil and tribulation,
 and tumult of our war,
 we wait the consummation
 of peace forevermore;
 till with the vision glorious
 our longing eyes are blest,
 and the great church victorious
 shall be the church at rest.

5. We now on earth have union
 with God the Three-in-One,
 and share, through faith, communion
 with those whose rest is won,—
 O happy ones and holy!
 Lord, give us grace that we,
 like them, the meek and lowly,
 on high may dwell with thee.

Words: Samuel John Stone (1839–1900) alt; French translation, Fernand Barth (1923–)
 Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810–1876) *Words: public domain Music: public domain*

D A7/E D/F# G D/F# Bm /F# (F#/E) Bm/D B/D# Em

from heaven he came and sought us that we might ev - er be
 one ho - ly name pro - fess - ing and at one ta - ble fed,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up, "How long?"
 Ha - bi - tant le ciel mê - me, il vint se l'at - ta - cher,
 C'est son nom qu'elle ac - cla - me, son pain qui la nour - rit;

A/C# D G/D D Gmaj7 G6 G Em7 Asus4-3 D

his liv - ing serv - ant peo - ple, by his own death set free.
 to one hope we are press - ing, by Christ's own Spir - it led.
 But soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 et, par un don su - præ - me, mou - rut pour la sau - ver!
 elle ver - se à toute â - me l'es - poir qui la gué - rit.

3. Honnie et méconnue,
 menant de durs combats,
 elle attend la venue
 de la paix ici-bas.
 Contemplant par avance
 la fin de son tourment,
 la grande délivrance,
 le repos permanent.

4. Aujourd'hui, sur la terre,
 elle est unie à Dieu,
 et, par un saint mystère,
 aux élus du saint lieu.
 Rends-nous, comme eux, fidèles,
 et reçois-nous, Seigneur,
 dans la vie éternelle,
 dans l'éternel bonheur!

490 God of grace and God of glory

G C G/B /A G /B /D D G C/E C Am7

1. God of grace and God of glo - ry, on thy peo - ple
 2. Lo! the hosts of e - vil round us, scorn thy Christ, as -
 3. Cure thy chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness, bend our pride to
 4. Set our feet on loft - y plac - es; gird our lives that
 5. Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

G/D D7 G C G/B /A G /B /D D

pour thy power; crown thine an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us,
 thy con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 they may be ar - moured with all Christ - like grac - es,
 we de - plore; let the search for thy sal - va - tion

G C/E G/B C6 G/D D G D7 /F#

bring its bud to glo - rious flower.
 free our hearts to love and praise.
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom,
 pledged to set all cap - tives free.
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more.

G (D7 G) /B (D7/A G D/F# Em7)

grant us cour - age, for the fac - ing of this
 for the liv - ing of these
 lest we miss thy king - dom's
 that we fail not them nor
 serv - ing thee whom we a -

D 7 G/B (D7/A)G C6 G/D D7 G

hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 goal, lest we miss thy king - dom's goal.
 thee, that we fail not them nor thee!
 dore, serv - ing thee whom we a - dore.

of this hour,
 of these days,
 king - dom's goal,
 them nor thee,
 we a - dore

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878-1969), alt Music: John Hughes (1873-1932);
 descant, Malcolm Archer (1952-)

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