



# Kensington Presbyterian Church

## What is the church?

June 27, 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).

### Announcements

**Communion next week:** All those who wish to know Jesus better are welcome to join us for the Lord's Supper next week. You'll need to provide your own elements (juice/wine & bread)

**Making Sensory Blankets:** The St. Andrew's Homes Foundation is looking for volunteers to make sensory blankets. They give people with limited movement something interesting to explore. Fabric is provided. If you are curious, call Tracy at 514-916-7626.

**VBS:** two weeks of virtual VBS is being run by A&P. Join them virtually each morning from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., for learning, singing, crafts, games and a fun time with your friends and energetic counsellors!! Kits, including booklets, craft supplies and other goodies, will be delivered to all participants during the last week of June, so we're ready to learn and work together during our zoom time at VBS. For more information email Sharon at churchschool@standrewstpaul.com.

**Sunday School:** is available Sundays, noon to 1<sup>ish</sup>  
[zoom.us/j/95177919687?pwd=K1hpWXJrVElxQWpOMINKdkV1UGloQT09](https://zoom.us/j/95177919687?pwd=K1hpWXJrVElxQWpOMINKdkV1UGloQT09)

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

**Residential Schools:** For those looking for more information, please visit these sites (or talk to Rev. Peter):

[presbyterian.ca/2021/06/05/pcc-and-residential-schools/presbyterian.ca/healing](https://presbyterian.ca/2021/06/05/pcc-and-residential-schools/presbyterian.ca/healing)

**NEW** statement: [presbyterian.ca/2021/06/15/moderator-joint-statement](https://presbyterian.ca/2021/06/15/moderator-joint-statement)

**Book Study:** first Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 - ex. July 7<sup>th</sup>  
Brushing your teeth & God?? Join the discussion and see the connections. *The Liturgy of the Ordinary* helps you find God in all aspects of life... one chapter a month. If you are interested, please contact lnes.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.

**WMS...** check out the Spirit Sightings after the sermon

**Prayer Group:** Wed. at 11:30 a.m.

Weather permitting, we will try both Zoom and meeting in the courtyard at Benny Farm.

[us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMck1ZRxBKTmdvK2VsaHRlOFF1UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMck1ZRxBKTmdvK2VsaHRlOFF1UT09)

or phone: 438-809-7799

Meeting ID: 782 6690 4325

Passcode: 7864826

**Re-opening:** Session is currently making sure everything is well planned to keep people safe for re-opening the building in September.

**Visiting:** If you would like a visit from Rev. Peter, please contact him and we can arrange a method you are comfortable with.

### 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 (from General Assembly's Wed Worship)  
By words whispered, God prepared all of creation.

**By faith we trust that the Living God  
is present among us.**

And it is by faith that we follow the Christ,  
taking steps of hope-filled trust  
even when the way ahead is unclear.

**Worthy of our sacrifice is our God  
whose glory fills creation.**

So let us sing praises and worship  
Creator, Christ and Spirit.

♪ Hymn: Sing a new song.....pg 9 (422)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=VfM88nE2Jzc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VfM88nE2Jzc)



Prayer of Approach (from General Assembly's Wed Worship)

You who flung stars into the midnight sky,  
and sprayed grains of sand along the seashore  
you spoke and you sang  
creation into being.  
And when we pause,  
to dare to wonder,  
your glory is too marvelous for words, Creator God.



But in our human frailty,  
our eyes too often fall away from you.  
We live and consume as if we are not connected  
to all your living creatures,  
or connected to the rich earth that feeds us  
or the waters that nourish us.

We are sorry.

Reveal to us the ways of the world you are bringing into being,  
this kingdom you are building  
here on earth as in heaven.  
Remind us that it is your righteousness,  
your healing justice,  
that we are to live into and out of.  
And remind us  
that it is only through the mystery of your Holy Spirit,  
your guiding voice of truth,

that we are empowered to participate  
in what you are planting,  
growing,  
building.

God of all creation,  
drench us with a deep longing for a better country  
in and through the Risen Christ.

**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>

🧎 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 the larger church, 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.**

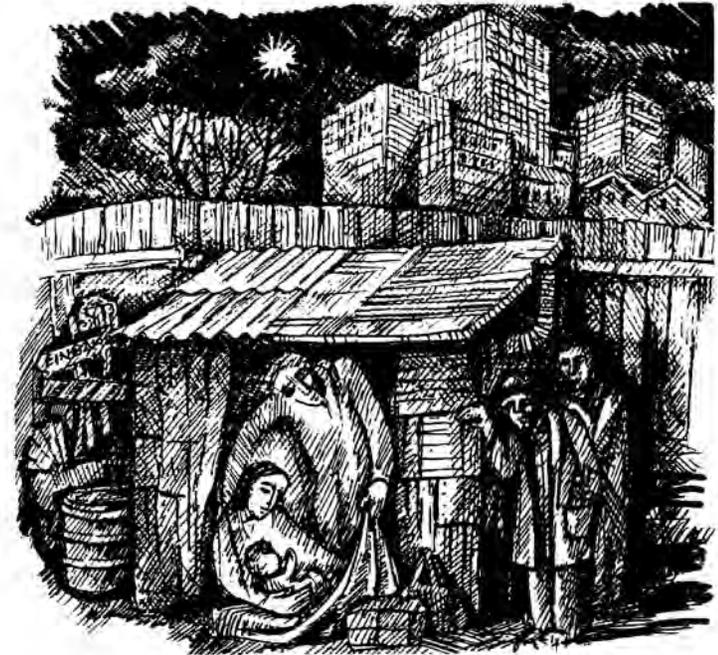
**For the kingdom, the power,**  
**and the glory are yours **Amen.****

<sup>2</sup> Worship Sourcebook 2.4.39



## *Listening to God*

♪ Hymn: Our cities cry to you.....pg 11 (720 (tune 164)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QYMwr5z3K8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QYMwr5z3K8)



🧎 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>

<sup>3</sup> Worship Sourcebook 3.1.24



We are also going into a season of change for the church as well as we consider our emergence from COVID. Though before we can entirely figure out what that will look like, we should consider what is church?

If we were to ask people on the street what church is, I suspect they would point us to a building - probably an old looking one with stained glass windows.

Buildings have a lot to say. They can also provide an atmosphere that stills the soul and help us to focus.

Is that what church is, or is the building just a womb?



If you read through the Newer Testament you'll find the word for 'church' pops up over 100 times. In none of them does it refer to a building; it always refers to a gathering of people. Specifically, a group of people gathered by the Holy Spirit.

And what do they do together? They meet, sing hymns, pray, celebrate Communion and baptisms, try to sort out what it means to live like a Christian, have disagreements about it (which is what much of the letters in the Newer Testament are trying to sort out), and they share the hope they have found in God through telling their encounter of the Good News and helping others.<sup>6</sup>

I'm sure there's much in that little paragraph you can relate to. The first part sounds like a typical Sunday morning: hymns, prayer, maybe Communion or a baptism. There's also study and

questions in Sunday school and book studies - and a little bit with sermons.

Is this what church is?  
a series of actions we do together?

What do you remember from school?

I suspect it could be boiled down to relationships. Relationships with friends and with teachers. Hopefully you had one of those magic teachers who could help you relate a subject to your life - and that life is about more than just you. While it can sometimes seem like school is about going through a series of actions, there are deeper relationships going on.

And relationships are key to church as well. Personally, when I think of 'what is church' I have lines from the 1972 hymn *We are the church* going through my head?

♪ *I am the church! you are the church!*  
*we are the church together!*

*All who follow Jesus, all around the world,*  
*yes, we're the church together.*

This hymn talks about a gathering of people - and that is definitely a part of church - going back to those Biblical roots.

Now, as with students ending their school semester for the summer, 'the church' needs to figure out what to do with itself. There are a couple of things to reflect on to do that.

Student, and the church, will probably want to do something that reflects who they are and that they find interesting.

Who is the church, or more specifically, who is Kensington?

How would you describe us?

<sup>6</sup> Reports from governors to Rome have been found in which they mention groups of people called Christians who actually help other people without any gain. They were considered odd, but harmless.

There's the building, and our practices/actions.

And there's the people.

We are a multi-generational and multi-cultural group of people pulled together by the Holy Spirit from a variety of backgrounds. Something which, I've heard, has become stronger since selling part of the building is that we've become a stronger community. We're a group that values music, and a diversity of it. We want to value our children. We are a group of individuals who quietly reach out to help others and hope not to be noticed. The individuals gathered in Kensington by the Holy Spirit (you) bring all sorts of wisdom and skills.



Of course, Church is not just about a great group of people. It's about our relationship with God, and God's relationship with us and the world. That's the trouble with thinking about church as a building or a series of actions. We forget that God is the centre of it all. One way that the church is described is 'the body of Christ'.

The song says "the church is a people." "We are the church."

The church is the Body of Christ. We are the body of Christ.

How do you feel about that?

If you'll remember back in recent weeks we've heard that God coming close can bring fear... and peace. It's okay to be a little afraid at being the body of Christ in the world.

One aspect of this that brings me peace is the collectiveness of it. *We* are the church. Not *I* am the church. It's not all up to me. For that matter, Kensington is not the church either, just a part of it.

Thank God!

Through the Holy Spirit we have all become a part of Kensington - we are all just a part of the Body of Christ. And, just as the Holy Spirit has pulled us together, so we are being called into the next season.

We can look back at what we've done before, but we need to take the right lesson from that.

Marie-Hélène read a section of Hebrews about great heroes of faith. There's three important points to remember today. None of them were ordained for ministry, and the didn't do the same thing. Could you imagine Moses building an ark because it had worked before? Or if Daniel had decided to confront the king like Moses instead of praying? The third is that they were all considered faithful.

Remembering what we've done and who we are will give us clues as to where we're going and what that will look like - but it hopefully won't be the same. We pray it will be better.

How does our building serve what God is doing?

How do our practices or actions serve God?

This language of serving is an important part of the Christian understanding of what is church. Jesus didn't come and telling people sweet stories and instructing them to build special buildings to huddle inside and be nice to each other. He told his followers to spread the Good News; to share the hope they have found in life, and to help people.

Noah did this by building an emergency shelter; Moses and his team stood up to the government; Daniel stayed at home and prayed.

What's something we do that may serve God?

Take for music for example. Church music can help us express our lament and joy, challenge us to do justice and bring us peace. This is good, but it can do more. Music can be a connection and a witness to our neighbours - and *from* our neighbours. It can be a vehicle for all those in need of expressing themselves and finding hope.<sup>7</sup> This takes music from something we do and allows it to serve beyond ourselves.

Is this how God is calling us to be in the future? Or are we to be making connections with other faiths? Or reaching out to the young families in NDG... or all the dog owners? There are many areas we can focus on in our next season, and thankfully we aren't called to tackle them all. We are a part of a larger body - a larger church.

Where's the clue?

Where do we see God at work?

Well, there's the passage about where two or three are gathered... if you have a notion, and you can find another one or two people this might be a good sign.

Take for example youth. Recently a couple of people have felt the pull to help the youth and children in Kensington, so they

contact Antoinette to see how they could help.

What is church?

Well, it's a bit like school. It's a collection of people practising for life and being a part of society... but it's more than that to. Church is a collection of people called together by the Holy Spirit to support each other as we practice, together, what it means to be Christ's body - to look for how to join God in the world.

*To God be all the glory  
Amen.*



## *Responding to God*

♪ Hymn: The love of God comes close.....pg 11 (474)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdNp80yi71Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdNp80yi71Q)

💬 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 are some memories you have of school?

Etching: What have you appreciated about church?

Values: Identify some issues in your local borough or global village.

Wonder: Brainstorm (with your partner(s)) who could be listened to about this.

Actions: Pray together about this issue, and for Kensington's reopening.



Spirit Sighting

The Woman's Missionary Society (WMS) chapter that meets at

<sup>7</sup> General Assembly Committee on Church Doctrine report 2021.

Kensington is please to share the exciting news that they raised \$2700 since the pandemic! This money supports the Anamiewigummig Fellowship Centre in Kenora, and with a program to stop gender-based violence in Haiti.

This is not only a sign of the Spirit's work here, but also helps support her work with our neighbours elsewhere.

### 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

Last week we prayed for the music leadership here at Kensington, and that night I received a call from Yae-lim saying that she was able to help us for a while. God listens and answers prayers... although not always so quickly and obviously.

Let us pray with the trust that God is there.

Dear Lord,

We'd like to thank you for community. For the many and varied for of it there are, and that you have pulled us into.

Communities of neighbours and nations, communities of lawn bowlers and musicians, communities that see where things don't match your idea of relationships and try to bring reconciliation.

We thank you that our communities are quite safe places, and we pray for those who do not live in safety. . .

We also pray for those who are moving to new communities as their leases change, and for those who can't find new places. . .

We thank you for Kensington; this community - this church.

We pray for the leadership here. For the Session and Peter, for Antoinette & Yae-lim. and for the music leadership to come. Help us to feel your guidance as we re-open our building and activities to serve you. . .

We also thank you for the many people who volunteer their time supporting your work. Today we remember the Woman's Missionary Society and all the work they have supported through the ages, such as talking gender-based violence in Haiti, helping indigenous people in Kenora, and welcoming refugees through Action Réfugiés. We pray that these, and other, projects may build healthy relationships to make you proud. . .

Jesus, you are sometimes referred to as the great teacher. Today we also give thanks that we have access to schools. We thank you for the teachers and staff that support their calling. And we celebrate with those who are graduating and moving on to a new season of their journey: including Simone, Sonja, Lola, & Yaeha. . .

Jesus, you are also the great healer. We give for the people and resources we have access to to help heal our bodies and minds. Dear Father, we pray for those who need your healing. We pray for Peter M & for Kay's continued recovery. . .

We pray for those suffering from mental health issues... dementia and others. . .

Lord, we come to you knowing that you love us and listen to us.

We leave these prayers with you trusting you take care of us.  
 In Jesus name  
 Amen.

♪ Hymn: I am the church.....pg 12 (475)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Weugc4TPwrM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Weugc4TPwrM)

✦ Sending & Benediction

As we leave this time, let us remember the words of Jesus from the play earlier<sup>8</sup>...

Peter, Peter, don't worry about the church.  
 That's God's problem, not yours.  
 You set your eyes on the kingdom  
 and God will make clear  
 what should be the shape of the church.  
 For God wants the church  
 to be the servant of the kingdom,  
 not the master;  
 to celebrate the kingdom,  
 not to dominate it;  
 to be a sign of the good news,  
 not just a reminder of the bad.

*Now to him who by the power at work within us  
 is able to accomplish abundantly far more  
 than all we can ask or imagine,  
 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus  
 to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.<sup>9</sup>*



8 *Jesus & Peter A New Thing* - by John Bell and Graham Maule  
 9 Ephesians 3: 20-21

Equipping New Leaders

Growing up in a village in northern Malawi where the nearest health facility is 30 km away, Dorica Nkhata knows about the importance of accessible health care. Working at Embangweni Mission Hospital as a nurse and noticing a critical shortage of doctors, she decided to pursue her dream of becoming a doctor at the Malawi College of Medicine. She approached the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Livingstonia Synod, for assistance. At our partner's request, the PCC accepted Dorica into the Leadership Development Program. With financial support from Knox Presbyterian Church in St. Catharines, Ont., and Presbyterians Sharing, Dorica is on her way to fulfilling her dream and serving those in need in rural Malawi. Presbyterians Sharing supports leadership development through medical and theological education and training programs in Kenya, Malawi, Lebanon and Eastern Europe.



DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, June 27** We pray for those experiencing difficult health issues and give thanks for people who work to bring healing and comfort as well as agencies that offer support and care in our communities.

**Monday, June 28** We give thanks and pray for the Canadian Centre to End Human Trafficking—the 2021 recipient of the Cutting Edge of Mission award—and their ministry of care for the vulnerable.

**Tuesday, June 29** We pray for those whose employment has been adversely affected by COVID-19.

**Wednesday, June 30** We give thanks for moments of delight and occasions of celebration; for happy gatherings, gentle solitude, pleasure given and received; for laughter, friendship and love.

**Thursday, July 1 (Canada Day)** We pray that Canada will be a just, equitable and welcoming country, and we pray for the members of parliament and public servants who form and keep laws.

**Friday, July 2** We pray that all people will experience social, political and economic equality.

**Saturday, July 3** We pray for God's infinite grace to help us know that we are one holy catholic and apostolic church, blessed with faith through the scriptures, sacraments and work of the Holy Spirit.

## Sing a new song unto the Lord

Unison

Refrain G D D#dim Em Am7

Sing a new song un - to the Lord; let your song be

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

sung from moun - tain's height. Sing a new song

D#dim Em Am7 G6/B D 7 G Fine

un - to the Lord, sing-ing hal - le - lu - jah!

Words: Psalm 98; paraphrase, Daniel L. Schutte Music: Daniel L. Schutte (1947-), arrangement Sr. Theophane Hytrek, OSF (1915-1992)

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 Music: copyright © Daniel L. Schutte, 1972, 1974, 1979. Administered by New Dawn Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

G D7/A Am/G D/F# Em /D C6 G6/B

1. For God's peo - ple dance for joy. Oh come be - fore the

2. Rise, O chil - dren, from your sleep; your Sav - iour now has

3. Glad my soul for I have seen the glo - ry of the

D7/A G D7/F# G D7/A Am/G /E D

Lord, play for the Lord on glad tam - bou - rines, and  
 come. He has turned your sor - row to joy, and  
 Lord. The trum - pet sounds; the dead shall be raised. I

C Am7 Dsus4- 2- 3 D.C. al Fine

let your trum - pet sound.  
 filled your soul with song.  
 know my Sav - iour lives.

# Our cities cry to you, O God

1. Our ci - ties cry to you, O God, from out their pain and strife;  
 2. Yet still you walk our streets, O Christ! We know your pre - sence here  
 3. Your peo - ple are your hands and feet to serve your world to - day,  
 4. O heal - ing Sa - viour, Prince of Peace, sal - va - tion's source and sum,

you made us for your - self a - lone, but we choose a - lien life.  
 where hum - ble Chris - tians love and serve in god - ly grace and fear.  
 our lives the book our ci - ties read to help them find your way.  
 for you our bro - ken ci - ties cry: Oh come, Lord Je - sus, come!

Our goals are plea - sure, gold and power; in - just - ice stalks our earth;  
 O Word made flesh, be seen in us! May all we say and do  
 Oh pour your so - vereign Spir - it out on heart and will and brain:  
 With truth your ro - yal di - a - dem, with right - eous - ness your rod,

in vain we seek for rest, for joy, for sense of hu - man worth.  
 af - firm you God In - car - nate still and turn sad hearts to you!  
 in - spire your church with love and power to ease our cit - ies' pain!  
 oh come, Lord Je - sus, bring to earth the ci - ty of our God!

E. Margaret Clarkson  
 CCLI #4440603

FOREST GREEN C.M.D.  
 Traditional English melody  
 Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

Rev. Peter Rombeek  
 for Kensington Presbyterian Church

11/12

# 474 The love of God comes close

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

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

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

walk the Way; the love  
 peace  
 joy of God is here to stay.  
 grace  
 Son

Words: John L. Bell (1949-), Graham Maule (1958-) Music: John David Edwards (1805-1885)  
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21  
 h?

The Church

475 I am the church! You are the church!

PORT JERVIS 7 7 8 6 with refrain

Refrain  
G

Em7

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to

C/D

D7

G

Em

geth - er! All who fol - low Je - sus,

Am

D

Bm

Em

C/G

G

Fine

all a-round the world! Yes, we're the church to - geth - er!

Verses

G

C

C6

1. The church is not a build - ing; the church is not a stee - ple;  
2. We're man - y kinds of peo - ple, with man - y kinds of fac - es,  
3. Some-times the church is march - ing; some-times it's brave - ly burn - ing;  
4. And when the peo - ple gath - er, there's sing - ing and there's pray - ing;  
5. At Pen - te - cost some peo - ple re - ceived the Ho - ly Spir - it

D

G

C6

D

D.C.

the church is not a rest - ing place; the church is a peo - ple.  
all col - ours and all a - ges, too, from all times and plac - es.  
some-times it's rid - ing, some-times hid - ing; al - ways it's learn - ing.  
there's laugh - ing and there's cry - ing some-times, all of it say - ing;  
and told the Good News through the world to all who would hear it.

Words: Richard Avery (1934-), and Donald Marsh (1923-) Music: Richard Avery (1934-), Donald Marsh (1923-)

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