



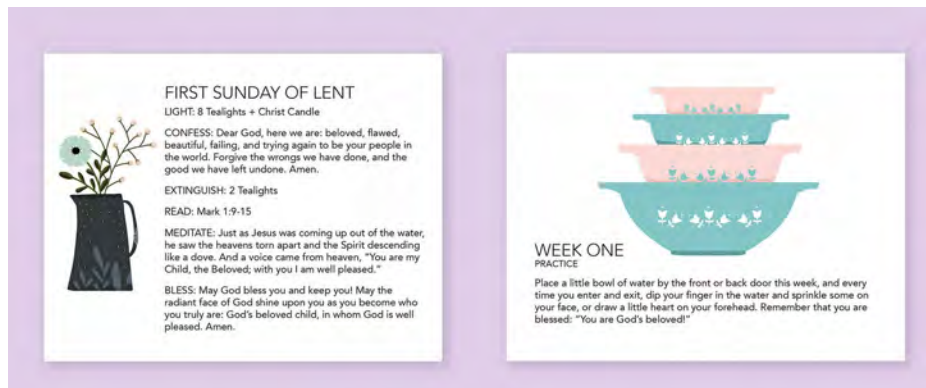
Kensington Presbyterian Church

Crazy Hope

February 19, 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.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)



example of Lent Calendar

Contacts

Church Office: 514-486-4559.....info@Kensingtonchurch.ca
Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor).....Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca
514-773-4620
Antoinette (families).....Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca
Zoé Dupont-Foisy (music director).....zoedupontfoisy@hotmail.com

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

Announcements

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

Lent Devotions: We have a Lent Calendar that invites you to travel with Jesus towards Easter. You can get physical cards or a digital version from Rev. Peter.

Also, there's the online series from Biola of daily scripture, art, music, poem, prayer, & reflection cca.biola.edu/lent. (you don't need to read it all)

Annual Meeting: will be in person & Zoom, March 12 after church.

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

Pancake Dinner: Tuesday, Feb 21st from 6 p.m.
Join us for the return of the annual pancake dinner!
adults \$12, children \$5. (volunteers welcome)

Author & Poet Kenneth Steven: Tuesday, 28th at 2.30 p.m.
The Iona Community is hosting the Scottish poet, novelist and children's author for an evening (their time) on Zoom.

[us02web.zoom.us/j/81143511182?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81143511182?pwd=SFV2QTVCNzdGNVRVTUY4Rit6b29tdz09)
[pwd=SFV2QTVCNzdGNVRVTUY4Rit6b29tdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81143511182?pwd=SFV2QTVCNzdGNVRVTUY4Rit6b29tdz09)

Meeting ID: 811 4351 1182

Passcode: 602812

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).



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 (based on Psalm 84)

We long to live in your kingdom

**at the thought, our mind and flesh sing for joy
to the living God.**

At your table, O Lord of hosts,
everyone finds a home.

**For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.**

Let us worship God...

♪ Hymn: Come Ye Thankful People, Come.....pg 9 (803)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3n7IUCdqAM



The Angelus - Millet



Prayer of Approach

Dear Lord,

The alpha and omega,

we thank you for all the created.

from the fields, and all the good things that grow in them
to the animals... and every part of the ecosystem.

May they remind us of you.

We are sorry Jesus

that we don't always remember you,
or look for you.

We are sorry for the ways we hurt the ecosystems

you have put us in: both the environment and the people.

...

Please forgive us

and help us to know your forgiveness,

so that it changes our lives

and those around us.

Amen.



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.



Listening to God

✦ Children's story

We heard *The Carrot Seed* by Ruth Krauss. It's about a little boy who plants a carrot seed. Everyone tells him it won't grow, but he keeps watering and weeding and watching - and it does grow.

This parable is about the hope that the God's kingdom will come.

Dear Jesus,

Please help us to trust that your kingdom will come,
on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Amen.

🎵 Hymn: Abide with Me.....pg 10 (794)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=deJDkU6qiGE

🧘 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.

✦ Intro to the readings

- Between last week and this week...
 - Jesus and the disciples leave Israel to the other side of the Lake - where wonders happen with outsiders
 - returning, he gets into conflict with church leaders
 - There's more miraculous healings (linked to faith)
 - the disciples set out with powers, and expecting persecution
 - There's a bit with John the Baptist

- Jesus invites those who need rest to follow him
- Jesus gets into conflict over the Sabbath
 - and rejects his mother and brothers
- Then we get to Chapter 13 - full of parables
 - starts with a long one about seeds planted in 4 different fields - and that only one does well in the long run
- Today we'll have one involving yeast. It's not like it is know. They mean a starter, like with sour-dough. Don't think of a little dry yeast, but a chunk of dough kept from the last batch.
- There's some humour you may not get
 - Jesus mentions 3 measures of flour. That's not 3 cups of flour, but 40-60 pounds. Can you imagine trying to knead that much bread dough?
- The Psalm was probably selected because of the line about birds, but it's a good prayer for other reasons too.



Mustard



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

[Matthew 13: 24-43](#)

[Psalm 84](#)



Sermon: Crazy Hope

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

Story time is great.

In this week's episode of *The Chosen* Jesus asked one of the disciples to get an old wine skin off the wall. The rest got all excited at the prospect of a parable coming their way... and then they didn't understand what the point was that Jesus was trying to make.

Why did Jesus tell a parable?
and what is a parable?

In short, a parable is a short story that makes a comparison. Academics have many types, but that probably gets in the way of the story.

Does Jesus use them because they are confusing? Perhaps. A parable needs the listener to engage their imagination; they won't get it if they just passively listen. Parables also allow for multiple levels of meaning. Perhaps most importantly, stories (including parables) stay with us - like a seed planted in our soul.

Parables have barbs that help them get stuck in our imaginations. They aren't barbs that hurt, but are instead things that just don't make sense... or are even ridiculous.

For example, take the enemy that plants weeds among the wheat. Have you thought about that? Where did the seeds come from? Did the enemy go around collecting the seeds from weeds thinking this was a cunning plan to destroy the harvest? Wouldn't it have been easier to just let it grow a bit and then let some goats in, or drive some cattle over it... or burn the field?

And then there's the servants who ask about the weeds. Before pesticides it would be normal to have weeds - and normal to remove them. Their question and the master's response are also odd.

This helps the story stick with you, especially if you were a farmer 2000 years ago.

There are odd parts to the other parables too, but let's stick with this one for a moment - because the point is not to tell a confusing story, or even one that is ridiculously funny.

Why tell about a field of good and bad wheat? Because that's what life is like. If the field is the world, then we can all see that there's good and bad in it. If the field is you, well, we should all admit there are good and bad impulses and actions in ourselves. The good and the bad are both growing. Often when we look at the world, or our own lives, we see the bad. Things that we wish were different... and things that are just plain evil. This parable tells us that God's Kingdom is growing while mixed in with the rest of the world. It is here.

This parable also tells us that the growing doesn't go on forever. When it's ready, the harvest will come. Then another strange thing happens, the weeds will be collected first (usually it would be the good wheat) and they are burned (that's normal). Who judges which is good and which is bad? Not the wheat. Not the servants. The master has specialists for that. So, let's not get wrapped up with judging - especially since there's bad in all of us.

² 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

In the next parable Jesus uses another agricultural image. This time it's not from a farm, but a garden that anyone might have. He says that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed. This probably got a laugh at the ridiculousness of it. Shouldn't God's kingdom be grand? Special? Like the cedar of Lebanon, or the redwood? Instead Jesus picks a plant that grows everywhere (whether you like it or not). It's a plant with goodness: the greens can be cooked as a vegetable, and the seeds add flavour - and are even used as medicine. It's not a majestic tree, but it can grow to be as tall as I am and provide a home for birds. This is all true, but in the future of Jesus' parable. It starts with a seed - a small seed. The Kingdom of Heaven starts small - essentially invisible. If you looked at your garden, you'd never notice it until the roots were already reaching into the soil. And that is what the Kingdom of Heaven is like - something that is so small it's overlooked... but it will grow to provide goodness to any that come to it. For those wondering where God's goodness is... this is hope.

It's also common. While useful, the mustard plant can also be a weed. It'll grow whether you like it or not - which I believe is another characteristic of God's kingdom. Nobody can stop it.

But back to the commonness of the mustard plant. The Temple in Jerusalem was built with mighty Cedar trees from Lebanon. The mustard plant is something everyone has access to ... like bread. Bread was a staple of life back then. It was made every day (except on the Sabbath). There were many types of food - including special ones for feast, and exotic ones for kings... but Jesus uses the example of bread.

It seems that the Kingdom of Heaven is something anyone can have access to... or perhaps I should say, something everyone

already has access too. It's not uncommon, but a part of our everyday lives. I heard one person put it, 'God's kingdom is something to be found in your own backyard.'



loaves and fishes - KM Berry

While the parable of the yeast has the commonness in common with the mustard seed, it highlights a different aspect of the kingdom. As I said, it's not yeast like we think, but a chunk of dough. This parable's not about something so small you don't see it.

One aspect of this parable is the amount of flour she uses. It's insane! 40 to 60 pounds of flour! There's no way one person could knead that - to work that much dough. It would feed 150 people. This is a point that comes up in many ways through the gospels. The Kingdom of God means abundance. Take the feeding of the 5000 with a meagre 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish... and then collecting 12 baskets of left-overs. Having way more than is needed is one of the points of this parable.

Another is what the woman does. The Greek is surprising. It doesn't say that she kneads the dough, which is what one does when making bread. It says she hid the leaven in the dough. The Kingdom is something hidden in the world. While odd, it's also comforting. For those who can't see God at work anywhere, this is the reminder that the Kingdom is growing even when hidden - growing into something big.



bread dough rising - J Helfin

When is a common question. These parables all suggest it will happen in time. It takes time for bread to rise & cook, and plants

to grow. When they are ready, the time will come.

One more thing the parables suggest to us is who Jesus is talking to. The disciples are mentioned. We don't know much about them, but several are fishermen. If Jesus is trying to teach fishermen about the Kingdom of Heaven, then these are odd examples. Why include examples from farms, shepherds, gardens, baking, women, shepherds, children, birds, etc. Because, as it says, the world is the field. The Kingdom of Heaven is for everybody.

These parables teach us that the Kingdom of Heaven:

- starts small
- may grow unseen
- is accessible to all types of people
- is in the everyday
- will be wildly abundant
- will include God judging
- and brings hope to those who need it

That's pretty good for a few short lines.

A very self-aware comment in my giant commentary on Matthew is that too much talking about a parable can dull the impact. He suggests trying to come up with a new parable that can have that surprising (shocking) catch that they originally had. I'm going to give it a try - and would love to hear your attempts.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like a vaccine. We've heard about it, but aren't sure it's safe - especially when we discover it can spread like the virus. Many will be saved when the virus comes, though some will live by themselves and stay clean... until the end.

and on a cheerier note...

The Kingdom of Heaven is like an ear-worm. You don't know where it sprung from, but you've got this tune in your head. Sometimes you notice it; sometimes it drives you crazy; sometimes it's a comfort. ...and it's not just you. Whenever somebody hums - it spreads - bringing joy, hope, healing, community... all around the world.

To God be all the Glory
Amen.



Responding to God

🎵 Hymn: This is my Father's world.....pg 11 (328)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63r2UzN4VMc>

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

Etching: Share a parable that stands out for you.

Memories: Did you ever act out or interpret a parable? What was it like?

Values: What parts of the vision of the Kingdom of Heaven do you most appreciate?

Wonder: Where do you find hope?

Actions: Create a modern parable describing the God's Kingdom.

Prayer: ...may we know the love, hope & healing of your kingdom

✦ Spirit Sightings

There's one thing someone pointed out to me several weeks

ago. We need to put out more snacks after church. This is a good thing - because gathering around food is a great way to build community. Praise God that we need more!

Also, we should celebrate this gathering at our Bible Study - watching the story, and then talking about it with the people here and on Zoom.



✦ 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

Living God,

We thank you for your stories
that engage our imaginations
and our souls.

Stories of the generosity of your Kingdom
that invites everyone to find it home
and enjoy the abundance of... everything.

We know, only too well,
that your Kingdom coming can be hidden from sight.

Overshadowed by news of wars, and rumours of wars.
by the increasing number of people without a home

By struggles to pay the bills
Please give us the imaginations
to have faith that your Kingdom is growing,
and going to change the world as we know it.

Lord,

We thank you for all the fruit of the earth,
both in parables, and in our grocery stores.
Please help us to repair the damage we have done
so that we can bring a healthy balance back to creation.

Jesus, we thank you for the life cycle that you also lived.
We celebrate the birth of David & Cathrine's new baby.
praying for all their health
as they grow and adapt together.

We also grieve the death of Jerry
and embrace the promise that he is now healed
in more ways than we can imagine.
and we pray for Jane and his family
as they also grow and adapt.

Spirit of God,

You are walking behind and before us;
and in tune within us.

You share our joys, and struggles.

Please help those who are exhausted, anxious, or depressed.

Please help those who are struggling with addictions
or other mental health issues.

Please help all those who need healing
to find the care they need.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,

Amen.

♪ Hymn: O God, our help in ages past.....pg 10 (330)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNS-ZSUmCb8

Benediction

Next week we'll be starting with Matthew 17. You may want
to read the parts we're skipping (in order to get to Easter on
time).

*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.³*



Come, ye thankful people, come

ST. GEORGE'S, WINDSOR 7777 D

1. Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home;
 2. All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to God's praise to yield;
 3. For the Lord our God shall come and shall take the har - vest home;
 4. E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home:

all is safe - ly gath - ered in, ere the win - ter storms be - gin;
 wheat and weeds to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown;
 from the field shall in that day all of - fenc - es purge a - way,
 gath - er thou thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin;

God, our Mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to
 first the blade and then the ear, then the full corn
 give the an - gels charge at last in the fire the
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy pres - ence

be sup - plied. Come, to God's own tem - ple,
 shall ap - pear. Lord of har - vest, grant that
 tares to cast, but the fruit - ful ears to
 to a - bide. Come, with all thine an - gels,

come: raise the song of har - vest home.
 we whole - some grain and pure may be.
 store in God's store - house ev - er - more.
 come: raise the glo - rious har - vest home.

Words: Henry Alford (1810-1871) Music: George Job Elvey (1816-1893); descant, C.S. Lang (1891-1971)

Words: public domain Music: descant, copyright © Novello & Co. Ltd.

Abide with me

EVENTIDE 10 10 10 10

1. A - bide with me! Fast falls the ev - en - tide;
 2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
 3. I need thy pres - ence eve - ry pass - ing hour;

the dark-ness deep - ens, Lord, with me a - bide:
 earth's joys grow dim; its glo - ries pass a - way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt-er's power?

when oth - er help - ers fail and com-forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see:
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?

help of the help-less, oh a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang-est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun-shine, oh a - bide with me.

4. I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
 ills have no weight and tears no bitterness:
 where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
 I triumph still if thou abide with me.

5. Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes,
 shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
 heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
 in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793–1847) Music: William Henry Monk (1823–1889)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

O God, our help in ages past

ST. ANNE 8 6 8 6 CM

C F C/E Am Dm7/F G C Am Em Am/C D G

1. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2. Un - der the sha-dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4. A thou-sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone,
 5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way.
 6. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,

G C F Dm G C Dm/F E C/E Dm C Dm/F G C

our shel-ter from the storm-y blast, and our e - ter - nal home.
 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fence is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 They fly for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the open - ing day.
 still be our guard while trou - bles last, and our e - ter - nal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748), alt Music: William Croft (1678–1727)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

This is my Father's world

TERRA BEATA 6 6 8 6 D SMD Irregular

Chords: Eb /G Bb6 7 Eb (Fm/Ab C7/G) Fm Bb/D Eb

1. This is my Fath-er's world, and to my lis-tening
 2. This is my Mak-er's world; the birds their car-ols
 3. This is my Sav-iour's world; oh let me not for -

Chords: Bb /Ab Eb/G Eb Bb6 Cm G 7 Cm Bb/D

ears all na - ture sings, and round me rings the
 raise; the morn - ing light, the li - ly white, de -
 get that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God

Chords: Eb Cm Eb/G Bb7 Eb Bb/Ab Eb/G Ab Cm Eb/G

mu - sic of the spheres. This is my Fath-er's world: I
 clare their Mak-er's praise. This is my Mak-er's world; God
 is the Rul - er yet. This is my Sav-iour's world; the

Chords: Ab Eb/G Bb/F F7 Bb /Ab Eb/G Eb Bb6 Cm

rest me in the thought; of rocks and trees, of
 shines in all that's fair; in the rus - tling grass, God's
 bat - tle is not done; Je - sus, who died, shall be

Chords: G 7 Cm Bb/D Eb Cm Eb/G Bb7 Eb

skies and seas God's hands the won - ders wrought.
 foot - steps pass; God speaks to me eve - ry - where.
 sat - is - fied, and earth and heaven be one.

Words: Maltbie D. Babcock (1858-1901); alt Music: English traditional melody; arrangement, anonymous

Words: this version, copyright © The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1997 Music: public domain

Souper de Mardi Gras Pancake Supper



**avec saucisses, oeufs, fruits, etc.
with Sausages, Eggs, Fruit, etc.**

Mardi le 21^e Février à 18h **Tuesday, February 21st 6 p.m.**

Adultes \$12
Enfants \$5 (moins de 12 ans)

\$12 adults
\$5 children (under 12)

Les dons de nourriture
sont les bienvenus
pour St. Monica's
Food Pantry



KENSINGTON
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Food donations
welcome for
St. Monica's
Food Pantry

6225 av. Godfrey, NDG
514-486-4559

kensingtonchurch.ca
info@kensingtonchurch.ca



Climate change, conflict and COVID-19 have combined to create a global food crisis where 50 million people in 45 countries suffer from acute hunger. Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D), with Canadian Foodgrains Bank and ACT Alliance, is responding in South Sudan, Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia—countries where hunger needs are worsening daily. This crisis has disproportionately adverse effects on women and girls, who make up 60% of those affected by food insecurity. Without proper nutrition, women can experience higher mortality rates for themselves and their children. **With support from the church, PWS&D distributes food packages with essential nourishing items and provides families with cash assistance, helping ensure that families are fed.**

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, February 19 (Transfiguration Sunday) God of Glory, whose son was wonderfully transfigured, give us the strength to hear and ponder the good news of his life, death and resurrection.

Monday, February 20 (World Day of Social Justice) We give thanks for human rights defenders who work to protect the rights, safety and dignity of all people.

Tuesday, February 21 We pray for the Knox College community during Winter Reading Week (February 20–24).

Wednesday, February 22 (Ash Wednesday) Loving God, you hate nothing you have made, and your grace knows no bounds. You created us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. Create in us clean hearts and turn us around to follow you more nearly.

Thursday, February 23 (Black History Month) We pray for Black Canadian women and youth organizations, and we give thanks for the many ways these organizations promote equality, human rights and inclusiveness.

Friday, February 24 We pray for the people who gather and serve at the Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry in Saskatchewan, and we give thanks for their ministry.

Saturday, February 25 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of New Brunswick.