



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Where is your God?

June 19, 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.



Roses - Francis' garden

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 (Matthew 11:28-29)

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.”

♪ Hymn: O Breath of Life.....pg 10 (384)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=5QHZB_v0ZaY



Airborn - A Wyeth



Prayer of Approach

Dearest Lord Jesus,
You invite us to come to you,
and we have.
Now help us to open our hearts and minds
to be refreshed and nourished
so that we will grow closer to you
and closer to being like you.

As a part of this,
help us to realize when we do not succeed.
To see when we have not lived out your love,
or shared hope,
or helped heal relationships between people,
or relationships with the environment.

...

Please forgive us
and help us to live better.

In Jesus name
Amen.



Assurance of Pardon

Hear these words of assurance:
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.



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 story

What is a time-out? Usually it's when someone is too upset, or tired, or overwhelmed to participate in a healthy way.

Do you think that happened to anyone in the Bible? It does. Probably several. One of them is Elijah, and Kalpana will share that story in a few minutes.

Elijah has been delivering messages for God, and doing some pretty awesome miracles along with them. Except now the evil queen wants to kill him. He doesn't know what to do, so he runs. But he still feels it's all too much, so he gives up.

But God doesn't. God does give him some time and help to get back on his feet - like having a time-out or a quiet-time.

Sometimes we all need that before going back to things.

Dear Jesus,

*Help us to know when to take a time-out,
 and fill us up so that we can keep going.*

Amen.



As the deer - Kerry Allen

♪ Hymn: As the deer.....pg 10 (27)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=UZv3jzOTE70



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 lead us on the paths of Christ, your Son.
 All praise and glory be yours forever. Amen.²

² Worship Sourcebook O.3.1.1

✦ Intro to the readings

- The readings are long today, but they are good (you may actually want to expand them even more).
- In the first passage, Jezebel is the Queen of Israel and doesn't worship God. Elijah just encouraged the crowd to kill her priests, and she's not happy.
- The psalms were probably one psalm. As we read it I expect you'll figure out why that's the theory.
- In the Gospel readings Jesus has sailed across the lake. One theory as to what Jesus is doing here is seeking a little time-out from the crowds. Does he succeed?

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

[1 Kings 19](#): 1-15a

[Psalm 42 & 43](#)

[Luke 8](#): 26-39

✦ Sermon: Where is your God?

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

¹ *As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.*

² *My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When shall I come and behold
the face of God?*

³ *My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me continually,
“Where is your God?”*

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

We shared this psalm in the Prayer Group this week. Peggy suggested that it has something everyone can relate to. What do you think? Can you relate? Are there times when you feel that your reserves are empty and you need refreshing straight from God? Has anyone ever looked at you and asked, “Where is your God?”

Have you ever wondered, “Where is my God?”

This week our Presbytery is meeting (here). One of the reports includes some observations from a recent round of mini-visits with congregations. We learned that the situation in all the congregations in the Presbytery has something in common. The ministers are exhausted, and the elders are stressed about the future. It begs the question, ‘Where is God?’

These aren't the only places people feel this way.

I read this week about a school principal who was ready to quit because the kids are, as he put it, “not okay... neither are the parents, nor are the teachers. And neither am I.”⁴ He went on to describe how the children are “quick to engage in harmful attention-seeking activities.” While parents and teachers have less patience with out of line behaviours or situations.

Does this sound familiar?

I feel we can find it everywhere?
even in the Bible...

It's one of the comforting aspects of the Bible. While there are pictures of beautiful utopia's to give us hope, most of the Bible deals with people in the troubles of life - and the question of ‘where is God?’

⁴ credenceandco.com/congregations/june-2022-what-do-we-do-now-2/

Take Elijah, for example. God has done some powerful things through him: such as start and end a famine (to bring people's attention back to God), and there's the non-Jewish widow he stayed with whose containers never ran out, and her son being raised from the dead, and winning the show-down against the priests of the Canaanite god. These were some impressive events to see.

But in today's story, Elijah isn't feeling very optimistic. After winning the show-down with the queen's priests he encouraged the crowd to lynch them. Not a good way to show grace to others. Then the queen wasn't impressed and ordered Elijah killed - so he ran. He's stressed, and then depressed. 'What's the point in going on?' he asks.

Do you know people who are feeling that way?

Have you felt like that?



spiral - M Moyers

In Luke we are introduced to a man who is tormented. He is not able to function in his community. In fact, they decided that the best way forward was to tie him up out of town so that he doesn't hurt anyone - with a guard to keep an eye over him. Without knowing more of the details, it is always good to assume that people intend the best as they understand it - in this case it is putting the needs of the community ahead of the individual, at the expense of his freedom and the guard's. This is a situation that the man has no control over and did nothing to cause. He is possessed by demons - like mental illness, it's not something you cause or deserve. He is having a miserable and isolated life. (Have you ever felt like your life is miserable and you've done nothing to deserve it? Have you felt isolated from your community?) His situation defines him so much that he doesn't have any name, any identity, other than his situation. (Have you ever felt defined by your weakness or failure?) I wonder if anyone came up to him and asked, "Where is your God?"

Of course, they wouldn't have been quoting the psalm. Why? Because they weren't Jews. This is on the other side of the Sea of Galilee. To drive the point home, they have a herd of pigs... something no self-respecting Jew would have anything to do with.

So what's Jesus doing there? After all, he's a Jew. More than that, Jesus is the Messiah for the Jews. He is supposed to bring them freedom. What is the Son of God doing on the other side?

Well, it's actually an interesting answer to the question, "Where is your God?"

Throughout the Gospels Jesus goes where you would expect. He visits the usual teaching places. He talks with the religious leaders. He collects some students. However, he also goes to the unexpected places: having dinner with sinners, interacting with

lepers, ...he even helps a Roman centurion. His students are not the sort that anyone would expect. As for his timing, it can be acceptable, and shockingly not, such as healing on the Sabbath.

“Where is your God?”

As might be expected, Elijah’s experience also shows God in expected and unexpected situations. For example: God was in the resurrection of the boy, and the fire from Heaven - events that attracted lots of notice and showed great power. But God also appears unnoticed. There’s the angel giving Elijah nourishment for the journey. However, I have the impression Elijah puts the food in his mouth without noticing either the food or the angle. He definitely feels alone, lost, depressed, and hopeless.

Then Elijah experiences powerful elements that people often find God in: wind, earthquake, fire - but God isn’t in the expected. This time Elijah notices God in the stillness. (How do you take time to notice God? Do you listen, or just talk?)

Elijah is starting to be healed. His answer to God shows he’s still very focused on himself, but he seems to accept that he is not as alone as he felt. He accepts that, with God, there is a future, and that he has a part to play in it. Elijah is restored enough to return and carry the image of God back to his community.

“Where is your God?”

It seems that God is talking to unexpected people, in unexpected places, and bringing unexpected results.

Perhaps that is why the community that met Jesus were *“were seized with great fear.”* While having somebody possessed by demons was not a good thing, they had figured out how to live with these demons. Now what? What did this unexpected healing from this unexpected person mean about the world? The world

had changed.

This can be hard for us. Yes, change, but also that God is in unexpected situations. I expect for many in Jesus’ day, the situations Jesus went into were unimaginable situations for God to be in. How can we expand our imagination of where God could be?

This question I’m actually going to attempt to answer.

One part is to recognize that God can be in the expected places. There’s Elijah’s examples from earlier in his story. Before our Gospel story Jesus was teaching crowds of people - something you’d expect God to do. Then, while they were sailing across the lake Jesus showed that he could calm a violent, and unexpected, storm. Afterwards the disciples were afraid and amazed, but as we know Jesus is God - command over creation isn’t surprising.

Where would you expect to find God? At church. In prayer. In the Bible. In Christian community activities, like Bible studies, or prayer groups, or worship. You probably expect to find God in difficult times, although they can be overwhelming. I hope you expect to find God in good times as well.

God is active in expected situations.

...and unexpected situations.

This requires more attention. Listening for the voice of God all the time, but especially when it’s least likely to be noticed. Developing a sense of curiosity and looking to be amazed can help. Wonder. How could God be active in this situation? How could God be inviting love, hope and healing? Prayer will help. Dedicated time listening to God will help. Learning stories of God’s involvement from the bible, and other situations, will help. Remembering that God is always working in and through communities can help you to do that as well. Kensington is one

community, but you are a part of others as well.

The Beatitudes were included in our Bible study this week. You're probably familiar with them. "Blessed are the poor in spirit,... Blessed are those who mourn, ...the meek, ...those who hunger ...the merciful, ...the pure in heart, ...the peacemakers, ...those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake" The point was that this isn't a checklist but a map. These are situations where the Holy Spirit is going to be active. Can you find situations like that in your communities?

One way that can help is to use the daily prayer list found in the bulletin online. This shares situations from throughout our larger church.

Another thing that will help answer the question of "Where is your God" is to remember what happened to Elijah and the man healed of his demons. Neither were invited to sit back, enjoy learning more, and stay feeling safe with God in the moment of their encounter. Neither were given what they asked for. Both of them were sent back to their communities to share their experiences.

and that is what we are to do too. With nourishment from the Holy Spirit, our gifts and abilities will be used to share our experiences with God's love, hope and healing... quite possibly in ways we may find unexpected.

To God be all the glory
Amen.

Soaring Spirit
James Fissel



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: Spirit of the living God.....pg 11 (400)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=p5JYgmsy7X4

🗨 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: Have you ever felt like your life is miserable and you've done nothing to deserve it? Have you felt isolated from your community?

Memories: Have you ever felt defined by your weakness or failure?

Values: How are you refreshed?

Actions: How do you take time to notice God?

Actions: How is listening a part of your relationship with God?

Wonder: What's the most unlikely situation you can dream of to find God in? (try and outdo each other)

Wonder: Where is God?

Prayer: ...that we may feel God's nourishment, wisdom, courage and love - and share these gifts with our neighbours.

✦ Spirit Sightings

Justin Bieber, one of the top pop singers, made an interesting post on his Instagram story last Monday. He shared that he is suffering from a rare side effect of shingles that has paralyzed half of his face. It should be temporary. He shared with his fans, "Each day has gotten better and through all of the discomfort I have found comfort in the one who designed me and knows me. I'm reminded he knows all of me. He knows the darkest parts of me that I want no one

*to know about and he constantly welcomes me into his loving arms. This perspective has given me peace during this horrific storm that I'm facing."*⁵

I don't know much about Justin Bieber. I recall hearing some news in the past that suggest he's hasn't always been a good role model, but this suggest healing and sharing the Good News of God's peace with his community.

Another way that the Holy Spirit is affecting people's lives is through the work of Presbyterian College - and now one of our own has been invited to provide her perspective in shaping the college. Rose has been invited to join the board, and through her (and the other members) God will continue to guide their ministry.



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

Almighty and loving God,
send out your light and your truth,
and let them lead us to you.

Help us to know you better,
so that we will recognize your steadfast love by day,
and be comforted by your song in our night.

⁵ BBC news: www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-61793240

We come to you now in all states of health.

Some who are strong,
and some who are questioning
and looking for hope. . .

God of mercies,

Hear our prayer

We pray for those who are facing change.

For those who are entering their last week of school before the summer. Those who may have yet another assignment or exam. For the staff trying to get everything ready. For those celebrating with a graduation. and for all those who will be shifting into summer mode. . .

We also pray for those who will be changing where they live, meeting new neighbours and neighbourhoods. Having a chance to establish new patterns as their lives change. . .

God of mercies,

Hear our prayer

We pray for those in need of healing,

Including Irene, Jennifer,
the minister of the Korean congregation,
and others . . .

and we pray for those who have loved one who has died.

That they may have found memories,
and support as their journey goes one. . .

God of mercies,

Hear our prayer

Evangel Hall Mission, a mission of the Presbytery of East Toronto, offers welcome, sanctuary and hope to people experiencing homelessness and poverty and struggling with mental health and addictions. A recent initiative of the mission is the Peer Worker Program. Employed by Evangel Hall Mission, peer workers are living role models. They share their own struggles and journeys and act as bridges to help others access Evangel Hall's community resources. It is through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing that peer workers are able to share and inspire hope.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, June 19 (National Indigenous Peoples Day) We pray for the legislation and protection of Indigenous rights in Canadian laws.

Monday, June 20 (World Refugee Day) We pray for families who have been forced from their homelands because of war and persecution. May God encourage and comfort the hearts of refugees on their journey to find stability and peace.

Tuesday, June 21 (National Indigenous Peoples Day) We give thanks for Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers and all Indigenous peoples working for the rights and well-being of Indigenous peoples and communities.

Wednesday, June 22 We join in prayer with the SABEEL Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center and Palestinian Christians as they continue to pray for a just peace and an end to oppression in Palestine/Israel.

Thursday, June 23 We pray for survivors of conversion therapy who are struggling to overcome the shame and trauma caused by interventions that sought to change their sexual orientation or gender identity. May God's comfort and grace surround them and help them to access supports for healing.

Friday, June 24 We pray for interim moderators and search committees as they work to assist congregations in calling a new minister.

Saturday, June 25 We pray for the members and work of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee.

We pray for those who suffer from the effects of racism as the United States⁶ remembers the abolition of slavery, and how far they, and we, still need to go to live out God's love. . .

God of mercies,
Hear our prayer

And we pray for our collective imagination. Through Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, you stretch our imagination so that we can see you in the expected, and unexpected, places and people and times.

Give us the hope & strength to be able to join you in sharing your love, hope and healing to our communities. . .
God of mercies,
Hear our prayer

In Jesus name
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Jesus Christ is waiting.....pg 11
www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Khf1_aURfc

✦ 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.



⁶ today is June 19th, an official holiday in the U.S. to remember the abolition of slavery

384 O Breath of life, come sweeping through us

SPIRITUS VITAE 9 8 9 8

D F#m G A6 A/G F#m7 D/F# Bm /A G6

1. O Breath of life, come sweep - ing through us; re - vive your
 2. O Wind of God, come bend us, break us, till hum - bly
 3. O Breath of love, come breathe with - in us, re - new - ing
 4. O Tongues of fire, come rest up - on us, so we may

D/F# F#m Gmaj7E7/G# Asus4-3 Bm F#m G F#/G G6

church with life and power. O Breath of life, come cleanse, re -
 we con - fess our need; then in your ten - der - ness re -
 thought and will and heart: come, Love of Christ, a - fresh to
 speak your word a - right; kin - dle the flame of love a -

A/G D/F# G D/F# Em6 D F#m G6 A7 D

new us, and fit your church to meet this hour.
 make us, re - vive, re - store, for this we plead.
 win us, re - vive your church in eve - ry part.
 mong us; e - quip your church to spread the light.

Words: Bessie Porter Head (1850-1936), alt; v.4, Iona Maclean (1954-)
 Music: Mary J. Hammond (1878-1964)

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Rev. Peter Rombeek
 for Kensington Presbyterian Church

As the deer

Unison D A/C# Bm G Em Asus A7 D Asus A7
 Capo 2 (C)(C) (G/B) (Am) (F) (Dm) (Gsus G7) (C) (Gsus G7)

As the deer pants for the wa - ter so my soul longs aft - er you;

D A/C# Bm G Em7 A7 D
 C (G/B) (Am) (F) (Dm7) (G7) (C)

you a - lone are my heart's de - sire, and I long to wor - ship you.

Refrain Bm Bm/A G D G G/F# Em F#sus4F#
 Harmony (Am) (Am/G) (F) (C) (F) (F/E) (Dm) (Esus4)(E)

You a - lone are my strength, my shield; to you a - lone may my spir - it yield.

Unison D A/C# Bm G Em7 A7 D
 (C) (G/B) (Am) (F) (Dm7) (G7) (C)

You a - lone are my heart's de - sire, and I long to wor - ship you.

Words: Psalm 42; paraphrase, Martin Nystrom (1956-) Music: Martin Nystrom (1956-)

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Spirit of the living God

F C F B \flat F C F F/A

1. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Spir - it of the
2. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, move a - mong us all; make us one in

C7/G F B \flat Gm F/C C F B \flat F G G 7

liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me. Melt me, mould me, fill me,
heart and mind; make us one in love: hum - ble, car - ing, self - less,

C C7 F C F B \flat F/C C7 F

use me. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fall a - fresh on me!
shar - ing. Spir - it of the liv - ing God, fill our lives with love!

Words: v.1, Daniel Iverson (1890–1977); v.2, Michael Baughen (1930–) Music: Daniel Iverson (1890–1977)

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Jesus Christ Is Waiting

Em A Em Am B7 Em

1 Je - sus Christ is wait - ing, wait - ing in the streets,
2 Je - sus Christ is rag - ing, rag - ing in the streets,
* 3 Je - sus Christ is heal - ing, heal - ing in the streets,
4 Je - sus Christ is danc - ing, danc - ing in the streets,
5 Je - sus Christ is call - ing, call - ing in the streets,

Em A Em Am B7 Em

no one is his neigh - bour, all a - lone he eats.
where in - just - ice spi - rals and real hope re - treats.
* cur - ing those who suf - fer, touch - ing those he greets.
where each sign of hat - red he, with love, de - feats.
"Who will join my jour - ney? I will guide their feet."

Em A D B Em A D B7

* Lis - ten, Lord Je - sus, I am lone - ly too.
Lis - ten, Lord Je - sus, I am an - gry too.
* Lis - ten, Lord Je - sus, I have pit - y too.
Lis - ten, Lord Je - sus, I should tri - umph too.
Lis - ten, Lord Je - sus, let my fears be few.

* or: "Listen, my Jesus"

Words: John L. Bell 1984

Music: French carol, 15th century, harm. The Iona Community 1984

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