



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Strolling with Jesus?

June 26, 2022

WELCOME, to worship. We are offering a variety of ways for people to gather. We are welcoming people to worship in person (with singing), as well as through Zoom, YouTube, and this printable PDF.¹ If this is how you are worshipping, know that you are not alone... and if you like, you can invite those who live with you to join you, or connect with others through the phone or 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

Communion next week: All who want to know our Lord better are invited to join us the Lord's Supper next. If you are celebrating from home you will have to provide your own elements. Those who come in person will be offered a pre-packaged package.

Prayer Group: Thursdays 9 am at Benny Farm 3500 Benny Ave. Common Room beside central courtyard)

Bible Study: ...

Drop Box: We are now accepting food donations to help the St. Monica's Food Pantry, AND items to help the young parents program at Head & Hands (ex. clothing, diapers, toys).

Photos: If you have any photos you would be willing to share, please send them in.

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



Begging Jesus - T Schmalz

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 (Psalm 89: 1-2)

We will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;

with our mouths

we will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

We declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

♪ Hymn: Come, let us sing.....pg 10 (412)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Zs9o82P_so



Celebration - John Swanson



Prayer of Approach

Dear Lord,

As we gather here this morning,

on this feast day of John the Baptist.

Help us to remember all the various ways

that you invite people to help bring about your kingdom.

From John standing up to governments

to the disciples leaving their homes to learn from you

to the man healed of demons who stayed home.

Let us see their legacy behind us

as we travel on with you.

Jesus, you have a plan.

You want us to come with you,

but too often we come up with reasons not to.

individually and collectively

They are good reasons,

but they still stop us.

Your ways can be uncomfortable,

ask us to not know all the answers,

but to trust that you will provide.

Please forgive us our lack of faith,

and the ways we can find to avoid committing to you,

and spreading your love, hope and healing.

May your Spirit help us to forgive ourselves

for the pain we have allowed,

and for what we cannot solve.

May you heal us,

and fill us with love and hope.

Amen.

✦ Assurance of Pardon²

In Christ, we are made a new creation;
the old life is gone and the new life has come!
Know that God loves you and forgives you.
and may the Spirit help you not to be afraid to make a new start

👤 The Lord's Prayer (please use a version you are comfortable with)

To help us build a solid foundation, you left us a prayer. Let us now say/sing The Lord's Prayer

**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

✦ Children's story³

- 1) think of something you like doing
- 2) Why do you like doing it?
Is it because you experience joy? or peace?

I started to learn how to play music when I was little. I don't remember what I thought of it back then - although I know that sometimes having to practice wasn't fun. However, for quite a while now playing music brings me joy and peace - and it's one of the reasons I do it.

² <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/> for June 26

³ [Galatians 5](#) is also in the lectionary for today, but it needs more attention than it could really get today.

I can imagine it's the same with sports. You may start playing because you have to for school, or your parents sign you up. As you play though you find joy - and then you start to play because you enjoy it (even when it's hard).

In the Bible 'joy' and 'peace' are two parts of what Paul describes as the Fruit of the Spirit. Paul reminds us that trying to follow God's Spirit will bring us joy and peace, and that will free us from bad things. It can be hard at first, but with practice we experience more joy and peace.

(You practice by trying to be kind, patient, generous, & loving)

Dear Jesus,

*Help us to follow you
and so filled up with your love, joy and peace
that it overflows into everyone around us.*

Amen.

🎵 Hymn: I've got the joy.....pg 11

www.youtube.com/watch?v=wT87-yVv-jU



there is joy in the presence of Jesus - Rebecca Brogan

Prayer for Illumination

Blessed are you, Lord God,
King of all creation:

As you teach us by your Word.

Open our hearts to your Spirit
and the courage to walk with Jesus.

All praise and glory be yours forever. Amen.⁴

Intro to the readings

- Our first reading continues from where last week's stopped. Elijah recognized God and was nourished enough to return to work. Now he is told to go find Elisha.
- Our gospel reading jumps a little. Since last week's reading Jesus had the transfiguration experience where he was blessed by God. His disciples prove in a couple of ways that they really don't get it. Despite that, it is time, and he starts towards Jerusalem and those in power. We join him along the way.
- The psalm has an added repetition that helps bring the message home.

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

[1 Kings 19](#): 16b, 19-21

[Luke 9](#): 56-62

[Psalm 16](#)

Sermon: Where is your God?

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

⁴ Worship Sourcebook O.3.1.1

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

How do you imagine Jesus? When you pray or talk to Jesus, what sort of feeling do you have of him?

I quite like when Jesus invited the children to come sit with him. It shows how inclusive and approachable Jesus is. I like this friendly/gentle Jesus.

There's a movie called *Talladega Nights* that provides a silly example of this. It's about a NASCAR driver, and there's a scene he's saying grace. When addressing his prayer to "dear tiny infant Jesus" his wife interrupts and points out that Jesus grew up and it's a bit weird to be praying to a baby. He replies that when she prays she can pray to whichever Jesus she wants, but he likes the baby Jesus best.

I'm asking you to consider how you imagine Jesus, because it influences what you expect. How you follow Jesus. Why do you follow?



The aspect of Jesus I like best isn't what we heard today - and it's definitely not the cute baby Jesus. Here he is saying some hard things.

Some of you may remember a time when it was easier to follow God. It used to be that everyone was a Christian - or at least everyone who mattered. Scholars call this Christendom - combining the words Christianity and Kingdom. There are stories about the Canadian government waiting to hear from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. I've heard more recent stories about how churches were where you'd go to find a girlfriend. It might have felt easy to be a Christian, you could just sit back and let it happen.

I expect that's an exaggeration.

I also expect that this passage would still have been challenging because it's about not sitting back. It's about walking away from what the rest of society expects.

Our Gospel reading gives us three brief encounters between Jesus and people interested in following him.

Let's start with the middle person. Jesus invites them to follow, but they respond by saying 'okay, but let me bury my father first.' All of us have been affected by the death of somebody we care about. If it hasn't happened to you directly during COVID, then it happened to somebody you know. This has driven home how important it is to have that time to gather and say farewell. Isn't Jesus supposed to be sensitive and caring? What's going on here? A family funeral is something that we, in our culture, would expect time off work for ...which is what the experts suggest is going on. They suggest that the person called is being bound, tied down, by cultural expectations. That they need to choose between

following Jesus and following culture.

I'm not satisfied with that. Yes, there's a lot about a funeral that is cultural, but it helps us walk with our grief - which may be another part of what is going on. While I encourage people to plan their own funerals (we even have a booklet to help you), funerals are for those still here. As the ones walking this earth, is Jesus encouraging us to focus on those who are still here? The dead have nothing more to worry about, but the living... they need to hear about the Kingdom of God - to start living in the Reign of God. and there seems to be an urgency to sharing this good news.



Response to God - Phil Irish

The next person tells Jesus, “*I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home.*” Again, Jesus isn’t empathetic. Does he not understand what it’s like to be part of a family... or is his idea of family different than ours? He tends to refer to us as children of God, and as his brothers and sisters. Jesus considered his followers as part of his family - and quite possibly everyone else as well. Maybe Jesus doesn’t understand what it’s like to be part of a small, intimate family? Although, since he grew up in one, I think he does. Perhaps his concern is over having more loyalty to them than the rest of the family - or even more important, more loyalty to them than to the message of the Kingdom of God.

When following Jesus, you can’t have any divided loyalties. It’s like distracted driving. While people do it all the time, research tells us that driving and talking on your phone (even hands free), checking texts, changing radio stations, or simply drinking coffee all increase your risk of an accident. We need to be focused on walking with Jesus.

To continue with Jesus’ reply, and the driving metaphor, “*no one who looks back... is fit for the kingdom of God.*” Again, this is harsh. There’s two things going on here. One is that if you drive looking only in your rear-view mirror you’ll crash (except in parts of the prairies). Or you’ll have put the car in reverse and not be driving into the future. The past can be inspiring. It can be beautiful. These are good things, but it can also be a trap that takes away your freedom. Too much focusing on the past can stop us from living into the Kingdom of God. Is the past what you are living for? Was the way we were living really representative of Christ’s Kingdom? (In talking with someone this week who’s been living longer than I have, he thinks he and previous generations did not live very well for the future.)

Is Jesus telling this potential follower, and us, that we need to

not let those we think of as family distract us from living for the whole people of God? from moving into the future?

And there’s the first person in today’s passage. The one who says, ‘Jesus, I want to go where you’re going.’ To which Jesus replies that while “*birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.*”

I wonder if the person talking to Jesus thought he was headed somewhere nice? Jesus was talking about a kingdom, perhaps he thinks there would be a nice palace? This potential disciple may realize it will be hard work, but Jesus drives that home. “*The Son of Man* (ie. the Messiah, the Saviour, God on Earth) *will have nowhere to lay his head.*” There could be two reasons for this. Either Jesus is going to make people on all sides so mad at him that he has nowhere to go, or this is a journey that doesn’t stop. With the benefit of hindsight, we know that not everyone was mad at him, and that the journey to share the good news continues. It seems the work don’t stop.

But we have homes. Is that okay? I think so. Jesus did not call everyone to leave home and follow him. Today’s passage isn’t the only one about being a disciple. In last week’s passage from Luke, Jesus explicitly told somebody who wanted to follow to stay and simply share his experiences. Instead, today’s messages are about the urgency to share the Good News with the living; the need to focus on the road into the future Kingdom; and that the journey continues.

But that’s not all.

All three situations involve a ‘but’. The people are willing, ‘but’ - and Jesus doesn’t have much patience for that. In the story just before this one a village doesn’t want anything to do with him,

and Jesus tells his disciples to just move on and let them be, but these people who want to follow - from them he wants commitment. There isn't time to plan it all out. There isn't time to pack. It's time to go. Now!



This is not a very Presbyterian way to do things. We like things done 'decently and in good order'. We plan. We talk. We plan some more. We want to know what's going to happen, and have a plan for it. In this passage Jesus is challenging people to put aside their reasons for not starting and to get on with it.

Can you name some 'but' s that are holding us back?

In the last few months I've heard some exciting ideas bubbling up. There's the recognition that many groups use our building, but may not realize that we are a church. There's the question of how we can humbly share where we find nourishment. That is one reason behind the discussion to redo our entrance.

There's also been ideas such as an inter-generational choir, or a music school, more intergenerational activities, ways to value and include our young people, a way to connect them with more senior members, perhaps a adult and youth discussion group that meets in a coffee shop, or a speaker series, connecting with groups outside our congregation, ...even summer community BBQs.

There are many reasons we can put off doing these ideas, or something else. The usual big ones are money and people, then there's getting overwhelmed by the many little details. If it's a new activity, the national office has grants to help. They can't provide the people. So what excites you? What are you concerned about? What passions has the Holy Spirit stirred in your heart? How can we share God's love, hope and healing?

because this is why God has placed Kensington in here - to nourish us for the journey, and to use our collective wisdom and talents to share the Kingdom of God.

To God be all the glory

Amen.



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: Lord of all power.....pg 12 (626)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=u23H1JJFArs

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

Values: Identify ten things that you value?

Etching: The Gospels share various aspects of Jesus with us: baby, refugee, gracious, rude, welcoming, challenging, miraculous healing, willing to go into pain & death for us, Describe how you relate to the different aspects of Jesus.

Memories: Share a teaching from Jesus that you have difficulty with, or find challenging (or even ridiculous).

Wonder: What is a theme/need that God calling Kensington to go to?

Without worrying about the 'but' for now, how could we journey into this?

Prayer: ...for the insight to know what we can do, and the courage to share this.

✦ Spirit Sightings

I while ago I was at the Presbyterian Music Camp. One of the people I met Tom Allen. He's a creative trombone player. He also hosts the early afternoon music program on CBC radio. This job could simply be a chance for him to announce the next song, but the Holy Spirit has encouraged him to do more. God wants justice and healing. Every week day Tom reads one of the recommendations from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

✦ 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 people⁶

We invite you to include

- *Peggy in your prayers. She discovered this week that she and her daughter both have COVID. Peggy was taken to the hospital as she wasn't able to breath easily.*
- *the Korean congregation and their ministers. Their minister is experiencing paralysis on one side, and their substitute has had to return to Korea for a month due to a family illness.*

God of mystery and mercy,

God of our past and our future,

We come before you today carrying all the hopes and dreams, and the burdens and blessings of our lives.

We bring all that is on our hearts and minds to you today, grateful for the goodness, seeking your comfort and strength, listening for your guidance.

God of purpose and promise,

Receive our prayers.

⁶ adapted from <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/> for June 26

God of life and love,
You engage us in the midst of our lives when we need you.
We pray today for all those who feel fearful about their future,
and for all who wrestle with challenges at work or at home.
We pray for those who are moving to new homes,
that they may find a supporting community.
We remember before you those weighed down by illness or worry,
and all who provide care for those in need of support.

...
Help each one of us face our fears and our challenges
supported by your love and community.

God of purpose and promise,
Receive our prayers.

God of courage and comfort,
whenever we wrestle with any burden,
your Spirit prays within us with sighs too deep for words.
Today we pray for all those whose burdens seem too heavy to bear
For the victims of violence or disaster,
and for their friends and families. . .
For the healing that needs to happen between us and the
Indigenous peoples.
For refugees at risk in so many places in the world,
especially those who have fled Afghanistan and Ukraine. . .
We pray those caught in despair and poverty
in our own community & in forgotten corners of your world...
Renew the strength of all those challenged
by realities beyond their control
and equip our leaders to support those in the deepest need.

God of purpose and promise,
Receive our prayers.

God of the world and all its peoples,
we pray for our nations and our leaders
as we prepare to celebrate St. Jean Baptist Day & Canada Day.
Equip our nations to be a force for justice
and well-being in your world.
Give our leaders wisdom and integrity to make decisions
that provide a good future for all who live here.
Open our eyes and our hearts to the opportunities we have
to share your love, hope and healing.

God of purpose and promise,
Receive our prayers.

In the name of Jesus, the Christ,
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Take my life and let it be.....pg 11 (637)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkNuDT4ficA x2

✦ Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:13)
*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.*
Amen.



Come, let us sing

1. Come, let us sing of a won-der-ful love, ten-der and true,
 2. Je - sus the Sav-iour this gos-pel to tell joy - ful - ly came,
 3. Je - sus is seek-ing the wan-der-ers yet; why do they roam?
 4. Come to my heart, O thou won-der-ful love; come and a - bide,

ten - der and true; out of the heart of the
 joy - ful - ly came, came with the help - less and
 why do they roam? Love on - ly waits to for -
 come and a - bide, lift - ing my life till it

Fath - er a - bove, stream - ing to me and to
 hope - less to dwell, shar - ing their sor - row and
 give and for - get; home, wea - ry wan - der - ers,
 ris - es a - bove en - vy and false - hood and

you: won - der - ful love, won - der - ful love
 shame: seek - ing the lost, seek - ing the lost,
 home: won - der - ful love, won - der - ful love
 pride: seek - ing to be, seek - ing to be

dwells in the heart of the Fath - er a - bove.
 sav - ing, re - deem - ing at meas - ure - less cost.
 dwells in the heart of the Fath - er a - bove.
 low - ly and hum - ble, a learn - er of thee.

Words: Robert Walmsley (1831-1905) Music: Adam Watson (1845-1912)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

I've Got the Joy, Joy, Joy

257

1 I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
 2 I've got the peace that pass - es un - der - stand - ing,
 3 I've got the love of Je - sus, love of Je - sus,

down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
 down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;
 down in my heart, down in my heart, down in my heart;

I've got the joy, joy, joy, joy,
 I've got the peace that pass - es un - der - stand - ing,
 I've got the love of Je - sus, love of Je - sus,

down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.
 down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.
 down in my heart, down in my heart to stay.

637 Take my life, and let it be consecrated

LÜBECK 7777

C Am G C F G7/D C G C/E G/B Em C6 D G

1. Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2. Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3. Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly for my King;
 4. Take my sil - ver and my gold: not a mite would I with - hold;

C F/A G C/E Dm/F A7/E Dm Am Dm G/B C Gsus4-3 C

take my mo - ments and my days: let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use eve - ry power as thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine;
 take my heart: it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee.

Alternate tune: Mozart

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879) Music: Freylinghausen's Geistreiches Gesangbuch 1704

Words: public domain Music: public domain

Lord of all power

SLANE 10 11 11 11

Chords: Eb /G Ab Bb /Ab Eb/G Ab/C Fm6 Eb

1. Lord of all power, I give you my will,
 2. Lord of all wis - dom, I give you my mind,
 3. Lord of all boun - ty, I give you my heart;
 4. Lord of all be - ing, I give you my all.

Chords: Eb/G Bb Fm /Eb Bb/D Eb /G Ab Eb/G Eb6 Bb

in joy - ful o - be - dience your tasks to ful - fil.
 rich truth that sur - pass - es our know - ledge to find.
 I praise and a - dore you for all you im - part:
 If e'er I dis - own you, I stum - ble and fall,

Chords: Eb/G Ab Ab/Eb Eb Bb/D Cm Gm 7 Ab

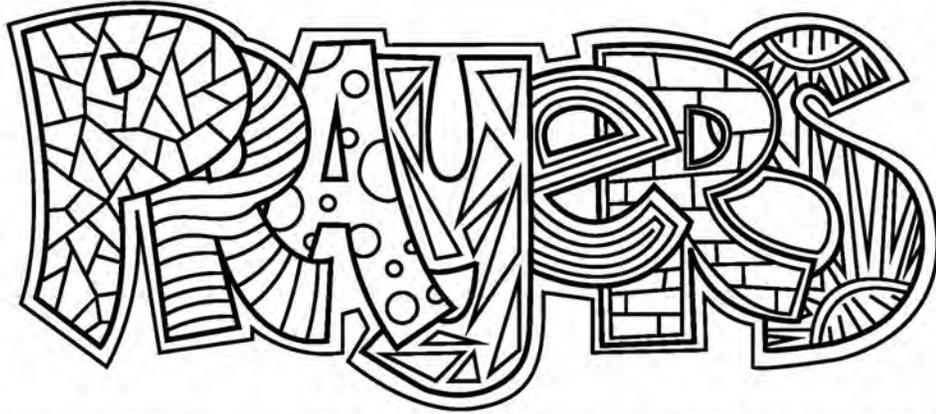
Your bond - age is free - dom, your serv - ice is song,
 What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard
 your love to in - spire me, your coun - sel to guide,
 but, sworn in glad serv - ice your word to o - bey,

Chords: Bb/Ab Eb/G Eb /D Cm Eb/G Ab6 /C Eb

and, held in your keep - ing, my weak - ness is strong.
 is taught by your Spir - it and shines from your word.
 your pres - ence to cheer me, what - ev - er be - tide.
 I walk in your free - dom to the end of the way.

Words: Jack C. Winslow (1882-1974) Music: Irish traditional; harmony, Erik Routley (1917-1982)

Words: copyright © Mrs. J. Tyrrell Music: harmony, copyright © 1975 Hope Publishing Co. 808



In Malawi, Winson is the sole guardian of his 11-year-old grandson, Emmanuel. Emmanuel, who is HIV positive, was often sick in the first nine years of his life despite being on antiretroviral drugs to treat his HIV status. One day, Winson attended a workshop on making backyard gardens, where he learned how these gardens can improve nutrition. Inspired, Winson planted his own backyard garden with various vegetables. **The garden has not only improved his family's diet but has also become a source of income.**



Now, Emmanuel is not getting sick as often as he used to. This project, providing assistance to vulnerable children and their caregivers, is supported through the church by Presbyterian World Service & Development.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, June 26 We give thanks for the care and support the church is helping provide to vulnerable children in Malawi through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

Monday, June 27 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Westminster in British Columbia.

Tuesday, June 28 We pray for the members and work of the International Affairs Committee.

Wednesday, June 29 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Brandon in Manitoba.

Thursday, June 30 We pray for congregations going through times of transition. May they be patient and open to seeing and acting on God's will when times are challenging.

Friday, July 1 (Canada Day) We pray that Canada will be a just, equitable and welcoming country; and we pray for the politicians and public servants who form and keep our laws.

Saturday, July 2 We give thanks and pray for pastors and congregations of the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, Ukraine, who are welcoming and showing hospitality to refugees and internally displaced people during the war.