



Kensington Presbyterian Church

The plan

September 19, 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://marrymetampabay.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/12-1.jpg>

Contacts

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

Announcements

Re-opening: We are now 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 6th
We are reading through *Liturgy of the Ordinary*, which helps us to see God in our daily lives. This month's link is 'losing your keys'. This is a great opportunity to invite friends who are curious about God. While reading the chapter ahead helps, it's not necessary. Contact Rev. Peter for more details.

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

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.



Call to worship

Gather us, O God

And we will know your life that makes us one

Gather us, O God

And we will celebrate our variety and uniqueness

Gather us, O God

And we will give you the pain of our brokenness

Gather us, O God

And we will share the gifts of your Spirit.

Trinity of love, bind us as one

That our brokenness be healed by you;

That our fears be held by you;

That our gifts be used by you;

That our lives be offered to you;

So may the world know you.

Amen.²

♪ Hymn: Follow me the Master said.....pg 10 (645)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDc5SJoX-DQ



Prayer of Approach

Almighty and merciful God,

we come before you

carving out this time from our lives to spend with you.

We come to listen for you,
to see how you can give us strength;
how you can help our story.

Even with this,
we try not to listen to your voice,
we hide in our safety nets and business and memories.

We realize that too often we focus on ourselves,
and not on you.

We think our gifts are for us,
and not for your kingdom.

We try to live our dreams,
and not your dreams.

May your Spirit come to us now
you and your dreams
you and your purposes
you and our neighbours.

May your holiness poke & prod us
infect us with your love and hope
so that we may spread your Kingdom
Help us yield to you.

Amen.



Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news:

To all who turn from sin in sorrow,
to all who turn to God in hope,
this is God's Word of grace:

We are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved.

This gift we have from God.

Glory to God. Amen.³

² adapted from 'Gather us, O God' by Ali Newell. Published in *Holy Ground* Wild Goose 2008.

³ 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 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: Open my eyes.....pg 9 (508)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=s_EPafuOf60

 Prayer for Illumination
O 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 your Wisdom stir questions in us
that help us seek your story.
Amen.⁴

⁴ adapted from Worship Sourcebook 3.1.28

 Intro to the readings

- o In our first passage Peter had a dream before dinner in which he saw a table cloth being lowered from heaven filled with all kinds of delicious food... not all of which was kosher. He protested to God, and God told him that everything the Lord had created was good. Then some Romans come and invite Peter to visit the Centurion. How could you refuse?
- o It'll be obvious, but the next two are letters with advice to those who are probably feeling a little at risk.
- o Our psalm has celebrates with some good reminders.

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁵ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Acts 10: 44-48](#)

[Jeremiah 29: 1-14](#)

[Philippians 1: 1-11](#)

[Psalm 66: 1-12](#)



Kensington crafts - Sept 2021

⁵ 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: The plan

Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts.⁶ Amen.

Our Psalm today invites us to

*“Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; ...
Say to God, ‘How awesome are your deeds! ...
Come and see what God has done.’”*

And these are good things to remember, because God has blessed us in many ways. Some that come to mind include:

- having a building that is in good fairly shape - and is quite flexible in how can be used.
- having people in our leadership with experience in microbiology, ventilation, medical care - all very useful during a pandemic. ...and people with skills of organization, pastoral care, prayer, teaching, music, gardening, empathy, jam making (I was given some lovely Mennonite peach jam the other week), and people who can see other people’s skills. We’ve even had new people join us in COVID.
- we’re blessed with the technology to connect with each other through print and computer
- and there’s the wonder of the Lord pulling people together from different religious, geographic, social, economic, & cultural backgrounds into our congregation.

Still, it’s also easy to see the things we’ve lost. There’s repairs to be made on the building. The technology gives us new troubles too much of the time. People who have died or moved away.

In one of the books I’ve been reading they wanted to look at

⁶ Psalm 19:14

the COVID lockdown as a time of forced stillness and peace. The Bible has examples of people taking times of stillness to reflect and hear God’s voice... but that’s not what this felt like. Instead it felt like being forced into exile from the people and things we love - from what gives us strength. This is also in the Bible.

Take the passage from Jeremiah. He’s writing to people who had been taken from all their familiar places. These exiles were struggling between feeling lost and hoping to return soon. There were even some people saying, ‘don’t worry, life will be back to normal real soon.’ Does this sound familiar?

We know from other parts of the Bible that this experience was heart rending - such as when psalm 137 sings, *“By the rivers of Babylon – there we sat down and there we wept when we remembered Zion. How could we sing the Lord’s song in a foreign land?”*

Where is their hope?

Where is God?

Which are questions that are easy to get wrapped up in. Is there any hope our story will go on? Where is God in our story? The list at the beginning gives some examples of how we could see God in the story of our church.

Jeremiah doesn’t point to that though. He doesn’t remind them of how God was in the Temple. Instead he tells them to setting down. Make your homes were God has put you. Get involved in the city. Try to make it better - because this is your home too.

Or, to put it another way, God is here too.

This isn’t a new message. The Bible is full of stories about God being active throughout the world - in unexpected places and surprising ways. Take the story of Peter at Cornelius’ house. This man wasn’t a Jew, and yet the Holy Spirit flowed into him and his

household. Peter hadn't even finished teaching them what they needed to know yet.

And then there's Jesus. While he did teach and work in the Temple and synagogues, we have many many stories of him going out into the world to meet people where they are at. Jesus listens to their issue, and unconditionally helps them find God's love, hope and healing.

This, as the psalm put it, is awesome! God is at work in the world.



Jewish Museum, Berlin- Rombeek

and that links into another message Jeremiah gave to those in exile. *"For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope."* And this isn't an isolated reminder. Hundreds of years later Paul tells the Philippians the same thing. *"I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."*

...and it's still true.

God has a plan for us.

But there's a couple of important nuances in these sentences.

One is that it's God's plan. This means we need to rethink the question we were asking earlier. Instead of asking 'where is God in our story?', we should ask 'where are we in God's story?'

This means we shouldn't think of our building and our congregation and our skills as ours. This isn't about us, it's about God. The building, technology and people that make up Kensington are a blessing given to us, but to help us join in sharing God's gifts of love, hope and healing.

And this sharing is in two directions (broadly speaking). There's the way the Holy Spirit uses them to nourish us. To feed us spiritually, and with knowledge and wisdom and peace and courage and strength and love. The Holy Spirit has build this community we call Kensington as a way to nurture our faith.

The other direction is outside the congregation. As Jeremiah said, to help the welfare of the place we find ourselves in. This is part of God's plan - with the Holy Spirit also working outside the congregation.

There are all sorts of ways this is happening. I was talking with somebody I met through Markus' school. He identifies as a bit religious, but not spiritual. He likes some of the ceremony and community, but doesn't believe in God. Recently he's really been hit by the state of the environment and the need to do something about it. Concern for creation is good and I believe this comes from the Holy Spirit stirring his soul, whether he believes it or not.

Another example is having a National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (Sept 30) that is actually being noticed by people. The increased awareness of the issues around Canada's treatment of the





Responding to God

♪ Hymn: With the Lord as my guide.....pg 11 (574)
vimeo.com/461677925



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

Actions: Pray for Kensington and our community (local or global).

Memories: What have we done in that past that we should do now? Should it be modified from then?

Values: What issues are their in our community that excites or worries you?

Wonder: How could our gifts help with one of those issues?



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.



Spirit Sighting: Commissioning of Student Minister

We've been asked to help a student from the college this year. You may remember Alex from a few years ago when he sang in our choir. What brought him to Montreal was prayer and listening to the Spirit as it invited him to explore a different sort of ministry than most people, that of being a minister in a congregation.

Alex was born in Victoria, but grew up north of Toronto and in Cornwall. While in High School, he developed his love for history which he explored at The University of Ottawa

During those summers he worked at Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre as a Camp counsellor and office staff. While at Gracefield, he got the chance to lead the Bible Study and Worship for the campers and that's where he started hearing God's call for his life. He's had some experience guest Preaching at different churches and spent a summer in Northern Ontario leading a joint Presbyterian-Anglican congregation.

Like the rest of us, his journey is ongoing and changing, and the Spirit is leading him. Let us ask God's blessing as Alex starts this stage of his journey.

*Dear Lord, you are our Shepherd,
leading us through life*

*in ways that allow us to share your love and hope.
We thank you for bringing Alex to us the year,
and ask that you help us to help him
as he continues to prepare
for the ministries that you have in mind for him.*

*May you create ways for him to learn despite the coronavirus,
and nurture the experience and wisdom he needs.
With the leadership of Jesus,
and the guidance of your Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

 Prayers of the people

Faithful God,
You see the world in its magnificence,
and its pain.
Your love rains down to nourish the lives here,
but some places and people are separated.
Help us to listen to issues where you can use our gifts to share
your love, hope and healing. . .

We thank you for Kensington
and the gifts you have blessed us with;
and we pray that you will help us nourish the people you bring,
and journey with those who need you
in the communities around us. . .

We thank you that we live in a society where we have a say in the
government, and
we pray that in the upcoming municipal elections, the issues you
want talked about are raised. . .

We thank you for the health care system we have,
and the all the people who make it work. . .
and we pray for those who are sick
physically, mentally, and spiritually. . .
We also pray for those affected by the pandemic
both here and abroad. . .
we especially remember Cuba

We pray these prayers in the strength and love of Jesus, the risen
Christ, Amen.

♪ Hymn: You are called to tell the story.....pg 12 (583)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBUsXSoCyel

 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.
Amen.⁷*



7 Romans 15: 13

The Difference Food Security Makes

In Haiti, global climate change has left many farmers struggling to support their families. For people in Haiti who make their living from the earth, recent unpredictable weather has had devastating consequences. Presbyterian World Service & Development is responding through an agroforestry program that helps farmers by providing seeds for black bean, pigeon pea and corn crops—seeds that are more resilient. Farmers learn sustainable field management and band together in savings groups to make their earnings go even further. Elimène Joseph, an entrepreneur and mother of four, shared her experience: “Before becoming a member, I struggled to make ends meet. The program is showing me how to pool my resources together with other farmers. In truth, I do not have enough words to express everything the organization has done for me.”



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, September 19 We pray for struggling farmers in the developing world whose livelihoods have been impacted by climate change and give thanks for programs supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development that help them.

Monday, September 20 We thank God for our ecumenical and interfaith connections and for the members of the PCC’s Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee who support these endeavours and meet today.

Tuesday, September 21 (International Day of Prayer for Peace) We pray for the safety and well-being of those living in conflict situations. May we all respond to God’s call to be peacemakers and speak out against forces of violence.

Wednesday, September 22 We pray for healing and peace in the church so that its witness and ministry is focused and invigorated.

Thursday, September 23 We pray for pastors of the Reformed Church in Sub-Carpathia, Ukraine, as they provide spiritual support to people of Hungarian descent in challenging conditions.

Friday, September 24 We pray for church musicians and give thanks for all they do to support the church in praise.

Saturday, September 25 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Northern Saskatchewan.

OPEN MY EYES 8 8 9 8 with refrain

Ab Eb7/Bb Eb7 Ab6 Ab

1. O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me;
2. O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic-es of truth thou send-est clear,
3. O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad-ly the warm truth eve-ry-where;

C7/G Fm C7/E Fm C7 Fm Bb Eb

place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un-clasp and set me free.
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear, eve-ry-thing false will dis-ap-pear.
o - pen my heart and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren thus to share.

Refrain
Ab Eb7/Bb Eb7 Ab

Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy will to see;

(Eb/Bb Ab/C) Ab7C# Db(6) Eb7 Ab

o - pen my eyes:
o - pen my ears: il - lu - mine me, Spir - it di - vine!
o - pen my heart:

645

Follow me, the Master said

FOLLOW ME 76767776

D G/D D A7/C# D D/A A

1. "Fol - low me," the Mas - ter said;
 2. Should the world and sin op - pose, we will fol - low Je - sus.
 3. Though the way may dark ap - pear,
 4. Ev - er keep that end in view;

D G/D D A7/C# D /F# A7 D

By his word and Spir - it led,
 He is great - er than our foes; we will fol - low Je - sus.
 He will make our path - way clear;
 All his prom - is - es are true;

D/F# A7/E D A D/F# Em7 A7 D /F# A

Still for us he lives to plead, at the throne will in - ter - cede,
 On his prom - ise we de - pend; he will hear us and de - fend,
 In our dai - ly round of care, as we plead with God in prayer,
 When this earth - ly course is run, and the Mas - ter says, "Well done!"

D G /B D A7/C# D /F# A7 D

of - fers help in time of need;
 help and keep us to the end; we will fol - low Je - sus.
 with the cross which we must bear,
 life e - ter - nal we have won;

Words: anonymous, alt Music: anonymous

Words: public domain Music: public domain

With the Lord as my guide

RIDGECREST Irregular

Em D Bm C Am G /B D G /F# Em

With the Lord as my guide

1. I will walk through the des - ert,
2. I will see all the tal - ents,
3. I will work with my sis - ter,
4. I will rise in the morn - ing,

Am /C Bm Em /D C Am/C Am7 D/F# D C

rest by the wa - ter, run in the wind.
 ac - cept the bal - ance of who I am. With the
 care for my bro - ther, bend with their pain.
 praise for the dawn - ing beau - ty of day.

G Bm Am7 /B C G Bm Am7 /B /C

Lord by my side I will stand on the moun - tain,
 say yes to the call - ing,
 we will rise up to - geth - er,
 I will sing, sing for - ev - er,

Bm /A Em/G /F# Em Am/C Am7 Bm7 Em D Em

drink from the foun - tain of love deep with - in.
 fear not the fall - ing, trust in God's plan.
 strength-en each oth - er, cour - age re - gain.
 al - ways a lov - er, seek - ing God's way.

Words: Jim Strathdee (1941-) Music: Jim Strathdee (1941-) CCLI #4440603

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You are called to tell the story

REGENT SQUARE 878787

B \flat B \flat /F B \flat B \flat /F F/E \flat B \flat /D E \flat B \flat /D Gm F/A F7 B \flat

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

B \flat /F /D B \flat Cm Gm/D D Gm D Gm/B \flat 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.

B \flat 7 E \flat Cm Dm E \flat 6 Gm Fsus4-3 B \flat

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: Isaac Montgomery (1771-1854) Music: Henry T. Smart (1813-1879)
 For Kensington Presbyterian Church