



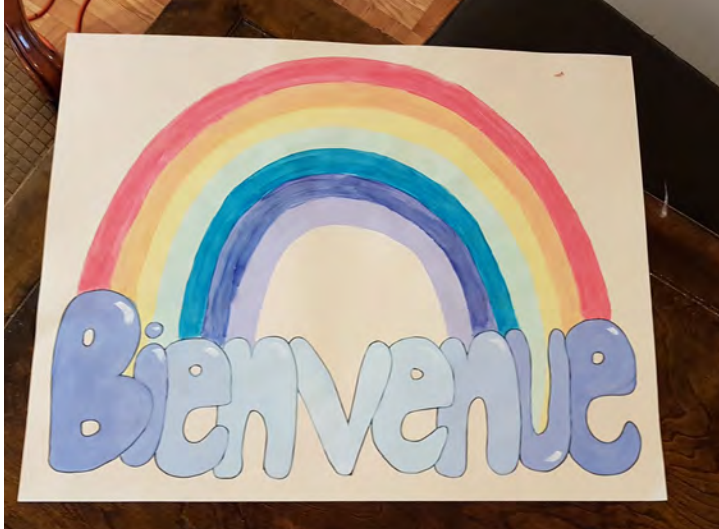
Kensington Presbyterian Church

Celebration & Joy

September 12, 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).



Lola

Contacts

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

Announcements

Re-opening: This week we are offering a fourth option for worship: Zoom, [YouTube](#), [Text](#), and in the building. If you have not yet received a copy of the guide to the re-opening, please contact your elder or Rev Peter.

In short, we will be observing many of the measures you've experienced over the last 18 months. Due to risks, there will be no congregational singing & fellowship will be outside. We encourage those without a vaccine shot to worship from home for your own safety. Still, it will be nice to see each other again.

Book Study: first Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 - ex. Oct 5th

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=dKhMck1ZRxBKTmdvK2VsaHRlOFF1UT09)
[pwd=dKhMck1ZRxBKTmdvK2VsaHRlOFF1UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dKhMck1ZRxBKTmdvK2VsaHRlOFF1UT09)

or phone: 438-809-7799

Meeting ID: 782 6690 4325

Passcode: 7864826

Climate Change Conference: October 14 to 16

Our Synod has organized this conference to consider what we can do about climate change. The main speaker will be Dr. Norman Wirzba of Duke University. More details can be found here:

www.presbyterian.ca/qeosynod/synod2021.html

Discrimination within the PCC: At this years General Assembly a special committee was established to collect the stories from people of non-Euro-Canadian descent within our denomination - particularly where they have felt hurt. Stories can be submitted to special.committee.pcc@gmail.com.



Approaching God



Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Blessing of the Building

As you know, we are reopening parts of the building today. After 18 months, it is appropriate to bless those parts we are using. I'll be moving to the various locations where I'll say a short prayer. When I say, "Lord, as we come here," I invite you to say, "**Bless this place.**"

Entrance: May this entrance be always welcoming as we come into this place dedicated to your work; a place where we practice living as you want us to all the time.

Lord, as we come here

Bless this place.

Lift: May this lift safely and smoothly carry people to places they could not easily go

Lord, as we come here

Bless this place.

Halls & Stairs: While they may seem unimportant, may our halls and stairs guide us safely between different parts of your creation.

Lord, as we come here

Bless this place.

Kensington Hall: While this is not normally how we use it, Lord, may this hall be a place where your children may learn more of

your love and joy.
Lord, as we come here
Bless this place.

Offices: Lord, may our offices be places of meeting, building community, and supporting your work.

Lord, as we come here

Bless this place.

Bathrooms: May our bathrooms be a safe place to bring relief in times of need. Should we have the opportunity to pause in them, may we spend the time with you.

Lord, as we come here

Bless this place.

Sanctuary (Knox): All the rooms in this building are special, but may this room provide a peaceful place to gather from the world; a place where we may feel your Spirit more.

Lord, as we come here

Bless this place.

The rest: While we are not using the other parts of the building on Sundays, you are gradually using them to support other work with New Hope, the 50+ Club, various support groups, and others.

Lord, as we come here

Bless this place.



google

Call to worship (from Psalm 108:1-4)

Our hearts are ready, O Lord,
our hearts are ready!

We will sing and make melody!

We will awaken the dawn!

We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples,
we will sing praises to you among the nations.

**For your steadfast love is great above the heavens,
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

♪ Hymn: Joy to the world.....pg 9 (153)

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



heavenly host - M Moyers

Prayer of Approach

Wondrous God,
As we come into your presence now,
help us to connect with you;
to feel your Spirit moving ours.

As we come into your presence now,
help us to recognize
the cornerstones we have selected and built our houses on
instead of looking to you
and giving up our treasures for yours.
Please forgive us for the harm we cause.

As we come into your presence now,
please nourish us with your life and joy
and help us to have faith that you are leading us
into the kingdom of God.

In the name of God our Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy
Spirit.
Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.
Glory to God. Amen.

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.**



Listening to God

♪ Hymn: Come, know my joy.....pg 10 (788 #1-3)
<https://youtu.be/ngPx6lgzngk?t=509>

Prayer for Illumination


○ God, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the Scriptures are read
and your Word is proclaimed,
we may feel your joy today.

Amen.²

Intro to the readings

- The early church was based out of Jerusalem, and missionaries like Paul would travel back to report in every so often. As he writes this letter he is heading back. Is that were his heart is?
- The Matthew reading is part of a series of parables about the Kingdom of Heaven. Where is the Kingdom of Heaven? What is it like?
- When the Psalm says 'rejoice', remember the connection to the work 'joy'.

² adapted from Worship Sourcebook 3.1.28

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,³ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Romans 15](#): 30-33

[Matthew 13](#): 24-32, 44

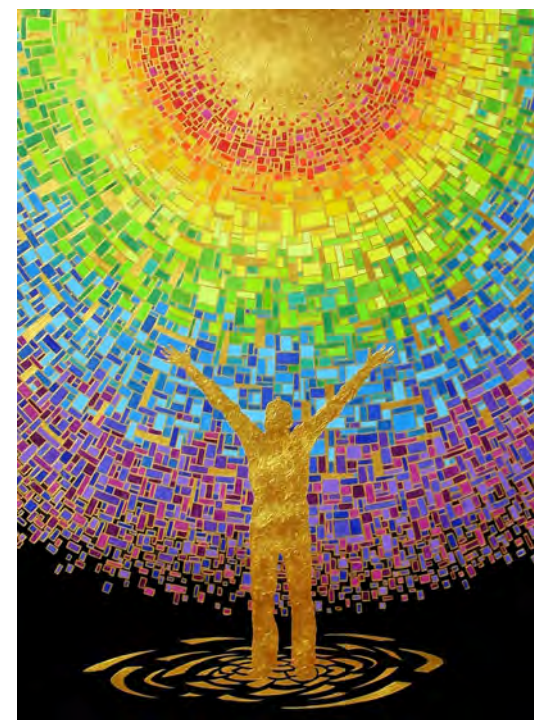
[Psalm 118](#): 1, 19-29



Sermon: When the door is opened

Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts.⁴ Amen.

I was privileged to witness excitement this week - excitement that shone with joy. One example was Markus coming home from school and bouncing with enthusiasm that he could stand on one toe (in his rubber boots). Another was Yae-Ha talking about starting university - his smile was so bright it shone through the mask. Another was Peggy talking about the idea of coming back to church.



the power of praise - Rebecca Brogan

³ 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

⁴ Psalm 19:14

This morning is one of excitement and celebration, because we're adding another way of worshipping. We've become pretty good at joining in worship with the print version, coming together over Zoom, and engaging with YouTube. (Which is, surprisingly, a rather unique combination of options.) And this morning we celebrate the additional option of coming in person.

This is something Jesus was all about. Wherever Jesus went, there was excitement and crowds. Often they were joyous, sometimes not. Jesus even had a reputation for celebration. In the Gospel According to John, the first wonder Jesus does is to help a wedding celebration.⁵ Some people even suggested Jesus not be taken seriously because he celebrated too much.⁶

Today we're celebrating that we can again gather in this building.

Now, we know that God is everywhere. God is just as much in our home as in the Kensington sanctuary, or in a park, or cafe, or wherever you happen to be reading or viewing the service... but many people find something special about a church building.

This came up in the prayer group about a year ago when we were able to meet in person for a few weeks between lock-downs. People shared how they knew God was with them everywhere, but it was easier to feel in the church building. They felt the peace of God just walking into the Sanctuary. I suspect it has to do with practice.⁷ We are used to noticing God here. There's also the memories of events: baptisms, pageants, choir anthems, communion, ... and there's the community. It was the thought of seeing people again that lit up Peggy's face this week.

She was feeling what Paul felt when writing to the church in

Rome. Paul couldn't wait for his work in Jerusalem to be wrapped up "so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company."⁸ The joy of being together.

This is an important aspect of joy, and one that has been hard to have during COVID. Joy involves connecting or interacting outside yourself. You might even say it involves something intruding into yourself.

Most references in the Bible to joy are more pointed than that. They usually refer to God's actions in the world. This could be people experiencing joy through creation - or even creation's direct joyful response to God. Isaiah writes,

*"For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace;
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song,
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."⁹*

During this summer's vacation we went canoe camping. We were blessed to experience some of the joy in creation come into our lives. There was the peace of the water, the wonder of the loons, and the sunsets. Madeline L'Engle writes that it's the joy something can have when it is being what it was created to be.¹⁰



More often Biblical joy refers to the saving work of God. Sometimes it's about saving from earthly troubles - such as in today's psalm that sings of how we can enter God's house and leave our troubles at the gate. Although life isn't quite so black and white. It's more like how we describe the Kingdom of

5 John 2

6 Luke 7:31-34

7 There's also places that have been holy for centuries - and they seem to become permeated with the Holy; like the prayers and blessings have made the slide so smooth you slide down without effort. Sometimes they are described as 'thin spots'.

8 Romans 15: 32

9 Isaiah 55:129

10 Madeline L'Engle. *A Circle of Quiet*.

Heaven; it's 'here, but not yet'.

This is one of the gifts of joy - it can come even while life is hard. Something else that Jesus is all about. We can see that in the way that Jesus descends into the lives of those who are sick or outcasts and lifts them up. He even descends into death and rises again. This is the Gospel; the Good News.

As Paul put it to the Romans, "*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*"¹¹

How's that for Good News?

What would you do for that love?

which, admittedly, is an odd question if nothing can separate us from the love of God. But I think it's a little like my family experiencing the joy in creation this summer. It was there, but we also went looking for it. Without that, I'm not sure we would have noticed.

Back to the question, 'what would you do for that love?' or perhaps a different angle, 'how do you react to that love?'

Our Gospel passage gave us a joyful response. A person is cutting through a field when he finds a treasure. "*In his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*" This joy intrudes into his life, and in joy he sells everything. He trades everything he knows for this treasure in the field. He lays aside his life for God's love.

This is a part of joy.

There's the interaction with someone or something, and noticing it. Then there the way you lose yourself to it. The way you are no longer aware of you and are filled with joy.

You didn't see Markus sharing his joy in jumping on one toe, but remember the way a child can be so consumed with a flower, or playing in the sand, or even just the way their hand works.

Joy and burdens are a bit like the chicken and the egg. Where does it start? Is it allowing yourself to be filled with joy that pushes aside your burdens? Or does laying down your burdens allow you to experience joy?

Really, like the chicken and the egg, God comes first. God is there loving us and leading us into interactions with people and situations; inviting us to lose ourselves into the joyous love of God.

To God be all the glory
Amen.



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: The love of God comes close.....pg 8 (474)
<https://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 times that you have lost yourself in the joy of the moment?

Values: What makes your heart sing?

Etching: How do you create space for joy? or go looking for joy?

Actions: Share your moments of joy.

Actions: While not always connected, consider the daily questions at gratefulness.org/practice/daily-

¹¹ Romans 8:38-39

questions

✦ Spirit Sighting

This week I was reminded how joy is a gift of the Holy Spirit, and were we see joy we God's blessing.

I also saw, and see, God working through the many people who are giving themselves to all the various ways we are able to share God's love through Kensington.

✦ 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.

🧑 Prayers of the people

○ Lord our God,
You are Love, living and dancing through creation;
You are Light, challenging and purifying our hearts;
You are Peace, deep and unfathomable, working through and beyond all pain and conflict.

We praise you for the gift of life itself;
we praise you for our fragile and beautiful planet;
we praise you for the richness and variety of different races and cultures;
we praise you for human love and laughter;
we praise you for the sheer fun of celebration.

Use us now as channels of blessing for those in need:
for victims of violence, especially in Afghanistan;
for victims of hatred, prejudice and injustice;
for those who are physically or mentally ill;
for the lonely, and those longing to be alone;
and for those who have lost all hope of finding a home,
or finding work.

Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Risen Christ,
breaking the bonds of evil and death,
shine on us, and on those for whom we pray,
with your eyes of compassion and glory.
Let your light flood the darkness in us and in our world,
and make us bearers of
your healing for people,
your delight in this planet,
and your outrageously generous forgiveness,
on which we all depend,
through Christ, our Lord, our Lover and our Saviour,
Amen.¹²

🎵 Hymn: Come sing, O Church, in joy.....pg 9 (757)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cevFGtOGnkg>

✦ Benediction
*May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may overflow with hope
through the Holy Spirit.*



¹² by Angela Ashwin. Found in *The Book of a Thousand Prayers* #391.

An Education for Robina

Robina lives with her mother, father and five siblings in a make-shift house in Afghanistan. Both of her parents are unemployed, and Robina is the only member of her family attending school. In Afghanistan, 62 percent of children do not attend school. Often, families with many children cannot afford uniforms and school supplies for each child. Girls are especially disadvantaged because of a shared cultural belief that if girls study, they bring shame on their families. Only one in five students in Afghan schools are female, and only about one in 10 adult women are literate. Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) is passionate about ensuring a world in which all children can access quality education. Working with local partners, PWS&D helps parents and religious leaders understand girls' rights—most importantly, the right to education.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, September 12 We give thanks and pray for organizations who work in partnership with Presbyterian World Service & Development to empower and teach girls in Afghanistan to read, write and improve their standard of living.

Monday, September 13 We pray for Christian educators as they nurture the faith of young people.

Tuesday, September 14 We pray for LGBTQI+ student groups and their teachers as they build communities of love, learning and support in their schools.

Wednesday, September 15 We pray that the members of the Presbytery of Oak Ridges' Pastoral Relations Committee will feel a strong sense of God's presence in their work and discernment.

Thursday, September 16 We pray for the members of the Continuing Education Grants Committee that meet this month.

Friday, September 17 We pray for the Rev. Angie Song, Nuri Lee and the evangelism initiatives of Vaughan Community Church in Toronto, Ontario.

Saturday, September 18 We pray for God's wisdom and guidance to protect creation and the world's biodiversity.

Rev. Peter Rombeek
for Kensington Presbyterian Church

1. The love of God comes close where stands an o - pen door,
 2. The peace of God comes close to those caught in the storm,
 3. The joy of God comes close where faith en - coun - ters fears,
 4. The grace of God comes close to those whose grace is spent,
 5. 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

Joy to the world

ANTHOCH 8 e 8 6 CM with repeat

D A⁻F D# F#m G DA A - D D# G F#

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re-
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav- iour reigns: let us our
 3. No more let sins and sor- rows grow, nor thorns in-
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

A - D (C7D) (C7D) D

ceive its King: let eve- ry heart pre- pare him
 songs em- ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless- ings
 na- tions prove the glo- ries of his right- eous -

F# Em/G A

room and heaven and na- ture sing, and heaven and na- ture
 plains re- peat the sound- ing joy, re- peat the sound- ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won- ders of his love, and won- ders of his -

Tenor and bass v.1 And heaven and na- ture sing (Bass), and

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt Music: Lowell Mason (1792-1872);
 harmony, Henry Rosevear (1903-1982)

Words: public domain Music: harmony, copyright © estate of Henry Rosevear

Rev. Peter Rombeek
 for Kensington Presbyterian Church

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

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na- ture sing.
 joy, re- peat, re- peat the sound- ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won- ders, won- ders of his love.

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

788 Come, know my joy, the Maker says

FLIGHT OF THE EARLS 8 6 8 6 D CMD

B♭/D E♭ /G B♭ /A E♭/G B♭/D A♭/C Gm/B♭ Cm A♭ B♭ Cm B♭

1. "Come, know my joy," the Mak-er says and pours out works of power that
 2. The feast we join is long be-gun; God bids us wel-come here to
 3. "Come, seek my face," the Giv-er says, "with heart and soul and strength; let
 4. "Come, learn of me," the Serv-ant says and mul-ti-plies a feast of

E♭ /G B♭ /D E♭ B♭7/F E♭/G Fm G 7 Cm B♭

sear the sense, de - fy the mind and fill the soul with awe, and
 name and use the sov-ereign gifts with - in our hu-man care. With
 fear give way to love; come, step up - on the waves of faith." Dear
 loaves and fish, of bread and wine, trans-form-ing eve - ry guest. "Come,"

A♭ /C B♭/D E♭ /G Fm 6 E♭ Cmsus4-3 A♭ /G /F B♭7

we with o - pen mouth re-ceive God's gifts with in - fant need, and,
 God's own joy some seem to soar, a fierce and ho - ly flame; some
 Giv-er, Gift, we seek your face: you share our thorn, our scar. We
 says the Host, "from west and east bring gifts to share— come, eat!— none

Cm A♭ B♭ /D E♭sus4-3 Cm7 A♭/C Gm/B♭ Cm A♭ B♭ B♭

sight un - fo - cussed, scarce per-ceive Love's pre-sence as we feed,
 gifts are thorns we scarce en - dure to touch, or face, or name,
 learn your joy when by your grace we share the gift we are
 lost or wast - ed when God's feast of joy will be com - plete."

Words: Andrew Donaldson (1951-)

Music: Irish traditional melody; harmony, Francis B. Westbrook (1903-1975)

Words: copyright © The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1995 Music: harmony, copyright © Oxford University Press