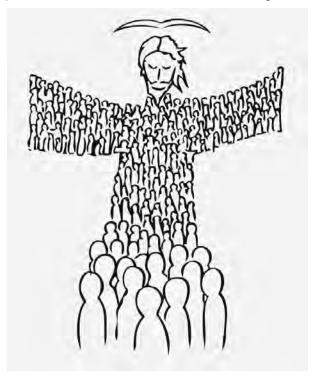
Kensington Presbyterian Church

DO! but first...

February 5, 2023

WELCOME to worship. We are offering a variety of ways for people to gather. We are welcoming people to worship n person (with singing), as well as through Zoom, YouTube, and this printable PDF. 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)



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

Rev. Peter Rombeek for Kensington Presbyterian Church

Announcements

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

Communion this week: All who want to know our Lord better are invited to join us the Lord's Supper. If you are celebrating from home you will have to provide your own elements.

Choir: would like you to join them. We practice Sunday at 9:15.

Jesus & Java: Join us as we share the joys and questions of faith. Thursday, 3:30 pm at Beetz, 5914 Sherbrooke @ Clifton 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.

Movie Night: Lady & the Tramp. Friday at 6 Contact Antoinette if you'd like to come.

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)

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).

Contacts

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	514-773-4620
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Lighting of the Christ Candle Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Call to worship²

In your wisdom, O God, you call us here to worship you.

We gather, alive to the Word of God.

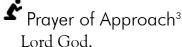
You call us to be fully alive with your life abundant, ready to listen and respond with heart, soul, strength, and mind.

We listen, alive to the Word of God.

You call us to be always watchful for your Word of wisdom, sometimes startling and unexpected, sometimes still and quiet, but always dwelling among us.

We watch and wait for the Word of God.

☐ Hymn: Jesus, thou Joy of Loving Hearts.....pg 12 (366) www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZOowC2k0thc



we have come to worship you as sinners in need of your forgiveness.

We come tired from our week. in need of refreshment and re-creation.

We come with worries. in need of your guidance.

But first, please lift us out of our preoccupation with our own needs.

Allow us to see you with the eyes of faith, and to hear what you say to us with the ears of understanding.

Make us thankful for all the good we have received from you.

Awaken in us a longing to do what is right.

And make us aware of the great company, past, present, and to come, with whom we join to worship you.

Amen.



Water from the Rock - Virginia Hayes

Worship Sourcebook 1.2.36

adapted from Worship Sourcebook 1.4.46



Listening to God

☐ Hymn: With Grateful Heart my thanks I bring......pg 13

www.youtube.com/watch?v=pJXqEvGiGkI

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.

Intro to the readings

Amen.

- Our Gospel reading is the last part of the Sermon on the Mount. It started with the Beatitudes, pushed expected behaviour to the extreme of 'love your enemies', centred on the Lord's Prayer and where to put your priorities. All the while painting a vision of what it's like to be living in the Kingdom of Heaven (God) and implying that it is here now, and still coming.
- Our psalm echoes what it's like to live in the Kingdom of Heaven.

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

Matthew 7: 1-14, 24-29

<u>Psalm 138</u>

Sermon: DO! ...but first

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

What did you think of the ending to the Sermon on the Mount? Was it clear? Confusing? Heavy? Funny? Helpful?

Is it still about the Kingdom of Heaven/God here on earth?

This passage answered a question I was asked this week. One of the volunteers from New Hope asked if Jesus had a sense of humour, because his sense of the Bible is that it's all very serious. The answer is yes, but it's not your typical North American humour that makes fun of somebody.

Jesus gives a warning about judging - that in judging others you'll also be judged. That's serious, but could you picture the example Jesus gives? Trying to get a speck of dust out of your neighbour's eye with a 2x4 in your own? Imagine that happening; that's funny. Jesus does talk about serious things in the Bible, but there are these silly examples as well.



matthew 7:1-5 - ladymuffinart

⁴ If you'd like a new Bible with helpful notes, I recommend the 'Life with God Bible' NRSV from Renovaré. ISBN 0061834963 or for the more academically inclined, The New Oxford Study Bible NRSV

Then there's some parts that are hard. Usually this is because they challenge our lives, but there are also verses like the one about dogs, pigs and pearls. The experts agree that it's... confusing. They're not sure what the point is, especially in the larger context of Jesus coming for the whole world (remember, Matthew is the one with the Wise Men and non-Jews in Jesus' genealogy). It's interesting (reassuring? disconcerting?) to know that there are passages that just don't make sense, even to people who have spent decades of their careers studying the Bible and Jesus.

Something else that's confusing is the focus on 'doing'. The Sermon wraps up with a parable about the importance of acting out the words of Jesus... but what about the message that we can't earn our way into the Kingdom, but must depend on God's grace?

This is a confusion we can tackle.

Let's start with the parable. It's a classic. Two people building houses. Then comes the storm (because there are storms in life) and one house falls down. However the emphasis is not on the building of the house. This isn't like the Three Little Pigs who built their homes differently. The point is what the houses are built on: shifting sand or the solid rock of God.

How can we know what's what? As Jesus pointed out earlier in the sermon, he is the continuation of the Law. This is more than the 10 commandments. It includes the history of God with the people - of the Way of God. Are we building our lives on the Way of God?



House on the Rock - Hannah Hall

I'm reminded of my sister. She's actively based her life on God to the point of becoming a missionary. She initially felt called to be a missionary in Africa. This excited her. She could imagine possibilities. She didn't make it. The details just never worked out.

What's going on? She's wanting to act out the words of Jesus. She was prepared to act on it in a more radical way than most of us are called to. Why did God not make it happen? Because it's not all about action - even doing good and sharing the Kingdom of Heaven. It starts with the centrepiece of the Sermon on the

Mount: prayer. As we heard it today, "Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you."

I'm not saying my sister didn't pray, and I wasn't a part of her prayers, but we need to remember that it starts with prayer based on the foundations of God. It doesn't start with the house we want to build - the vision we think would be best. It doesn't start with thinking we should go help in Africa. We start with asking 'Thy Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.'



an unexpected fish

Now, bringing this about is pretty broad. None of us can bring about the Kingdom on earth. Even Kensington can't, or the Presbyterian Church in Canada - be we can all do a part. The question is, which part are we called to do now?

This is where the seeking comes in. We are assured, "seek and ye shall find." How do we seek? Start by looking at our foundation. Spend time studying the Bible. Consider the experiences of our past. That could be famous stories like the reformers giving people direct access to the Bible. It could be groups that sprout from the church to come alongside people to help them out like the Depot or Action Réfugiés. It could be missionaries in exotic locations. Extend your seeking to now. Where is God working now? in the community of Kensington? around us? Where is God active in your life? Where is the Kingdom of Heaven in your life?

"Seek and ye shall find

Knock and the door shall be opened."

Occasionally I've shown up at someone's door and had it open before I do anything, but usually I need to do something active like knock. It's like that with the Kingdom of Heaven too - you need to knock to get in.

There's no concierge or security guard who will ask you skill testing questions. You don't have to pay an entrance fee, or go on a quest first. God even offers experiences of the Kingdom to those who are looking for it - we'll get to some of that next week. But there is an aspect where we have to knock on the door. We have to want into the Kingdom of God, to reach out and knock.

My sister prayed. She looked for ways to serve. She trained as a chaplain and ended up working with the homeless in Ottawa. She continued praying and looking and new people came into her life... which led to her becoming a missionary - not to Africa, but with the homeless in Tokyo. My sister's a little unusual. Normally knocking on God's door doesn't lead you to the other side of the world.

After setting up on the rock, praying, seeking, knocking there's the doing. The building of the house. There's letting this reality shape your life and interactions.

What's that look like?

The next section after 'ask, seek, knock' is the famous "In everything, do to others as you would have them do to you." Some people think this is about a give and take between people: you rub their back and they'll rub yours. It's not - especially if you remember earlier in the Sermon on the Mount when Jesus says to "love your enemies."

With post-colonialism we've learned that the 'golden rule' needs to be even deeper than it appears. For example, it used to be a sign of wealth and privilege to send your children to a boarding school. Doing this did a lot of damage to the indigenous peoples here. Instead, we need to remember to respect and listen to people, as we want them to listen and respect us. We tell others what to do as we'd like them to tell us what to do. We judge them as we want them to judge us. We love them as we want to be loved.

...and not because they do it to us, or ever will.

We look to God; we ask, seek and then knock to become active in respectfully sharing God's ways.

This applies to communities as well - like Kensington. We don't start with a vision of a packed Sunday morning, or money in the offering plate, or a big choir and pipe organ. We look at what is said in the Bible, and at God's history with people through the ages - and especially with Kensington. We look for the rock on which we stand. We remember that God has been, and is with us, around us - and ahead of us. We seek God in the what is going on in and around us: in the way the choir is helping

those who sing in it express emotions and worship; in the way we are reaching out to new people through Jesus & Java and the Chosen Bible Study; in the way we can share our building to groups that are helping others; and in the ways that God is working around us that we're not a part of yet. Then knock on God's door and ask to join in. Storms will come, but a house built like this will stand - and it will help reveal the Kingdom of Heaven.

To God be the glory Amen.



Responding to God

- 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: What are some important 'foundational' stories for your faith? or for your idea of 'the church'?
 - Values: What do you find yourself asking God for?
- Memories: Where do you see God at work in the community? with you?
 - Wonder: Where else could Kensington join God in the Kingdom of Heaven?
 - Actions: Is there a relationship in which you need to treat the other with more of the respect that you would like to be treated? Will this require more honesty?
 - Prayer: ...that we will hear the words of Jesus and continue to grow more and more into the Kingdom.

Spirit Sighting

For the first time since the Reformation (over 500 years ago) the Pope, the Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Church of Scotland Moderator have joined together on a pilgrimage of peace. South Sudan has been experiencing civil war for almost 10 years. The government is hoping the joint visit will encourage peace talks.

🚸 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.

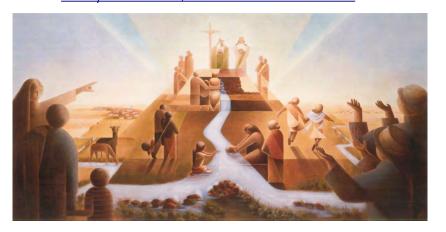
Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) are also good options.

MINNY

Communion

☐ Hymn: I come with Joy.....pg 14 (530)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGhabxcl5NU



Invitation to the table
I would like to invite you to the table.

It's not my table, or the churches. This is God's table.

C'est la volonté de Dieu
que tous ceux qui veulent connaître Jésus
devraient partager ce repas.

So, come,
you who have much faith,
and you who would like to have more,
you who have come often
and you who have not joined for a while,
you who try to follow
and you who wander.
Let us join with Christians everywhere
in sharing this sign of the feast to come.

As we come together to share the Lord's Supper, we also come together with a statement of faith that we share with Christians of many types, around the world and through the centuries.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Great prayer of thanksgiving
The Lord be with you.

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We thank you for all that we know of you. That we can see & hear your goodness in creation. feel & taste your goodness;

and even smell beautiful pieces of Heaven.

In the baffling weather this week, we can be reminded of your power, and your glory that is brighter than a snowbank at -25.

We are also left wondering about the impact we've had on creation.

Is this the way you interned it?

or have we distorted what you made good.

We do know from the Bible and our own history,

that we break relationships with all parts of your creation. Sometimes we cause horrible damage & suffering through our actions, or inaction.

We also know that you don't abandon us.

You send signs and people,
and then come as Jesus.

Now we join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

to bring healing to all of creation.

Jesus, you are amazing.

That you became like us,
to show the way to live in the Kingdom of Heaven
here on earth.

You showed us the wonders
of the lost being found
and those who mourn being comforted

The confusing and demanding and joy-full world
re-orientated around God and not people
or individuals.

You showed us what it's like to live a life with the rock of God as a foundation.

A life of asking for the Kingdom to Come, Seeking it everywhere,

and joining into its reality.
...even though this led to your rejection and death.

...Together, we proclaim the mystery of the faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

You showed us that death has no power over you. You showed us that death is not an end, but a part of life.

As we wait for your return,
and your kingdom to become fully present.

We ask for your Holy Spirit to continue to guide us,
inspire us,
and reveal more of the Kingdom to us every day.

Help us to continue to build
with you as our foundation.

As we seek you in the world, there are things we are concerned about. Knowing that you want us to share everything with you, we share these with you:

- ongoing conflicts in places such as the South Sudan.
- people who have been, and are, the victims of abuse.
 - \circ we pray for those hurt by Jean Vanier
 - and we pray for the L'Arche community as they suffer from these revelations
- we pray for New Hope, as they look for a new chair for their Board, and a new chef.
 - o and we pray for Cliff and Sven as they prepare to move

on to new chapters in their lives.

- we pray for those who are waiting for a birth or a death we pray for those in need of healing and peace: including Jerry and his family.
- . . .

We bring these concerns to you, because while you see the whole cosmos, you also care about each individual living thing.

We come to you, because you came to us and invite us to join you. and so we gather at your table.

We pray that as we share your bread and your cup. your Spirit will make them alive so that we may be closer to you and be strengthened by you until you come again.

As we prepare to taste your story of good news, let us once again speak the words Jesus taught us to pray, saying:

Cur 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 now and forever.

Amen.



liturgical table - Jan Richardson

Words of Institution

On the night before he met with death, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God he broke the bread and shared it, saying "This is my body; it is broken for you."

"Ceci est mon corps, qui est rompu pour yous"

[take and eat]

In the same way, he took the cup of wine after dinner and said, "This is the new relationship with God, sealed in my blood Take this, all of you, in remembrance of me."

"Cette coupe est la nouvelle alliance en mon saunt;

faites ceci en mémoire de moi"

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

[take and drink]

rayer after Communion

Loving God,

you graciously feed us now and through your Spirit.

Jésus, il n'y a rien qui puisse te séparer de nous.

We thank you for uniting us with you and each other through your Word and your table.

Vous êtes ici maintenant avec espoir et amour.

Help us to feel your love, and to live it for all the world.

In Jesus name Amen.

☐ Hymn: How Firm a Foundation.....pg 15 (685)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=kA4bTqCjLQw

* Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you Amen.

Sunday, February 5

MISSION MOMENT

For over 75 years, Presbyterian World Service & Development has faithfully responded to serve those in need around the world. Together with our partners, we are making a positive difference. We are working together to care for the poor, sick and vulnerable, helping restore human dignity, ease the pain of want and promote community cooperation that benefits all. As people of faith, we are



responding to Christ's call to walk with the distressed and marginalized, and work towards equality, human dignity, peace and care for God's creation. United, we are working towards a world that is sustainable, compassionate and just.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, February 5 (PWS&D Sunday) We give thanks and pray for Presbyterian World Service & Development programs and partners empowering vulnerable communities and supporting abundant life.

Monday, February 6 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Halifax and Lunenburg in Nova Scotia.

Tuesday, February 7 We pray for the members and work of the Assembly Council.

Wednesday, February 8 We honour in prayer the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024), and we give thanks for Black History Month events that honour and celebrate the legacy of Black Canadians and their communities.

Thursday, February 9 We pray for the people who gather at the Well Church in Mississauga, Ontario. We give thanks for the welcoming space this church plant provides for the third culture community.

Friday, February 10 We pray for the Rev. Lyton Kilowe—Assistant Synod Internal Auditor for the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian, Blantyre Synod, in Malawi—as he pursues a Master's in Business Administration.

Saturday, February 11 We pray that congregations work to preserve the collective history of our denomination by caring for their church records and congregational history.

Souper de Mardi Gras Pancake Supper



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

à 18h

Mardi le 21° Février 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

Food donations welcome for St. Monica's Food Pantry

6225 av. Godfrey, NDG 514-486-4559

kensingtonchurch.ca info@kensingtonchurch.ca

366 Jesus, thou joy of loving hearts





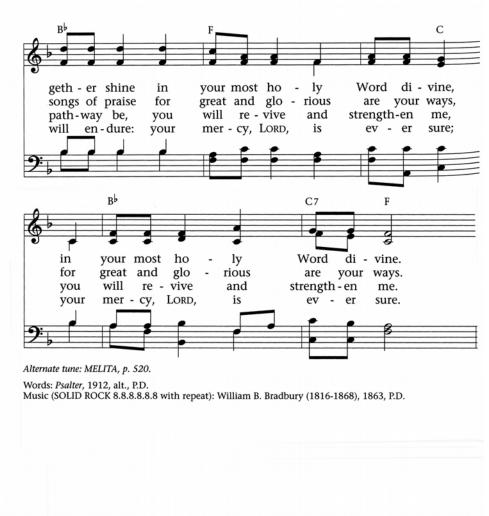


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With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring

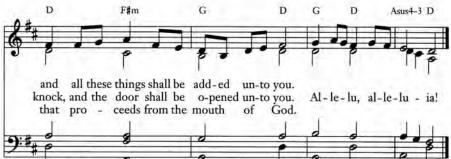






Seek ye first SEEK YE FIRST Irregular





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How firm a foundation





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