



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Reaching out for Jesus

October 24, 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)

Announcements

Clicking on or tapping blue text will take you to a web-site

Student Minister: Today Alex Plant, our student minister, will be sharing the Word through preaching and the hymn selections.

Re-opening: We are pleased that we will now be able to sing in the building, as well as over Zoom, YouTube, and with the Text.

Sunday School: is available every week for those who are interested.

Book Study: first Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 - ex. Nov 3rd

This month's chapter is about eating leftovers and asking where there is overlooked nourishment in your life.

While reading the chapter ahead is helpful, you can join in the conversation without that. The group is good for people who have been Christians for a long time, or those with a new curiosity (ie. good to invite friends or family).

Prayer Group: Wed. at 11:30 a.m. in 3500 Benny Av (off the Benny Farm Courtyard). Please let Rev. Peter if you would like to join with zoom and this can be arranged.

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



Prodigal Son - Pompeo Girolamo Batoni

Contacts

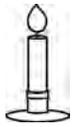
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Approaching God



Lighting of the Christ Candle
Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship (from Psalm 47)

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.

**For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.**

God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

**Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**

♪ Hymn: Oh for a thousand tongues to sing.....pg 8 (374)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbiQ17uulKU



choir of 21 262 participants: the Iglesia Ni Cristo (Philippines)



Prayer of Approach

Jesus, we come to you now,
with the various obstacles of our lives still holding us down.
Notions and cultures that sideline us from your path,
attention spans that drag us away from your visions,
even broken parts of ourselves that block our sight of you.

**As we take this time to focus on you,
please lift us through these obstacles. . .**

As we stand with you, we will see places in our lives
that add to the hurt and suffering in the world.

Please forgive us. . .

May your Spirit help us to call out to you,
and then give you space to work wonders
in the world, and in us.

Please help us live into your love, hope and healing.

In Jesus name

Amen.



Assurance of Pardon

Hear these comforting words:

If you repent and believe in God's redeeming mercy,
your sins are forgiven.

Trust in God's promises and begin anew your life
with God and all people
in the name of Jesus Christ.

Know that you are forgiven and live into God's peace.²

² Worship Sourcebook 2.4.33

 Lord's prayer (feel free to use another version/translation)

Just as Jesus Christ taught his disciples how to pray, so too do we follow in their footsteps. Let us take a moment to pray the prayer that Jesus taught us together.

**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: How blessed are the ones who hear.....pg 11 (493)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=riYHe1vDniQ>

 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.³

³ Worship Sourcebook 3.1.24

 Intro to the readings

- Jeremiah spent decades relaying God's messages of impending punishment. Now that the Babylonians have brought destruction, Jeremiah is able to send messages like this to those in exile.
- Our psalm will be the whole thing, and familiar (from two weeks ago). Which half of the psalm are you relating to this morning
- While called a letter, Hebrews is more of a sermon that was a virtually delivered sermon (remembering that paper was the technology of the day). In this section the preacher is linking Jesus to the priest Melchizedek... would have been pretty forgettable with a couple of references, except his fame in this book.
- In the previous chapter of the Gospel Jesus went up the mountain and met with Moses, Elijah, & God. Now Jesus turns towards Jerusalem and his fate there. Along the way people come with desires - such as the rich man wanting a different life, James & John wanting glory and power. They receive hard invitations. How do things go in this encounter?

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

[Jeremiah 31](#): 7-9

[Psalm 126](#)

[Hebrews 7](#): 23-28

[Mark 10](#): 46-52

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: Reaching out for Jesus - Alex Plant

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

Today's Gospel reading is one of many stories we find Jesus healing those who call out to him. Their faith in Jesus' power heals them and we have a happy ending. So too do we have our stories of faith, where we prayed, reaching out to Jesus, calling upon his grace to bless us with healing and salvation. But sometimes we overlook the people that Jesus is healing, focusing on the actual act of healing rather than understanding the people Jesus is healing. And this isn't fully our own doing. Many of the healing acts of Jesus involve unnamed individuals. He heals lepers,⁶ but we don't know who they are. He cured Paralytics,⁷ but we do not know their names. He restores the sight of those who are blind. Some we do not know, but one we do know is the blind beggar we read from the Gospel of Mark.

Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, was a blind man begging by the roadside outside of Jerico. Not much is known about this man. The fact that we know his name is a very rare piece of information. Others in the Gospels who were healed or resurrected that are named include Malchus and Lazarus. More often however, those who seek Jesus' healing power are left unnamed. I often struggle to remember names, and I'm sure I'm not the only one who does. When you meet someone for the first time, sometimes there's overwhelming information being given to us and our focus is on other things the person is saying rather than the biographical details given to us.

When we read about the miracles that Jesus did during his ministry, what do we know about the people Jesus is ministering

to? Sometimes we see that he ministers to crowds of people, while other times it's people in families or people who come to Jesus alone. In Bartimaeus' case, we know that his father's name is Timaeus and that he is a blind beggar sitting on the side of the road outside of Jerico, hoping that passers-by take pity on him. Here in Montreal, we too see those on the side of the road. We usually don't know much about them, we don't know if they are suffering from a medical condition or live in financial instability or if they were cast out of their family because of who they are.

Some of the homeless we see in Montreal are quiet, sometimes seemingly invisible. You may hear them asking for help as people walk by, sometimes they walk up to people directly, or some may just sit quietly on the sidewalk holding a sign or hidden away as they watch onlookers walk past. When we see Bartimaeus on the side of the road, we do not know what he is typically like. What we do know is that when he hears that Jesus is walking past him, he gains a determination to reach out to him like never before.

I'd like you to think of a time when you got really excited when you had the chance to be with someone you haven't seen in a long time or when you met someone you admired for the first time. I have a cousin who lives in British Columbia. The last 2 times I went out and visited her was 2005 and 2013. Just a few months before the pandemic hit, my cousin told me that she was going to be in Mississauga for a week. Being here in Montreal, I wasn't exactly close. But my cousin and I shared some very deep memories together, and I was not going to pass up a chance to visit my cousin. With the geographical boundary significantly shortened, I hopped on a train and off I went. My excitement was rising with each kilometer I went.

When I finally saw her for the first time in 7 years, she and I literally ran towards each other, hugged each other very closely, and began to cry. It felt like a reunion that was long overdue. I

5 Psalm 19:14

6 Mark 1:40-45, Matthew 8:1-4, Luke 5:12-16

7 Matthew 9:1-8, Mark 2:1-12, Luke 5:17-26

never felt so excited and happy to see anyone in my life. It was a wild weekend. We caught up after 7 years, we visited the CN Tower, and gave her the grand tour of Toronto, as she had never been this far East before.

Now imagine Bartimaeus' reaction⁸ when he heard that Jesus was passing by. Like the excitement I had for seeing the cousin I hadn't seen in over 7 years, Bartimaeus "began to shout out and say, Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" Such determination and emotion. Of course, Bartimaeus does not know what Jesus looks like, but he does know who Jesus is. Whether he learns it from passing conversation or if he is told, we do not know. But what we see here, is that he knows who Jesus is, not just the man or by the miracles that he performs, but as the Son of David. I took note of the work of Raquel Lettsome in their analysis of this story. They point out that this is the first time in Mark's Gospel that Jesus is referred to as Son of David. Here, the political implications of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem are made known. Son of David is not just a genealogical reference to Jesus' genealogical heritage, it is a recognition of his messianic nature.⁹ Bartimaeus recognizes Jesus for who he is, and he calls out to him.

But as we see in the Gospel, the crowd attempts to silence Bartimaeus. And while we aren't sure exactly why they are

silencing Bartimaeus, either because he himself is being a nuisance or because they don't like him calling Jesus "Son of David", nonetheless the calls to silence are clear. When we reach out to Jesus, do you feel obstacles getting in the way or

distractions trying to silence you? The pandemic is a very real example, where churches and worship spaces found themselves suddenly closed because it was no longer safe to gather together in worship. Some churches found themselves suddenly blindsided, uncertain of what to do. Many turned to online platforms, something which would not have been possible 20 years ago.

But do we sometimes silence ourselves? When we fear the judgement of others or the consequences of living our faith, do we see ourselves as being silenced, or the ones silencing ourselves. Bartimaeus had the courage to call out to Jesus. He heard the crowd of people trying to silence him. He had no way of knowing how many people were trying to keep him quiet, but he persisted "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ... "Son of David, have mercy on me!" . Sometimes we can feel surrounded by fear and discouragement which keeps us silent in our faith. Others may try to make us feel ashamed of our faith.

When Jesus called Bartimaeus to him, the crowd suddenly changed their tune. No longer were they trying to keep him silent. Rather, they were encouraging. Take Heart! And when Bartimaeus heard that Jesus called for him, his excitement knew



⁸ image source: <https://i.pinimg.com/736x/05/39/fc/0539fc2dee8c2ad046193cb2bc16ef32.jpg>

⁹ Lettsome, Raquel S. "Mark" in *Fortress Commentary on the Bible: The New Testament*. Pp. 173-215. Margaret Aymer et al. (Ed.) (Minneapolis, Fortress Press, 2014). Pg. 199



Responding to God

no bounds. No longer was he sitting on the side of the road, hoping for a generous stranger to give him some money or food. Bartimaeus leaped and immediately went to Jesus. Like a child on Christmas Morning, rushing out of bed, throwing over the covers and jumping with excitement, getting to the tree as fast as possible to see what Santa Claus left them.

Bartimaeus came to Jesus and Jesus asked what he could do for him. Bartimaeus at this point did not ask for anything specific. He did not ask for a silver coin or some food, only to have Mercy. Bartimaeus wanted to see. He didn't seek fortune or a full belly, only the ability to see. And Jesus said to him "Go; your faith has made you well". We see that Bartimaeus believed in Jesus' abilities, he sought him out the moment he heard he was passing by, and he regained his sight. Like us too, we can often be blinded by distractions and our actions which selfishly hurt others, intentionally or otherwise. We lose sight of what is important and focus on all the wrong things.

Like Bartimaeus, we too are beggars on the road. Sin holds us back from being with God and we are left to ask for forgiveness and healing. Our faith has moments of doubt, our chaotic world seeks to distract us and blind us to Jesus' call. But Jesus is with us. He walks by us each and every day. When we call to him, when we seek his mercy, he stops and he invites us to approach him in prayer and in worship.

And there will be times where the crowds will try to keep you quiet. There will be times when sin tries to hold But Jesus leads the crowd, he commands them with power and glory. He calls you, draws you in with his love and his salvation. For Jesus is with us, and he is ready for whatever we bring him. Open your eyes and your heart to Jesus, for he is the way, the truth, and the everlasting life.

To God be all the glory. Amen.

♪ Hymn: Will you come and follow mepg 9 (634)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=zk6IUajJ3sk

🗨 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: Share a time when you were super excited to meet someone?

Values: How is knowing somebody's name different from not? One of the suggestions from October 3rd was to make a map that named your neighbours... how is that going?

Values: Bartimaeus called Jesus 'son of David'. Thinking of the importance of what we call things, how do you describe God? Jesus? Holy Spirit? What does this say about what you value?

Values: What is an element in you that is making you blind on the road side so that you have difficulty seeing/following Jesus?

Actions: Pray to Jesus together for mercy and help. Try leaving the solution to (and with) God.

✦ 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

Les Hay, who was associated with Kensington growing up, was in the Gazette the other week (Oct 7th, A10). Back in 1980 he was inspired by Terry Fox's daily marathon. Ever since he has been raising money to fight cancer through the Terry Fox Foundation ever since (41 years now). With the help of friends and family he has raised over \$500 000 !! Realizing that this doesn't solve the problem, he will keep raising more (and get his hair cut).



Praise God for inspirational people who are helping heal the world's ills.¹⁰

✧ Prayers of the people

Almighty God,
in Jesus Christ you taught us to pray
and to share our gratitude and concerns with you.
Guide us by your Holy Spirit,
that our prayers for others may serve your will
and show your steadfast love,
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

God the creator,
We pray for the whole creation.
For the ecosystems and microbes,
for the way everything strengthens and reveals you.

We pray that your Spirit will help us heal relationships
between us and creation
and also between people.
That evil will be vanquished,
and justice will be done
so that all your children can live as you created them. . .
Lord, with your grace
Hear our prayers

Gracious God,
you have called us to be the church of Jesus Christ.
Keep us united in faith and service,
with other parts of your body
to share your good news with the world,
in ways that light their path.
and we pray that you continue to bless Kensington,
building those that are here,
and those who you will bring
to live share your love, hope & healing
with our neighbours. . .

Lord, with your grace
Hear our prayers

O God,
whom we cannot love unless we love our neighbours,
remove hate and prejudice from us and from all people,
so that we don't push people to the side,
but help even those we don't want to be near,
to your healing. . .
Lord, with your grace
Hear our prayers

¹⁰ thank you to Nora for bringing this article in

God of compassion,
 bless us and those we love,
 our friends and families,
 that, drawing close to you,
 we may be drawn closer to each other. . .
 Lord, with your grace
Hear our prayers

Merciful God,
 We thank you that we are living in a place with such skilled
 first responders and health care providers.
 We ask you to look with compassion on those who are struggling
 physically, mentally or spiritually,
 that you be with their loved ones
 and bring healing as a sign of your grace. . .
 Lord, with your grace
Hear our prayers

Mighty God,
 we thank you that you care about us
 and involve us in your work.
 May our prayers and actions help to bring your healing to all of
 creation.
 through Jesus Christ.
 Amen.¹¹

♪ Hymn: Lord Jesus, You shall be my song.....pg 10 (665)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFxmIT_NJyo

✦ **Benediction** (Numbers 6:24-26)
*The LORD bless you and keep you;
 the LORD make his face to shine upon you
 and be gracious to you;
 the LORD turn his face toward you
 and give you peace.
 Amen.*



God in Christ
374 Oh for a thousand tongues to sing
 RICHMOND 8686CM

G D/F# D C/E G C D7 G Em6 D/F# G6 D7/A A7 D #.

1. Oh for a thou - sand tongues to sing my great Re - deem - er's praise, the
 2. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, and bids our sor - rows cease—'tis
 3. He speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new life the dead re - ceive; the
 4. Hear him, you deaf; you voice - less ones, your tongues a - gain em - ploy; you
 5. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro - claim, and

G/B Em Am D/C G7/B G7 C G/B C/B D7/A G C G/DD G

glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace.
 mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears; 'tis life and health and peace.
 mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice; the hum - ble poor be - lieve.
 blind, be - hold your Sav - iour comes, and leap, you lame, for joy.
 spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ours of thy name.

¹¹ shaped by *Worship Sourcebook* 4.4.24

634

Will you come and follow me

KELVINGROVE 76767776

Unison F C7 Dm Gm7 Csus4 - 3

1. Will you come and fol - low me
 2. Will you leave your-self be - hind if I but call your name?
 3. Will you let the blind-ed see
 4. Will you love the "you" you hide
 5. Lord, your sum-mons ech - oes true when you but call my name.

F C7 Dm Gm7 (C11) F

Will you go where you don't know
 Will you care for cruel and kind and nev - er be the same?
 Will you set the pris-oners free
 Will you quell the fear in - side
 Let me turn and fol - low you and nev - er be the same.

Gm7 Bb Am7 Bb6 Csus4 - 3

Will you let my love be shown; will you let my name be known;
 Will you risk the hos - tile stare should your life at - tract or scare?
 Will you kiss the lep - er clean, and do such as this un - seen,
 Will you use the faith you've found to re-shape the world a - round,
 In your com - pa - ny I'll go where your love and foot-steps show.

F C7 Dm Gm7 C11 F

will you let my life be grown
 Will you let me an - swer prayer in you and you in me?
 and ad - mit to what I mean through my sight and touch and sound
 Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

Words: Iona Community (Scotland) Music: Scottish traditional; arrangement John L. Bell (1949-)

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Lord Jesus, you shall be my song

LES PETITES SOEURS 12 14 12 12

D A Bm7 (G/B)A7/C# G/D D

1. Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 2. Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 1. Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;
 2. Jé - sus, je vou - drais te lou - er sur ma rou - te;

D G(sus2) G/F# Em /D A/C# Em/D A/C# (/B) A

I'll tell eve-ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go;
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an - non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
 Jé - sus, je vou - drais que ma voix soit l'é - cho de ta joie,

/G D/F# D G(sus2) B7/D# Em (/D) A/C#

for our life and our peace and our love is your - self.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
 et que chan - te la terre et que chan - te le ciel;

D A Bm7 (G/B)A7/C# G/D D

Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
 Jé - sus, je vou - drais te lou - er sur ma rou - te.

3. As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,
 to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.
 For you saved me by giving your body and blood.
 As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.
4. I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
 but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
 And with all of the family you saved by your love,
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.
3. Jésus, je voudrais te servir sur ma route,
 Jésus, je voudrais partager les souffrances de ta croix,
 car tu livres pour moi et ton corps et ton sang;
 Jésus, je voudrais te servir sur ma route.
4. Jésus, je voudrais tout au long de ma route,
 entendre tes pas résonner dans la nuit près de moi,
 jusqu'à l'aube du jour où ton peuple sauvé,
 Jésus, chantera ton retour sur ma route.

Words: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; translation, Stephen Somerville (1931-)

Music: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus

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Leading Healthy Lives in Guatemala

In the highlands of Guatemala, 43-year-old Adelina López Vásquez lives with her husband Rafael and their family. Adelina is a health and nutrition promoter in her community. Through training workshops, Adelina gained knowledge and skills about how to prepare wholesome and nutritious foods. She learned the importance of maintaining a clean workspace and the benefits of cooking foods made with fresh, local ingredients instead of buying prepared foods. In addition, the training Adelina received on the topics of home hygiene and nutritious diets have helped both her and her community navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, she shares all she's learned with her community so they can also lead healthy lives. Presbyterian World Service & Development works in partnership with local Mayan organization, AMMID.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, October 24 We give thanks for Presbyterian World Service & Development partners who equip families in Guatemala to lead healthy lives through food safety and nutrition training workshops.

Monday, October 25 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Lindsay-Peterborough in Ontario.

Tuesday, October 26 (Intersex Awareness Day) We give thanks for the work of intersex people in advocating for a more just and inclusive health-care system.

Wednesday, October 27 We pray for countries that do not have an adequate supply of the COVID-19 vaccine for their citizens, and we pray that our government and other wealthy nations will help provide doses.

Thursday, October 28 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington in Ontario.

Friday, October 29 We pray for congregations taking proactive steps to combat racism in order to become anti-racist communities.

Saturday, October 30 We pray for people in Afghanistan whose livelihoods have been disrupted by COVID-19 and give thanks for the food assistance they've received through Presbyterian World Service & Development partners.

493 How blessed are the ones who hear

CREDITON 8 6 8 6 CM

Bb /D F Gm Bb/D Eb F Bb /D Eb Bb/D Cm6 Bb F

1. How bless - ed are the ones who hear ce - les - tial Wis - dom's voice,
 2. For Wis - dom's treas - ures great - er are than east or west can hold,
 3. In her right hand she holds to view a length of bless - ed days,
 4. God's Wis - dom is a tree of life whose fruit will nev - er cease;

Bb/D Cm Bb Eb6 Gm F Eb Bb/D Eb Fsus4-3 Bb

and who her kind in - struc - tion make an ear - ly, on - ly choice.
 and her re - wards more pre - cious far than all their stores of gold.
 and hon - ours, rich with splen - dour are what her left hand dis - plays.
 her ways are ways of pleas - ant - ness, and all her paths are peace.

Alternate tune: St. Stephen (Newington)

Words: Michael Bruce (1746–1767), Scottish Paraphrases 1781, alt Music: Thomas Clark (1775–1859); harmony, Martin Shaw (1875–1958)

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