



Kensington Presbyterian Church

# Thy Kingdom come

January 29, 2023

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.<sup>1</sup> 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:** everyone who would like to know God better is invited to the LORD's table next week.

**Choir:** would like you to join them. We practice Sunday at 9:30.

**Jesus & Java:** Thursday, 3:30 at Beetz, 5914 Sherbrooke @ Clifton

Join us as we share the joys and questions of faith.

note: the evening session is joining *The Chosen* until into March.

**The Chosen:** Fridays at 7 at church and on zoom

is a Bible study in which we watch an episode of the TV show about the disciples and Jesus, and then discuss it in relation to our lives and the Bible. Discussion will be led by Rev Peter

**Irene MacDonald:** passed away peacefully on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 98.

<sup>1</sup> note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.



## 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

Come bow down and worship the Lord, our Maker.

**This is our God, our shepherd,  
we are the flock let with care.**

♪ Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty.....pg 9 (321)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCnQNwQG5GI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCnQNwQG5GI)



Christ washing feet - Butler



Prayer of Approach

Dear God,

when we stop and think about it,  
it is amazing that you reach out of us  
- each one of us; all of us.

You are God.

creator of the Universe.

and You invite us to walk with you,

helping us like the best of parents.

Inviting us to experience the Kingdom of Heaven,  
now and forever.

What you promise really can seem crazy;  
almost as much as the love you offer.

Our God,

when we stop and think about it,

we realize times when we turn away from you  
choosing to live for ourselves

Mistakenly believing that this will bring  
more respect, peace, or joy.

When really it hurts us,  
others,

and, really, the whole of creation.

Please forgive us. . .

Our Saviour,

Help us to trust you more

so that we can let go of our hurt and feel,  
Making more room for your love.

Help us to trust you more,

so that we can share all that we have,  
and all that we are.

Help us to accept your forgiveness  
and see your Kingdom come.

In Jesus name  
Amen.



### *Listening to God*

#### ✦ Children's story

Today we'll go through an important prayer. We call it The Lord's Prayer. It's once that Jesus taught his students - and people all over the world are still learning it.

Our Father in heaven,.....God wants us, is great parent  
hallowed be your name,.....respect, holy  
your kingdom come, .....  
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.....  
Give us today our daily bread.....basic needs  
Forgive us our sins .....cause hurt  
as we forgive those who sin against us. healing  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil. ....there are bad times  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours.....everything  
Amen..... 'so let it be'

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

**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.**

♪ Hymn: Take me life and let it be.....pg 10 (637)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-T7VyCMbQQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C-T7VyCMbQQ) (dif tune)

#### ✦ Prayer for Illumination

Lord God,  
may your Word be a lamp to our feet  
and a light to our path  
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.



Grandmother and I - Gunnarsdóttir

## ✦ Intro to the readings

- We'll be continuing our series on Matthew, and the Sermon on the Mount.



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,<sup>2</sup> or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Matthew 6: 7-34](#)

[Psalm 119](#) 105-112



## Sermon: Thy Kingdom Come

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

When you hear a chunk of what Jesus is saying, do you ever wonder if you get it? Do you wonder if perhaps Jesus could have said it a bit more clearly?

If so, you're not alone.

Last week we heard the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus announced blessings on various groups that we don't think of as blessed. Then he talked about salt and light. Between that and today's section he took several noble behaviours from the law and challenged the disciples to be more so - building to the challenge to love your enemies.

It was crazy talk - and talk of the Kingdom: both a description of what is and what is coming... just not in a way anybody clearly understood;

and it all continues in today's reading.

Now, you might not feel like it all ties together very well. Please don't blame Jesus for that. It's unlikely that this is exactly how he said it. As I mentioned last week, a lot of what is said in the Sermon on the Mount also in Mark & Luke - but it's presented differently.

Why? In the episode of *The Chosen* (season 3, episode 2) we watched this week Jesus tells the 12 that he will be sending them out two by two. One asked with concern what to say. Jesus encourages them to use any of his teachings. We don't know if he actually said that, but it rings true. It's what I do every week. We share our experiences of Jesus that seem the most relevant to the context.

It's why the teachings found in the Sermon on the Mount show up in different ways in Mark and Luke. Each was written to a different group of people. In the case of the Gospel called Matthew, it seems to be written after the majority of Jews had said "no" to Jesus. Christianity was starting to go its own way. Matthew is written primarily for Jews who were Christians. They probably thought they were more faithful Jews than the rest because they recognized the Messiah. The Gospel was to help them stay a strong community - a community that was living into the Kingdom of God. To help that we have passages like the Sermon on the Mount that point the way; that suggest ways to live that will help people experience the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth.

One good tip is in the first verse Mike read. "*When you are praying, do not heap up empty phrases as the gentiles do.*" Is this about long prayers? not really. It's about saying things that don't have anything behind them. Make sure your actions really represent you - in this case prayer.

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<sup>2</sup> 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

It also leads us into a prayer - and into the middle of the Sermon on the Mount. This is significant. We're used to stories building towards an end. A curious thing for us about the structure of the Sermon on the Mount is that it builds towards the middle, and then goes back through the same themes to the end. The prayer - The Lord's Prayer, is the centrepiece.

It is central to the Sermon on the Mount, and to a Christian life. We teach it to our children. We say it together - and place it deeper in our memories through music. We say it by ourselves to help recenter ourselves on God's way. Praying is what makes it possible to understand God's will and receive the strength to follow. This prayer helps us to honour God through trust and helping "thy kingdom come."

Which brings us back to the Kingdom of Heaven again.

Having said that, I'm not going to spend much more time with the Lord's Prayer as we spent two Sundays focused on it a couple of months ago. If you'd like links, printouts, or just to talk - let me know.<sup>3</sup>

Before moving on though I'd like to touch on the verse before the prayer, "...for your Father knows what you need before you ask him." Does this mean don't bother praying? No. God wants us to pray. What it means is that God is with you and knows you. You can talk about anything with God, because God knows where you're coming from. God wants to hear from you. That is part of what it means to live in the Kingdom of Heaven - being known and able to talk with God.

<sup>3</sup> for more on the Lord's Prayer, please see our worship services from Oct 30 and Nov 6 2022  
PDF with links: [kensingtonchurch.ca/covid-opportunities](https://kensingtonchurch.ca/covid-opportunities)  
YouTube: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmodx7v5dG4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmodx7v5dG4)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=glK6q9yKqks](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=glK6q9yKqks)

Prayer is one common religious practice of the time. Two others were fasting and giving alms (money to the poor). Fasting is about remembering that God provides for you, and will again. Some Christians practice this over Lent (coming up in a few weeks) by giving something up. Others will fast on a regular basis, giving up food for a day or two. The point is to remember that God gives to you. As such, you don't need to do this in a way that attracts attention. It's not about others noticing how holy you are. This is about building your trust/faith in God. As with the points that we skipped leading into the prayer, these are also taken to a new level. He tells them not to look like they're fasting.

While not explicitly mentioned, the next section has to do with giving alms and trusting God. Do you trust God to provide what you need, or do you collect provisions for either security or status - both are still common actions?

Do we need to give everything away?

In Chapter 19 we have the story of the rich young man who asks about the greatest commandment. After agreeing that it is to love God and neighbour he asks what else he can do. Since he



asks for more, Jesus gives it to him. “*If you wish to be perfect, go, sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.*” Jesus doesn’t demand it of him right away, but he asked. As is normal in relationships, the expectation is for trust to build - and we pray it will build to a time when you trust God to provide your needs. This frees you to be a part of providing for others needs.

Is the Bible against savings? No. God has Joseph store grain for the upcoming famine. A key thing to remember is who the actions are for: you or helping others?

What about buying a little happiness? God did create joy... just not at the expense of others. In the Kingdom of Heaven people look after each other - and share the joy.

...and you can trust God to be there with you.

The sermon then shifts, but not really. It’s still about the Kingdom of Heaven. Talking about the eye as a lamp and having two masters builds on another aspect of possessions. Is your priority on honouring God and helping “*thy kingdom come*”? In the ancient near east, including Jews, the eye was a window to the soul. If your eye was full of light then you lived for the love of God and others. If it was in the dark then you lived for yourself. While the state of the light in your body sounds like an internal thing, it is very linked to actions - and whether you are looking out for the Kingdom of Heaven.

Interestingly, they believed that the eye had light - and that’s what helped you see in the dark. The state of your light influenced how you saw the world. How you see the world is shaped by your inside. I’m sure you’ve known somebody consumed by bitterness, envy, loneliness ...or love. It’s easy to see in others - but also true in ourselves. The more we let the

Kingdom of Heaven in, the more we’ll see it around us.

The part about not being able to serve two masters is quite easy to relate too. I remember working on my music degree and the academic profs thought their discipline was the most important, while the practical profs thought we should spend all our time practising. As you can imagine, it’s not possible to do both. You’ve probably struggled with balancing work and home life. Perhaps you’ve struggled with living out church values outside of church... or even inside the church. This is what Jesus is talking about. Do you live for possessions or honour... or do you live for God? What drives you? ...and are you driving into God’s Kingdom?

Then there’s the ridiculous bit about ‘*don’t worry*’. It’s so easy for Jesus to say, but what about us regular people? Except I’ve seen it. Evita, the program director for New Hope, and I were sharing this week about inspiring seniors we know who have lived through so much that nothing fazes them now. They don’t worry. Like this passage and the Lord’s Prayer, they acknowledge there are tough times, but they have faith that what really matters can’t be taken away from them. If you can’t think of any examples yourself, let me know and I’ll introduce you. These people offer witness with their lives to part of what it means to live in the Kingdom of Heaven.

And that is what this Sermon on the Mount is about: The Kingdom of Heaven (or Kingdom of God as it would say in Luke). It is a place where we live for God, and God provides for us. It is a place we get closer to as we focus more on God and less on distractions - like respect and possessions. It’s a place where we can live without worry. With a combination of attitude and

action we can all experience this - starting with prayer to the God who knows you.

Let us pray:

*Our Father, who already leads from Heaven.  
May we live in ways that show your love and respect;  
and may your Kingdom become even more visible here on earth.  
Amen.*



## *Responding to God*

♪ Hymn: Blessed Assurance.....pg 11 (687)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=MeRT4FdEsqE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MeRT4FdEsqE)

💬 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: What stood out for you in this part of the Sermon on the Mount?

Memories: Share a time when you had two (or more) 'masters'? How did you get through it? In hindsight, where was God in the equation?

Wonder: How can we balance "don't worry" and "times of trial"?

Values: What do you value that you feel guilty about? Does your conversation partner agree?

Prayer: ...pray the Lord's prayer, spending time with each line.

## ✦ Spirit Sightings

My Spirit sighting this week isn't actually from this week. We found out this week that Irene MacDonald died and has gone to

join her sister Molly, and others, living with God in a way we can only imagine.

I only witnessed a small portion of her life. In her I saw a combination of faith in God's presence, and responding through actions - especially looking after her younger sisters. If you have more stories, I would appreciate hearing them. While I don't know of a memorial being planned, I could pass them along to her family.

## ✦ 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](mailto:info@kensingtonchurch.ca).

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) are also good options.



 Prayers of the people

Our Father,

We come to you as we are,  
free to tell you anything,  
because you have been with us all our days  
and know us inside out.

Dear Lord

**Your Kingdom come, Your will be done.**

We pray Lord for your Kingdom to come,  
here on earth as in Heaven.  
It can be easy to see where it's not.

We pray for the States as they grapple with a killing by Police.

We pray for the families of those involved,  
and all those who are threatened and betrayed by this.

We pray for your justice to come,  
and that somehow healing may come.

We pray for police everywhere.

Help them with all the demands placed on them.

We pray for all who suffer violence  
whether from strangers, those known to them,  
or by nations such as Russia, Myanmar,  
or between Palestine and Israel.

Dear Lord

**Your Kingdom come, Your will be done.**

Help the light inside us  
not to be polluted by the evil in the world.  
so that we can see your Kingdom come.

Help us to see that you are with us,  
to trust you.  
and to join you in revealing The Kingdom here on earth.

Dear Lord

**Your Kingdom come, Your will be done.**

Jesus, while you didn't just heal everyone,  
you did bring healing and peace.  
We pray for those who are suffering:  
for Irene MacDonald's family  
as they grieve, and figure out how to continue her work  
for those whose bodies are broken. . .

Dear Lord

**Your Kingdom come, Your will be done.**

We pray all this in Jesus name

**Amen.**

♪ Hymn: Simply Trusting.....pg 10 (689)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXpo1VuxC8U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXpo1VuxC8U)

 Benediction

*May Christ, the Son of God,  
become real in you,  
so that your lives may be a light to the world;  
and the blessing of God Almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.  
Amen.<sup>4</sup>*



1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, who rules all cre -  
 2. Praise to the Lord, who in all things so won - drous - ly -  
 3. Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work, who de -  
 4. Praise to the Lord, and with all that is in me a -

a - tion: my soul, praise God who a - lone is your  
 reign - ing hides you with shel - ter - ing wings, ev - er  
 fend - s you; sure - ly God's mer - ci - ful good - ness here  
 dor - ing, all who have life and breath, come with glad

health and sal - va - tion. Come, all who hear, sis - ters and  
 gen - tly sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen how your heart's  
 dai - ly at - tends you; pon - der a - new what the Al -  
 prais - es out - pour - ing! Let the a - men sound from God's

bro - thers draw near, join - ing in glad a - dor - a - tion.  
 wish - es have been grant - ed through God's kind or - dain - ing?  
 migh - ty can do, when in - great love God be - friends you.  
 peo - ple a - gain; now and for - e - ver a - dor - ing!

Words: German, Joachim Neander (1650–1680); translation, Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878); alt  
 Music: Stralsund Gesangbuch 1665; Words: this version, copyright © The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1997

One day, a neighbour asked the Rev. Tim Choi, Executive Director of Edmonton Urban Native Ministry (EUNM) in Alberta: “What difference has the ministry made after all these years?” This prompted the Rev. Tim to think about the impact the ministry has had on Indigenous people in Edmonton’s Eastwood community. He reflected that the journey towards healing and reconciliation must be like a long and flowing river. The harm caused by generations past requires many future generations to heal. In this sense, EUNM is like a little brook that runs alongside this river. God has shaped this ministry into a place of hope for all who gather here. **Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing are helping us on the path to healing and reconciliation through Indigenous ministries like EUNM.**



### DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, January 29** We give thanks and pray for Edmonton Urban Native Ministry in Alberta, a place where warm food is served, accompaniment is offered, and community is formed through prayer and a caring presence.

**Monday, January 30** We pray for the members and work of the National Indigenous Ministry Council.

**Tuesday, January 31** We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Cape Breton in Nova Scotia.

**Wednesday, February 1** This **Black History Month**, we give thanks to God for the many accomplishments and contributions of Black Canadians that have made Canada a multicultural, caring and thriving nation.

**Thursday, February 2** We pray for theological students who graduate this spring and begin the process of seeking a call to a congregation.

**Friday, February 3** We pray for the members and work of the Committee on History.

**Saturday, February 4 (Black History Month)** We pray that all Canadians learn about the struggles and hardship of Black Canadians, who have been largely neglected throughout the history of Canada.

# 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

# 689

# Simply trusting every day

TRUSTING JESUS 7777 with refrain

G C/G G D6-7 G C G D

1. Sim - ply trust - ing eve - ry day, trust - ing through a storm - y way,  
 2. Bright - ly doth his Spir - it shine in - to this poor heart of mine;  
 3. Sing - ing, if my way be clear, pray - ing, if the path be drear,  
 4. Trust - ing him while life shall last, trust - ing him till earth be past,

G C/G C6 G D 7 G

e - ven when my faith is small, trust - ing Je - sus, that is all.  
 while he leads I can - not fall, trust - ing Je - sus, that is all.  
 if in dan - ger for him call, trust - ing Je - sus, that is all.  
 till with - in the jas - per wall, trust - ing Je - sus, that is all.

Refrain G/D D B Em A D /C

Trust - ing as the mo - ments fly, trust - ing as the days go by,

G/B G D G 7 C G/B C G/D Em G/D D7 G

trust - ing him what - e'er be - fall, trust - ing Je - sus, that is all.

10/1 Words: Edgar Page Stites (1836-1921) Music: Ira David Sankey (1840-1908)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

## Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine

ASSURANCE 9 10 9 9 with refrain (9 9 9 9)

D G/D (D) D

1. Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh what a  
 2. Per-fect sub - mis - sion, per-fect de - light, vi-sions of  
 3. Per-fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest; I in my

A/E E7 (A/EE) A D G/D (D)

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of  
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a -  
 Sav - iour am hap - py and blest, watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -

D G6 D/A A7 D

God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.  
 bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.  
 bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

Words: Fanny J. Crosby (1820–1915) Music: Phoebe Knapp (1839–1908)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

## Refrain

D G D

This is my sto - ry; this is my song:

G D/F# A/E E A

prais - ing my Sav - iour all the day long;

A7 D G/D (D) D

this is my sto - ry; this is my song:

D (A/E D) G6 D/A A7 D

prais - ing my Sav - iour all the day long.