

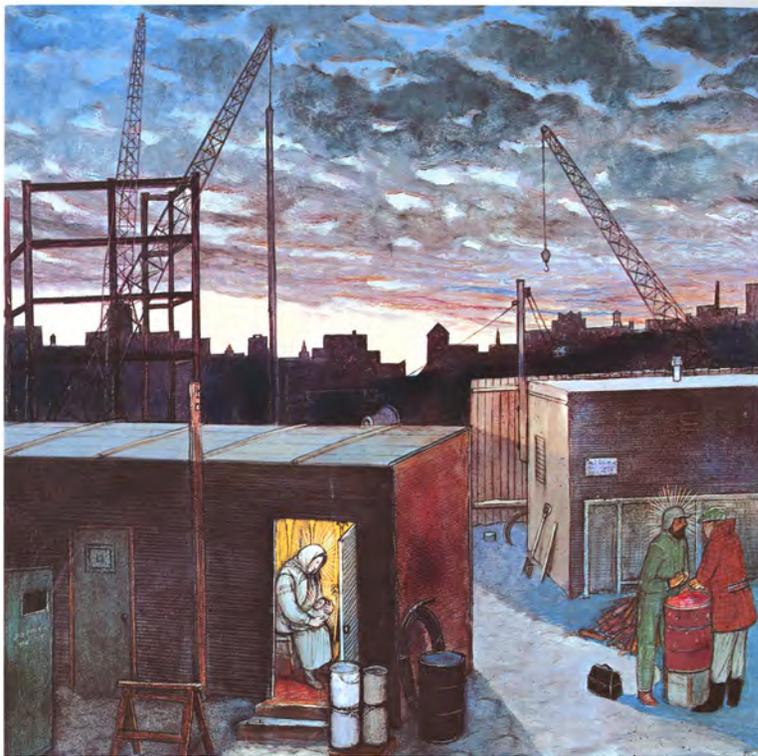


# Kensington Presbyterian Church *In the Shadow of the Most High*

May 30, 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).



night watchman - W Kurelek

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

## *Announcements*

**Communion:** will be celebrated next week. Anybody who wants to know Christ more is welcome to join us. You'll have to provide your own elements (bread, juice/wine.)

**Sunday School:** is available Sundays, noon to 1<sup>ish</sup>  
Join Antoinette for a chat, reflections on a Bible passage and an activity. For more information, contact Antoinette (below).

[zoom.us/j/95177919687?](https://zoom.us/j/95177919687?pwd=K1hpWXJrVElxQWpOMINKdkV1UGloQT09)  
[pwd=K1hpWXJrVElxQWpOMINKdkV1UGloQT09](https://zoom.us/j/95177919687?pwd=K1hpWXJrVElxQWpOMINKdkV1UGloQT09)

Meeting ID: 951 7791 9687

Passcode: 389127

**Book Study:** first Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 - [this week](#)  
*The Liturgy of the Ordinary* helps you find God in all aspects of life... one chapter a month. You are still welcome to join the group. If you are interested, please contact Ines.Rombeek@gmail.com.

This is also a good activity to invite a friend who is open to the idea of God or curious about what it means to be a Christian.

**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.

[us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMck1ZRxBKtmVkdVsaHRIOFF1UT09)  
[pwd=dkhMck1ZRxBKtmVkdVsaHRIOFF1UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMck1ZRxBKtmVkdVsaHRIOFF1UT09)

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.

## *Contacts*

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



## Approaching God

The prayers and sermon in today's service are based on those provided by the Presbyterian World Service and Development, a ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.



Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Chris est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship - you'll need to gather some things first...

God of our hearts... here we are!

**We've come with thirsty hearts,  
praying that your Word will satisfy us.**

**We come with aching hearts,  
praying for good news to comfort us.**

**We come with overflowing hearts,  
praying for a chance to share your love.**

You, who know our hearts and hear our prayers,  
be with us now in this hour of worship.

**Amen.**

♪ Hymn: We praise you, O God.....pg 9 (425)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSayOLD8loA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tSayOLD8loA)



Prayer of Approach

God, we come into your shelter

realizing times when we have left your shadow.

**Please forgive us for trying to live on our own  
for when we get lost in our own lives**

**and forget to bring our needs to you...  
and when we fail to share the gifts we have  
with those in need...**

God, we thank you for your harvest  
which feeds us so many times each day

**We are nourished with your forgiveness and hope**

**We are sustained with your strength and patience**

**We are filled with your grace and compassion...**

God, we thank you for feeding us with a harvest of plenty

**We are restored through your generosity and healing**

**We are replenished with your abundance and joy**

**We are reminded of your selfless abandon...**

God, we thank you for feeding us with the bread of heaven

**Your gift of Christ sustains our lives**

**His presence restores the promise of your love**

**His life fills our hearts with your everlasting light...**

God, we thank you too for filling us with the water of life

**May we drink deeply that our thirst may be quenched**

**May your river continue to flow.**

**Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

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.<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>2</sup> Worship Sourcebook 2.4.39

 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  
Amen.



### *Listening to God*

 Hymn: Lord of all hopefulness.....pg 9 (748)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-D\\_aT8CXyc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-D_aT8CXyc)  
(not our tune, but very familiar)

 Prayer for Illumination  
Lord God,  
you have declared that your kingdom is among us.  
Open our eyes to see it,  
our ears to hear it,  
our hearts to hold it,  
our hands to serve it.

This we pray in Jesus' name.  
Amen.<sup>3</sup>

-  Intro to the readings
  - Deuteronomy is the fifth book of the Bible and provides many details on what it means to live as God's people (as distinct from other nations). This passage some of what God does and some of how the people should respond.
  - The psalm expresses some of what it means to live with God.

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

[Deuteronomy 26: 1-11](#)  
[Psalm 91](#)

 Sermon: In the shelter of the Most High  
by Andrea Perrett, convener of the PWS&D Committee

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

It is a fair statement to say that 2020 was a difficult year and we know that the challenges continue. We are not in the midst of a 100-yard-dash, rather we find ourselves in the middle of a marathon.

Covid-19 has impacted us all personally; perhaps your work has changed, your children are at home with you, or you have been personally affected by the virus.

<sup>3</sup> Worship Sourcebook 3.1.24

<sup>4</sup> 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

<sup>5</sup> Psalm 19:14

The coronavirus has also impacted communities; businesses are closing, and our recreation programs and group activities are no longer available.

And the pandemic has definitely impacted congregations; whether you are able to worship in person, or are staying online, for the first time in our memory our churches have shuttered their doors and our worship services have been altered for the foreseeable future, with the familiar singing, passing of the peace and coffee hours being reimagined.

The impact of COVID-19 goes beyond the borders of our country, too. As a global pandemic, there isn't a nation that has not had its health or economic situation affected: sadly, many countries were already running the marathon against food insecurity or poverty long before Covid-19 became a reality.

While the Covid-19 pandemic is extraordinary, it's safe to say that we have all had things we struggle with throughout our lives. When the pandemic is a distant memory, we will still have sorrows, regrets and losses to contend with in all the important aspects of our lives.

The Bible is a source of comfort and strength for me, especially over the past months. And as I have spoken with others, I have been encouraged by the variety and depth of the scriptures that they have been sustained by during this time.

We read Psalm 91 earlier in this service. This scripture says, "You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.'" I have found myself particularly drawn to this Psalm as a reminder of where I can find my shelter and strength. It is comforting to know that for thousands of years, great clouds of witnesses—including Christ—

have also been seeking comfort and strength in these words.



Empathy is another thing I have been turning towards and grounding myself in these days. Life is difficult - I know that I am in need of empathy from others, and I am trying hard to use a hardy dose of empathy with others – simply acknowledging and understanding another's suffering.

Empathy is one of the foundational values that underlay our Christian witnessing.

Ruth shows us empathy while journeying with Naomi and Jesus embodies empathy in action when feeding the five thousand. Paul reminds us to be empathetic with others, "Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15), and the second half of the Great Commandment, love your neighbour as yourself, encourages us to take a posture of empathy.

For me, drawing close to God in Scripture and practising

empathy go hand in hand.

We take on a posture of empathy because we first experienced empathy from God being empathetic with us. Through the incarnation of Jesus, God joined in with our human story and experienced the depths of life. Simply put, Jesus understands us. He felt the joy of friendship, the pain of rejection, and died a human death. We know what empathy is because we have experienced it from God.

As we grow more into the likeness and image of Christ, we begin to take on a deeper posture of empathy—and we act on it. Today, on PWS&D Sunday, we are reminded that our work of supporting PWS&D – of responding and lifting up other people and communities around the world—is a witness to God’s empathy, care and compassion for people.

During these extraordinary times, PWS&D’s partners around the world remain deeply committed to their work, no matter what is going on related to the pandemic. While need was great prior to the pandemic, meeting ever increasing need has become even more challenging.

One of our partners from Malawi commented, “Since the beginning of the outbreak, we have never stopped working.” Our partners are so conscious of the vital difference the programs are making at the community level, that they continue despite the difficulties and personal risks.

In many areas the pandemic has amplified the needs that were already present. For example, in Somalia a profound lack of resources and rising food prices due to COVID-19 have meant that many simply cannot access what is needed to sustain their own health and that of their children.

Single mother Fatuma lives in a camp with her two-year-old

daughter Hawa. A few months ago Hawa was very sick as she was malnourished and severely underweight. Fatuma brought her daughter to a nearby clinic supported by PWS&D, which she had



heard about from others in the camp. “I was worried Hawa would die,” recounts Fatuma. “She spent 12 days in the stabilization centre where she was given medicine, nutritional feeding and received a transfusion. I was also given meals while she was admitted.”

Now, Fatuma can hold her daughter close,

knowing Hawa has made a full recovery.

Through Canadian Foodgrains Bank, in countries like Somalia and Afghanistan, PWS&D is responding to increased food needs due to COVID-19 by ensuring that families and children have the food they need to survive.

In a number of countries, PWS&D has supported local partners as they repurpose program funds to provide COVID-19 support. Even as we work to carry on with our long-term sustainable development work, families have received food kits, as well as hygiene and sanitation items, including hand soap and disinfectant wipes.

Lester, a recipient of these items commented, “I’m so thankful for your support, for the masks, for these small expressions of love. We’re so thankful. Honestly, we didn’t have access to buy these things since we’re so far out. But now, thanks to you, we have masks, and won’t have to use our little bit of money to buy

them. Thankfully you are here supporting us with these. We're so thankful."

Part of finding our shelter with God is taking steps to extend that shelter to others around us. As a denomination, our support of programs like this, driven by our empathy, help to provide comfort and refuge to others around the world. When we see people seeking the comfort and refuge of God, we are called to use empathy to invite them into God's embrace.

This has been a difficult time for us as individuals, as congregations and as nations around the world. And it seems like the coming months will continue to be difficult. Yet, as we turn towards God to sustain us during these hard times, we find that God's care, comfort and empathy is not limited or finite. As we draw close and find refuge in God's shadow during these uncertain times, let us work together to reflect this care to others and invite them into God's care as well.

God sides with the vulnerable. Right now, it might seem like we are all vulnerable – but God is big enough to shelter each of us and to come along side us in our hurt and suffering. There is plenty of room in the shadow of the Almighty, where we can all find comfort and refuge.

*To God be all the glory  
Amen.*



### *Responding to God*

♪ Hymn: When the poor ones.....pg 10 (762)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKSF8M2TvSA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKSF8M2TvSA)



**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:** What memories to you have of people giving money to the church?

**Wonder:** Explore why Deuteronomy says to give out of what you have, not what you have left after meeting your needs? How does this impact more than just money?

**Etching:** Is there a story you heard of the church working that has stayed with you? Share it.

**Actions:** Check out the PWS&D web site and share some of the stories: [presbyterian.ca/pwsd](http://presbyterian.ca/pwsd). Another interesting source of stories:

[presbyterian.ca/sharing/stories-of-mission](http://presbyterian.ca/sharing/stories-of-mission)

**Actions:** Pray for our ministries with others to help people experience the peace and abundance of God's Kingdom.



### Spirit Sighting

You've read some of the ways the Holy Spirit is working through PWS&D and its partners. There are many more stories available on their website: [presbyterian.ca/pwsd](http://presbyterian.ca/pwsd)





## 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<sup>6</sup>

God of abundant growth,  
in the mystery of the mustard seed,  
you give us the vision that  
your Kingdom is among us  
Even when it is not yet  
visible.



Those things we long for are within reach.  
We yearn for a world in which every person,  
young and old, is safe and protected and filled with good  
things.  
Fresh water, fresh fruit, fresh air may seem simple,  
and yet are things so many don't have.

Many people wander far from their homes,  
seeking shelter and belonging,

praying for a safe place to grow.  
Parents cry in fear for their children,  
worried if they will have an education, medical care, food,  
water, hope.  
In your mercy, Gracious God,  
cause seedlings to emerge out of the dry ground.

We also pray for those who are struggling in around the world...  
and here as well.  
For those who feel unable to leave their home,  
even when it isn't safe;  
those living on the street or in the parks;  
those struggling with poverty;  
those overwhelmed by work or family ...or both;  
those struggling with health issues;  
and those struggling with death.

When we don't notice your kingdom,  
lead us toward streams in the wilderness,  
with seeds sprouting out of the rocks,  
life emerging from the empty tomb.  
Help us be signs of your kingdom,  
living proof that you bring miraculous and amazing growth  
from even the smallest seed.

May we continue to plant seeds,  
through the work of Presbyterian World Service &  
Development,  
and organizations close to home.  
We pray that all those who work together to share God's hope  
will flourish.  
We pray for the staff of PWS&D,

<sup>6</sup> adapted from a prayer by the Rev Dr Sarah Travis for PWS&D Sunday

### Supporting Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh



Four years ago, the Myanmar military began a campaign of violent attacks against the Rohingya. Widespread killing, torture, robbery and assault forced over 700,000 Rohingya from their homes into neighbouring Bangladesh. Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) responded and continues to do so. We are providing lifesaving food assistance and temporary shelter, and ensuring that psychosocial support is available to those who need it. To help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the crowded refugee camps, PWS&D is helping ensure families have access to water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Families are also receiving food vouchers to help meet nutritional needs and boost the local economy.

#### DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, May 30 (Trinity Sunday)** We give thanks and pray for the ministry that the church does through Presbyterian World Service & Development's refugee sponsorship program to provide an opportunity for refugees to rebuild their lives with dignity.

**Monday, May 31** We give thanks and pray for presbytery and synod clerks as they fulfill their responsibilities with wisdom, compassion and precision.

**Tuesday, June 1** We give thanks for the beauty of creation, and pray that the people and nations of the world are inspired to protect and care for the earth, as God intended.

**Wednesday, June 2** We pray for children and young people who have been separated from friends and prevented from doing the things they love during the past year.

**Thursday, June 3** We pray for the Presbyterian World Service & Development projects in Haiti that assist and strengthen children who suffer from malnutrition.

**Friday, June 4** We pray for an end to child labour, as well as support for those who promote fair labour practices.

**Saturday, June 5** We give thanks for the creative and supportive leadership of the Rev. Amanda Currie in her role as Moderator over the past two years.

that they will be courageous and creative with the projects they plant and water. We pray for all those who support PWS&D, that we will see signs of green, lush growth in unexpected places, and be able to celebrate your kingdom made visible.

In Jesus' name we pray,  
Amen.

♪ Hymn: For the fruits of all creation.....pg 10 (802)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBXHDbesb7k](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBXHDbesb7k)

### ✦ Benediction

*May God our maker bless us  
and wrap us round in love and tenderness.  
May Jesus our brother bless us  
and ask us the questions that lead us to do justice.  
May the Holy Spirit bless us  
and fill our lives with her courage and wisdom.  
May we live bravely in the love of the Trinity  
all our days and nights.<sup>7</sup>*



<sup>7</sup> Iona Abby Worship Book

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## We praise you, O God

1. We praise you, O God, our Re - deem - er, Cre - a - tor; in  
 2. We wor - ship you; God ev - er - faith - ful, we bless you; through  
 3. With voic - es u - ni - ted our prais - es we of - fer, and

grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring. We  
 life's storm and tem - pest our guide you have been. When  
 glad - ly our songs of true wor - ship we raise. Our

lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you; we  
 per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us, and  
 sins now con - fess - ing, we pray for your bless - ing; to

bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.  
 with your help, O Lord, life's bat - tles we win.  
 you, our great Re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise.

Words: Dutch, anonymous, 1626, translation, Julia Bulkley Cady Cory (1882–1963); alt  
 Music: Netherlands folk song, 1626; arrangement, Edward Kremser (1838–1914)

Re Words: public domain Music: public domain  
 for Kensington Presbyterian Church

748

## Lord of all hopefulness

1. Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ev - er child - like,  
 2. Lord of all ea - ger - ness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were skilled at  
 3. Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace, your hands swift to wel - come,  
 4. Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is con - tent - ment,

no cares could de - stroy, be there at our wak - ing, and give us, we pray,  
 the plane and the lathe, be there at our la - bours, and give us, we pray,  
 your arms to em - brace, be there at our hom - ing, and give us, we pray,  
 whose pres - ence is balm, be there at our sleep - ing, and give us, we pray,

your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.  
 your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.  
 your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.  
 your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Words: Jan Struther (1901–1953) Music: Walter K. Stanton (1891–1978)

Words: copyright © by permission of Oxford University Press from *Enlarged Songs of Praise*, 1931 Music: copyright © Oxford University Press  
 from *The BBC Hymn Book*

# When the poor ones

EL CAMINO Irregular

Unison  
Dm

A7

Bb

1. When the poor ones who have noth ing - share with strang-ers,  
2. When at last all those who suf-fer find their com-fort,

D7

Gm

C7

F

when the thirst-y wa-ter give un-to us all,  
when they hope though e-ven hope seems hope-less-ness,

F

E7

A7

Dm

when the crip-pled in their weak-ness strength-en oth-ers,  
when we love though hate at times seems all a-round us,

Refrain

Bb

A7

Dm

then we know that God still goes that road with us,

D7

Gm

A7

Dm

Gm

Dm

then we know that God still goes that road with us.

3. When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing, when our lips can speak no words other than true, when we know that love for simple things is better, Refrain:
4. When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance when we learn how to make peace instead of war, when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbour, Refrain:

Rev. Peter Rombeek, Miguel Manzano, J.A. Olivar, English translation, George Lockwood (1946-) Music: for Kensington Presbyterian Church, J.A. Olivar (20th cent.); arrangement, Alvin Schutmaat (1921-1988)

# 802

# For the fruits of all creation

AR HYD Y NOS 12 12 8 8 12

F /A Bb F/A Gm /Bb C Am Bbsus2-1 C6 7 F

1. For the fruits of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God;  
for the gifts to eve - ry na - tion, thanks be to God;  
2. In the just re - ward of la - bour, God's will is done;  
in the help we give our neigh-bour, God's will is done;  
3. For the har-vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God;  
for the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God;

Bb/DF Bb/D F/A Bb Cm Bb/D Dm Gm F/A Bb6 Dm Gmsus9/Bb F/C C

for the plough-ing, sow-ing, reap-ing, si-lent growth while we are sleep-ing,  
in our world-wide task of car-ing for the hun - gry and des-pair-ing,  
for the won-ders that as-tound us, for the truths that still con-found us,

F/A Bb F Gm /Bb C Am Bbsus2-1 C6 7 F

fu - ture needs in earth's safe-keep-ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har-vests we are shar-ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-), alt Music: Welsh traditional  
Words: copyrights © 1970 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: public domain