



Kensington Presbyterian Church

When the door is opened

July 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).



<https://i.pinimg.com/originals/98/a7/55/98a75536bd69220e6c656f9e1196561c.jpg>

Announcements

blue text: if you are reading this on a computer you can click or tap any blue text to open up the link.

Sunday School: is available Sundays at 11:45

This is the last session until later in August.

zoom.us/j/95177919687?pwd=K1hpWXJrVElxQWpOMINKdkV1UGloQT09

Book Study: *The Liturgy of the Ordinary* will return September 1st.

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.

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?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMck1ZRxBKtmdvK2VsaHRIOFF1UT09)

[pwd=dkhMck1ZRxBKtmdvK2VsaHRIOFF1UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMck1ZRxBKtmdvK2VsaHRIOFF1UT09)

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 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

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



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

In Christ, the God of heaven has made his home on earth.

Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

Come now, all who thirst,
and drink the water of life.

Come now, all who hunger,
and be filled with good things.

Come now, all who seek,
and be warmed by the fire of love.²

♪ Hymn: Come sing, O Church, in joy.....pg 8 (757)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=cevFGtOGnkg



Prayer of Approach

Lord God,
You aren't careless like those who slap something together
and then forget about it in a corner.

You love your creation,
paying attention to each part of it,
naming them
enjoying them
loving them.

loving us.

You sit high on your throne



and you kneel at our feet,
washing our souls.

and it's not just our feet
that need washing.
When we take the time,
we realize that there were better
choices we could have made

and better reactions we could have had.

We are sorry for the ways we hurt our lives,
the lives of others
and the life of the world.

...

May your Holy Spirit bind up our souls
and help us live the way you hope we will.
Through Jesus Christ
Amen.



Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news (from Psalm 147)
The Lord heals the brokenhearted,
and binds up their wounds.
Great is our LORD, and abundant in power;
whose understanding is beyond measure.
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 the larger church, saying...

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,**



² adapted from Worship Sourcebook 1.2.35

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: Pour out your Spirit.....pg 9 (581)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=miaBBv7nLmU (tune, not words)

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we may hear your Word with joy.³

Intro to the readings

- Psalm - what sort of picture does this give of God?
- What does Paul say about what is important and what is changeable? What does this mean about how we live?

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

[Psalm 147](#): 1-11, 20c
[1 Corinthians 9](#): 16-23

³ Worship Sourcebook 3.1.10

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



 Sermon: When the door is opened
Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts.⁵ Amen.

Do you like beaches? When you go, what do you like to do? splash in the waves? lay quietly on a towel? Join a group and play volleyball? build sandcastles?

This week I heard about a mother who would spend all summer with her kids on the sandy beach near their cottage. As she didn't like to go in the water, she would build sandcastles. She could make marvellous creations with towers and tunnels. Sometimes her children would come by and enthusiastically help... often at the expense of some of those towers and tunnels. Sometimes strangers would stop too... what to do then?

Welcome and hospitality are big themes in the Bible. This comes from God valuing creation and us; after all(as the psalm

⁵ Psalm 19:14

says), God didn't just create the stars, but named each one. God cares about the broken-hearted, and has understanding is beyond measure. This comes from God valuing us so much as to come as one of us. Which leads us to respect others as people of value.

This raises the question of, 'what might make somebody feel like an outsider?' I remember a fellow in the army telling me he and his buddies would go to church on Sundays just for something to do. As they didn't believe, it didn't matter which tradition they joined. The embarrassing part was that they never knew when to stand or sit or kneel. It make him feel like a stranger. Other things could be needing to ask for the bathroom, or being invited to Kensington Hall like they know where it is. This isn't to say that standing or naming rooms is bad, but to be welcoming it needs to include good indicators and education that doesn't single them out.

It's something we're going to have to remember when we start coming back to the building in September, because I expect we'll all feel like strangers. It will have been a long time since we were together, and there will be some new ways of doing things - at least at first.

If we're to welcome people into our community, it needs to go beyond an engaging "Hello" as we pass the peace... or perhaps waving at a distance as we return. If the welcome is to be long term, then it needs to include everyone as part of the community.

The first step is acknowledging people. This can be done right away with a smile and verbal, "I'm glad you came" type comment. But it's important for acknowledgements to keep going. You can affirm anyone (even everyone) for ways that they contribute to the community. This could be helping manage the building, or accepting that fellowship time is outside and has no refreshments, or even stocking the shelves at your grocery store -

because the community God has placed us in is bigger than Kensington.

The next part is to actively get to know people. This starts with yourself, and then includes those around you. (The questions are the same.) Our society is okay at the initial stages: sharing your names, and maybe some information about your work and family. You'll probably need to be more active to find out what somebody likes, or their moments of celebration (birthday, good assignment, ...) and disappointments. Knowing these things is starting to value their life - what they feel is important. It goes even farther when you share hopes/dreams.

This includes some vulnerability on your part. When you share something you like, say about building a sandcastle, what if the other person disagrees or makes fun of your dream?

You could practice this with a neighbour (local or global). Do you know their name/family/job? What is something they like? find difficult? What do they hope to do now that restrictions are easing?

Like acknowledging people, this is an ongoing process if we are to be truly welcoming. We all change over time. We'll really notice it with the children when we see them again. Some of their voices have dropped. When we welcome people, do we just welcome the person we met when they started coming, or do we embrace their current skills and experiences as well? I'm reminded of the church that had a successful entrepreneur and only asked her to help in the praise band - like when she was a teenager. What if they'd invited her to share her other skills?

Growing out of knowing somebody is feeling their perspective. I was talking with some other daycare parents in a park the other

day and they expressed different perspectives on the vaccine and reopening. One is looking at statistics and comparing the chances of dying of COVID to other health risks we accept, such as a car accident. Another doesn't want to feel the guilt of accidentally infecting somebody.

Another example of the need for empathy is my family's desire to visit cousins this summer. They also want a visit... but are queasy as well. I'm sure you've found this with people as well. We could be frustrated with them, or remember how we've also felt during COVID. And perhaps we can remember their feelings when trying to include people with allergies, or who are immune compromised, or afraid of falling or getting sick. How can we value and include people without isolating them?

Learning empathy is like getting to know someone - create space for it to happen. In this case it means creating space and encouraging people to share their feelings. To be paying attention and listening. Try putting their feelings in your own words. Don't try to tell them how they should feel. We've all had times when feelings didn't make sense to others, but they are still real. When we can feel from their (whoever that is) perspective, then we are valuing them and welcoming them.

The last bit can be the hardest - even harder than a Presbyterian talking about emotions. It's the willingness to make make space for others. This doesn't mean simply inviting them to join you in what you like to do - but accepting that their ideas have value as well and should be included.

Another example you might relate to is a conversation I had with a 9 year old who wants a kitten to cuddle and play with. While that's nice, there's a lot more to welcoming a cat. You need to make space for the food and litter box - and look after them both daily. With a kitten you also have to be okay with teething

on your furniture. Including others involves sacrificing for, accepting, and enjoying them.

As we're planning on returning to the building in September we are also aware that not everyone will be comfortable with that. So we will be adapting again by offering the in person experience, Zoom, YouTube, and the print service. This will mean more work, but it's also important for including people.

And there's the question of how can we include people more? How can we honour their experiences and ideas and needs? This includes people of different ages, different worship traditions and knowledge of traditions, different learning styles, different musical likes, different comfort levels...

It includes what Paul is getting at. He talks like he's a chameleon, always changing who he is for the other person - but that's not it. He knows who he is at the core. For him, though, he'll change everything else so that nothing gets in the way of them hearing the hope of God. He doesn't come across here as knowing a better way, but rather as one of them. He builds relationships getting to know their dreams. He feels what they're going through. He adapts how he lives so that he doesn't get in the way.

And he goes out to them rather than staying in the church... but that's another story.

I expect if Paul had build sandcastles he would have been like the mother. Welcoming anyone to come and join in. Not holding a specific design so tightly that people don't feel comfortable. Allowing them to build and change things so that everyone can contribute and feel the hope and love of God.

*To God be all the glory
Amen.*

Responding to God

♪ Hymn: In loving partnership.....pg 9 (759)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCnytKwEW7c (tune at back)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=CgOI_u0SEP8 (hymn bk tune)

☞ FaithTalk: These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies. Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Etching: Share about a time you have felt valued?

Memories: How about a time you felt like an important part of something?

Wonder: How could Kensington be more welcoming? inclusive?

Values: What are activities/traditions that you would never compromise? Consider elements of worship (communion, singing, style of music, refreshments), or your daily life (at what point is a newspaper too expensive, or understanding your neighbours). How could you be more welcoming? inclusive?

Actions: Show appreciation for people who do essential things in your life - such as work at the grocery stores.

Actions: Talk with your neighbours about their names, jobs, likes/dislikes, hopes/dreams.

☼ Spirit Sighting

The other week Nora went to get her second vaccine shot and was surprised to learn that she didn't have an appointment to get the shot, just an appointment to make an appointment. This would make for a bad day.

However, things worked in mysterious ways. The person she

was talking to decided to check and discovered that a slot was available. Not only that, but Nora took the opportunity to ask about her sister who had missed her appointment while in physio... and they were able to make an appointment for her.

At the start, this seemed like a reason to despair at the system, but thanks to the spirit (Spirit?) of the people it became very good.

☼ 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.



<http://blog.english-heritage.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/sandcastle-fam.jpg>

 Prayers of the people

Jesus, as you know, it is summer for us
and a time when we like to go outside and appreciate nature.
We thank you for the beautiful world that we live in.
We also pray for those suffering from the terrible side: tornadoes,
fires, and floods. We pray for those who have lost possessions,
memories, jobs, and loved ones.
These events are raising talk of global warming. May your Spirit
help us to be willing to change our ways to give the
environment the space it needs.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

As we think of the world, we also pray for the people in it.
for those dreaming of safety
for those dreaming of a living wage for the labour
for those dreaming of an education
for those dreaming of health care
especially protection from COVID.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

and we pray for those close to us who are in need of your healing
hand: including Mary Ellen’s father, Elizabeth’s cousin
Frances, Peter M, and others we know. . .

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We also pray for our neighbours;

help us to see them like you do,
to know them like you do.
help us to make space for them in our lives,
to listen to them and welcome them
in ways that they feel valued;
that they can know your love
and participate in your kingdom.

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

and we pray for the celebrations and needs of others who have
been brought to our attention through a meeting or
conversation. . .

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

We offer these prayers to you
Lord of unfailing love.
Amen.

♪ Hymn: You are called to tell the story.....pg 10 (583)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=UzG2L9yzNfM (tune at back)

 **Benediction**
*May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.⁶*



Camping from Home

For many children, Camp Douglas in British Columbia is their safe space away from home. These young campers have little to no connection with a congregation or other Christian community outside of camp. They come each summer with a hunger for God and a desire to reunite with the loving Christian community they experienced in past summers. Last year, Camp Douglas staff adapted the camp's programming using an online platform that enabled their important ministry to continue throughout the summer. Staff ran weekly Bible studies and campfires, as well as other traditional camp activities that could be done at home. Camp Douglas was able to provide this wonderful experience in part through regional resourcing grants, supported by Presbyterians Sharing.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, July 18 We pray that young people will find rewarding opportunities to learn and grow this summer.

Monday, July 19 We pray for the ministry, staff and campers at Camp Christopher in Saskatchewan, and ask for God's blessing on their "Camp-in-a-Box" initiative, so that they may reach their goal of providing 400 children with games, crafts and activities.

Tuesday, July 20 We pray for new graduates of Zomba Theological College in Malawi as they begin their journey in congregational ministry, equipped with books from the PCC's New Ministers' Library Fund.

Wednesday, July 21 We give thanks for the work of the Rainbow Communion Listening Committee and for those who shared their stories. We pray that the wisdom shared in their report will guide the church to better love and support our LGBTQI+ siblings.

Thursday, July 22 We pray for the Presbytery of Pictou's Ministry and Pastoral Oversight Committee. May they feel a strong sense of God's presence to strengthen, focus and lead their discernment.

Friday, July 23 We give thanks and pray for deployed military chaplains who bring life, hope and joy to those who are far from home.

Saturday, July 24 O God, you make us for work and rest. We pray for physical, mental and spiritual restoration so that we may shed our weariness and enjoy peace and fellowship this summer.

Rev. Peter Rombeek
for Kensington Presbyterian Church

757

Come sing, O church, in joy!

1. Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
 2. Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns su - preme,
 3. Let cour - age be our friend, let wis - don be our guide,
 4. Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the a - ges long!
 em - power - ing us to catch the vi - sion, dream the dream!
 as we in mis - sion mag - ni - fy the Cru - ci - fied!
 For Christ the Lord has tri - umphed o'er the a - ges long!

In bold ac - cord, come cel - e - brate the jour - ney now and praise the Lord!

Words: Brian Dill (1949-) Music: John Darwall (1731-1789)

Words: copyright © Brian Dill, 1989 Music: public domain CCLI# 4440603

Pour out your Spirit from on high

MELCOMBE 8888LM

D /F# Em 6 D A Bm G D A/C

1. Pour out your Spir - it from on high; Lord,
 2. All wis - dom, zeal and faith im - part, and
 3. To watch and pray and nev - er faint; by
 4. Then, when our work is fin - ished here, in

Bm6 A/C# Bm/D (E7) F#m D6 E 7 A D Em6 D/F# D

your as - sem - bled serv - ants bless; grac - es and gifts to
 strength, with meek - ness from a - bove, to bear your peo - ple
 day and night strict guard to keep; to warn and cheer both
 hum - ble hope our charge re - sign: when the good Shep - herd

A (D/F#) Em A7/C# D A /G D/F# G D/A A 7 D

each sup - ply, and clothe your priests with right - eous - ness.
 in our heart, and love each soul with faith - ful love.
 sin - ner, saint, nour - ish your lambs and feed your sheep.
 shall ap - pear, in you we rest, O Love di - vine.

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854), alt Music: Samuel Webbe, the elder (1740-1816)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

In loving partnership

DUKE STREET 8888LM

D A7/E D/F# G A7/E D A/E E7 A D A7/E D/F#

1. In lov - ing part - ner - ship we come, seek - ing, O
 2. We are the hands and feet of Christ, serv - ing by
 3. Lov - ing com - mu - ni - ty we seek; your hope and
 4. In lov - ing part - ner - ship, O God, help us your

G D/F# Em D A D A7/E D/F# D D/F#

God, your will to do. Our prayers and ac - tions
 grace each oth - er's need. We dare to risk and
 strength with - in us move. The poor and rich, the
 fu - ture to pro - claim. Jus - tice and peace be

G A7/E D D/A A D/F# G A7/E D D/F# G D/A A A7 D

now re - ceive; we free - ly of - fer them to you.
 sac - ri - fice with truth - ful word and faith - ful deed.
 strong and weak are brought to - geth - er in your love.
 our de - sire, we hum - bly pray in Je - sus' name.

Words: Jim Strathdee (1941-)

Music: John Warrington Hatton (c.1710-1793)

Words: this version, copyright © The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1997 Music: public domain

You are called to tell the story

REGENT SQUARE 878787

Bb Bb/F Bb Bb/F F/Eb Bb/D Eb Bb/D Gm F/A F7 Bb

1. You are called to tell the sto - ry, pass - ing words of life a - long,
 2. You are called to teach the rhy - thm of the dance that nev - er ends,
 3. You are called to set the tab - le, bless - ing bread as Je - sus blest,
 4. May the One whose love is broad - er than the meas ure of all space

Bb /F /D Bb Cm Gm/D D Gm D Gm/Bb Gm F/C C7 F

then to blend your voice with oth - ers as you sing the sac - red song.
 then to move with - in the cir - cle, hand in hand with stran - gers, friends.
 then to come with thirst and hun - ger, need - ing care like all the rest.
 give us words to sing the sto - ry, move a - mong us in this place.

Bb 7 Eb Cm Dm Eb6 Gm Fsus4-3 Bb

Christ be known in all our sing - ing, fill - ing all with songs of love.
 Christ be known in all our danc - ing, touch - ing all with hands of love.
 Christ be known in all our shar - ing, feed - ing all with signs of love.
 Christ be known in all our liv - ing, fill - ing all with gifts of love.

See also: Regent Square 298

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854) Music: Henry T. Smart (1813-1879)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

Rev. Peter Rombeek
 for Kensington Presbyterian Church

If you like, use this colouring page as a prayer...



from Illustrated Ministry