



Kensington Presbyterian Church

I am willing

February 12, 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)



Peters mother in law - Rembrandt

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

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)

Gay and Grey, who meet in our building as part of New Hope, are pleased to announce the launch of its video/podcast project. We are invited to the launch on Feb 22, from 5-7, at Montréal West United Church (88 Ballantyne Ave). They would appreciate a confirmation email: launch@gayandgreymontreal.com

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).

Gerry Auchinleck passed away peacefully yesterday morning (Feb 11)

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 (from psalm 77)

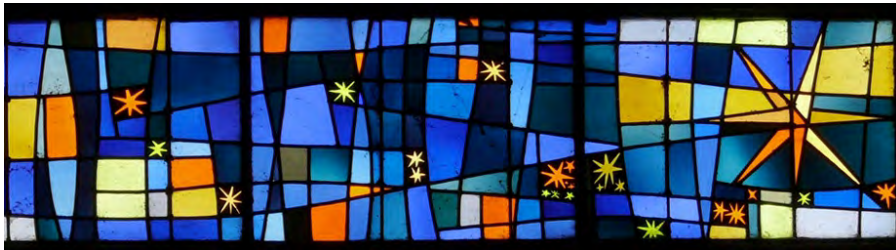
We will call to mind the deeds of the LORD;
we will remember your wonders of old.
We will meditate on all your work,
and muse on your mighty deeds.
Your way, O God, is holy.

What god is so great as our God?

Let us worship the LORD.

♪ Hymn: Come, know my joy.....pg 9 (788)

<https://youtu.be/ngPx6lgzngk?t=509>



Heavenly Window - Villeneuve sur Lot



Prayer of Approach²

Wondrous God,
who sets suns and moons above us,
mountains and valleys beneath us,
and friends and strangers among us:
how often have we tried to hide from your presence,

2 Worship Sourcebook 2.2.25

how seldom have we looked for your creating face
and your fashioning hand!
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Wondrous God,
who took upon yourself flesh of our flesh in Jesus our brother,
and being found in human form made the ultimate disclosure of
yourself
in the face of Jesus Christ:
how often we have forgotten you,
how seldom have we really loved and followed you!
Christ, have mercy upon us.

Wondrous God,
who pours out freely the Holy Spirit:
how often have we ignored your promptings,
how seldom have we asked for your help or accepted your gifts!
Lord, have mercy upon 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

Friday night my boys joined us for part of *The Chosen* before their movie started. It started with the disciples going out and performing miracles. When we got home that night they were talking about how nice it would be if we could do miracles - and they're right. They then asked why we can't.

I don't have a solid answer to that.

Why can't you and I just stretch out our hands and heal? One theory is that it was a gift that was connected to being close the Jesus physically. That it was something the immediate disciples could do, at least sometimes, but it faded out.

Though some people say that it still happens, even if you exclude the television faith healers.

And then there are also stories, and perhaps you know some, of people who have had unexpected recoveries. There was no laying on of hands, but there was prayer. I know people how have experienced this.

There are also events I would describe as miraculous that not everyone would agree. I think medical teams can perform miraculous healings. I think science can do wonders. The sad part is we no longer give God the credit for giving us the creativity, or for the amazing possibilities we discover.

So, while it rarely happens like in the Bible, miracles do still happen.

Dear Jesus,

Help us to see miracles, and you helping.

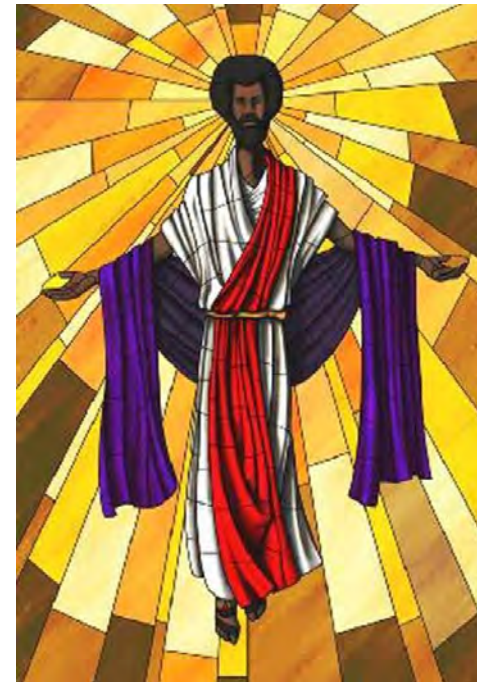
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Thou didst leave thy throne.....pg 10 (204)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=iUJ43DrxXyY



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

- Today's section of Matthew follows straight after the Sermon on the Mount. What attracts your attention?
- The Psalm is one that people in today's reading would not only have known, but used as a prayer to comfort and guide them.



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

[Matthew 8: 1-24](#)

[Psalm 77](#)



Sermon: I am willing

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

What sort of life would you choose?

One that is quiet and stable,

or one that has travel and adventure?

One that brings you comforts and interesting options,

or one that brings comfort to others?

One that brings you recognition and glory,

or just some quiet appreciation?

What sort of life would you choose?

When reading today's passage I was struck by Jesus saying, "I am willing." It got me thinking about what sort of life God chose as Jesus.

Jesus chose to travel. This wasn't to relax in the sun, experience exotic cultures, or see famous places around the Holy Land. While Matthew has told us that Jesus made his home in Capernaum (Matthew 4: 13), he travels so much he has less of a home than the "*birds of the air*". I like travelling, but even without all the walking I would find this exhausting - yet it's what Jesus chose.

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

Why did he choose to travel so much? To get the Word out about the Kingdom of Heaven. He could have just been a Rabbi in a town: quiet Nazareth by his mom, or busier Capernaum. There he could have collected students and quietly taught them. Some of them would get their own students, and the news could seep out. It would definitely have been quieter. Instead, he chose to go to the people. He collects crowds into the thousands. He becomes famous - notorious for some. Is he out to be a superstar?

Jesus chose to take risks. How do you like risks? Today he got close to a leper - which brought the risk of catching the disease. (Although, for Jesus, that may not be much of a risk.) He did risk being kicked out of society. This was a big deal - as we'll see approaching Easter. Associating with somebody who is on the edge of society would normally contaminate Jesus just as much as a disease. Then we have a story of Jesus interacting with an official of Rome - the centurion. I'm not sure how you feel about the government, but imagine you had no say at all, they used an army to enforce their way - and they charged you for it. Choosing to associate with Rome would not have made you popular. Jesus not only listened to the Roman centurion, but helped him. Jesus then took a bigger risk and said the Centurion was better than many of the chosen people! These were shocking things to do and say. It's a wonder he didn't get a stone thrown at his head. Why choose to take such risks?

A choice that is surprising in the face of all these other choices is that Jesus encourages people to follow Jewish practices. The leper is told to go and show himself to the priests as Moses commanded. He gives similar instructions elsewhere. Is he changing the system or not?

When talking to the scribe, Jesus uses the term 'Son of Man' for the first time in Matthew. This reminds us of the choice God made in Jesus to come as a person. Really, God could have come

in any way. God could have come as a divine being towering over the nations. God could have come as a king riding in on a chariot throwing lightning around, leading an army like Rome - only scarier; or come as a voice speaking in everyone's head; or just taken over our free will. Instead, God chose to live as a person. While Jesus could do amazing things, he wasn't the first or last person in the Bible to heal, feed others, or even raise the dead. Jesus chose to be fully human.

Something Jesus didn't choose to be was the Lord. It's a title that shows up a lot in this passage. It recognizes Jesus' position, despite appearances, as the ruler over others. It also recognizes his power. Jesus didn't choose to be the Lord - but he did choose how to be Lord.

Often we think about how we can be better. That's good and important. It's also good to reflect on what God is like. How does Jesus choose to act as our Lord - as The Lord?

This is a Lord who doesn't wait for people to come make petitions, but goes out to them. God meets them in the street and in their homes. He meets with those who focus on leading religious lives, and those pushed to the outside - and those from the outside. Thinking of the Roman Centurion, it's like Jesus is receiving an immigrant or refugee into his Kingdom. In the next part of the chapter Jesus will even leave Israel, going outside to share the Kingdom. This is a Lord who chooses to go to people, listen to them, and help them.

This shows us that Jesus welcomes you, regardless of your background. You are welcome whether you think you're good or not - and not just you, so is everyone else. You can choose to immigrate into the Kingdom of Heaven, or arrive as a refugee looking for help. Jesus welcomes those who knock. More than that... Jesus is the Lord who goes out to invite everyone into the Kingdom.

This is a Lord who risks being rejected to share the Kingdom. Why? Because it's worth it. Because God thinks that creation, including each person, is worth it.

This is a Lord who chooses to live into the talents/gifts he has. He is generous with what he can do: healing people so they can rejoin their communities. Helping people experience what it's like to live in the Kingdom of Heaven. Teaching people how to live in it.

It's not easy, but this is the sort of life that Jesus chose.

and the story doesn't end there, but part of what is going on is teaching people how to live in the Kingdom. Most people who encounter Jesus, like the Leper, Centurion, & Peter's mother-in-law experience healing and then disappear from the narrative. We can imagine their life changed - how could it not be - but we don't hear about them taking on the radical life-style Jesus leads.

Some, though, ask to follow in Jesus' footprints. They've had a taste of the Kingdom and want more. The scribe says he wants to follow Jesus, and Jesus answers that this is a journey that never settles down. We assume the scribe goes home. We have disciples ask to bury his father - an important action in every culture. Jesus tells him, quite offensively, to *'let the dead bury their own dead'*.

What's Jesus doing with these two? Isn't everyone welcome? If he's trying to gather people, why is he being so inconsiderate? What happened to the talk about loving others in the Sermon on the Mount?

Jesus is choosing to drive home the point, rather rudely, that living in the Kingdom of Heaven means not living according to the ways of this world. The values are different. (For one thing, you don't have to worry about death.) You're going to leave the familiar behind to experience what may seem like a world turned

upside-down - a theme that dominates Jesus' parables, something we'll hear next week.

Our passage ends with some challenging verses about following Jesus. This part of the picture of what it means to follow Jesus. It talks about the hard stuff. Other parts of the picture include that the next scene is the disciples panicking in the boat and Jesus not abandoning them.

And the image of God we see in Jesus. The Lord who has power to heal, and goes out into the world offering this to everyone.

*To God be all the Glory
Amen.*



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: Jesus Christ is Waiting.....pg 11
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wqwzle14-5E

🗣️ 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: Who is somebody that you think has faith like that of the Leper and Centurion?

Etching: What's an inspiring thing you've heard somebody do?

Memories: What's the craziest thing you've done for somebody? What were the risks involved?

Etching: Have you experienced extraordinary healing? or know somebody who has?

Values: How would you describe Jesus? God?

What aspects of The Lord do you value?

Wonder: How could Kensington help people experience, and live, more into the Kingdom of Heaven?

Prayer: ...thank God for the qualities that you appreciate in Jesus (and feel free to ask about the hard parts).

✦ Spirit Sightings

As I mentioned during the announcements, Gerry Auchinleck passed away yesterday. He is an example of somebody you could see God's Spirit working through. As Cam Donaldson put it, 'He was welcoming to everyone, helping them feel important and find their place.' It's just one gift that Gerry shared here at Kensington, in schools here and in Newfoundland, ...in every community he found himself.

Though we miss him, we are glad he is at peace with God.



Become like little children - Bota

✦ 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

Faithful God,

We come to you in prayer after a week
in which the world has cried more than usual.

With the Earthquake in Turkey & Syria
shattering families
and homes

We pray for all those who grieve;
and those who have become refugees.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

We pray for daycares
and the horror they experienced this week.
...for the families directly affected
and for all the families left wondering
...for those who work in the daycare, and other daycares,
and wonder how to protect the children in their care;

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Lord, as you know,
in all these concerns there are people who are hurt
physically, mentally & emotionally
Jesus, please stretch out your hand
and bring healing.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Lord, there are many who grieve the death of a loved one.
we pray for Gerry,
and for Jane,
and for their family
as they transition to this next stage of life.
...and for all others also feeling the loss of a loved one.

Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

Jesus, we also thank you.
for a beautiful place to live
where we don't have much to fear from the environment
for people who help us raise our children
for a medical system that can help us
in troubled times.

These are a comfort,
but even more, we thank you that
you go looking for people,

listening, and helping.
in ways we often don't notice.
and that you are always inviting people
to join you in living into a better world.

Thank you Jesus
for the hope you bring
Amen.

♪ Hymn: God loves the World so much.....pg 11 (689)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=7AyQxFp7M_o (tune only)

✦ Benediction

Next week we'll be starting with Matthew 13: 24. 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.⁴*



4 Numbers 6: 24-26

In many small rural communities in Ghana, lay preachers, evangelists and catechists play a crucial role. Under the direction of a district minister, who has many congregations under their care, lay leaders provide much-needed spiritual leadership. While they share a deep commitment to their call to ministry and service in the church,



many have not received formal theological training. **To equip these lay leaders with helpful tools for effective ministry, the Presbyterian Church of Ghana established three Lay Training Centres (Tamale, Ramseyer and Nsaba), which receive support through Presbyterians Sharing.**

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, February 12 We pray for wisdom and strength for lay leaders of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana who provide spiritual leadership in small rural communities.

Monday, February 13 We pray for congregations exploring ways to better support and include LGBTQI2+ people and their loved ones within their communities.

Tuesday, February 14 We pray for the people who gather and serve at Winnipeg Inner City Missions in Manitoba, and we give thanks for their ministry.

Wednesday, February 15 (Black History Month) We pray for systemic change that eradicates anti-Black racism and builds a society that prioritizes the well-being and advancement of Black Canadians.

Thursday, February 16 We pray for congregations that may be experiencing conflict and give thanks for the presbyteries assisting and guiding them.

Friday, February 17 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Pictou in Nova Scotia.

Saturday, February 18 We pray for people around the world who are facing severe hunger, and we give thanks for the food assistance provided by Presbyterian World Service & Development and their partners, with support from the PCC.

Come, know my joy, the Maker says

FLIGHT OF THE EARLS 8 6 8 6 D CMD

B♭/D E♭/G B♭ /A E♭/G B♭/D A♭/C Gm/B♭ Cm A♭ B♭ Cm B♭

1. "Come, know my joy," the Mak-er says and pours out works of power that
 2. The feast we join is long be-gun; God bids us wel-come here to
 3. "Come, seek my face," the Giv-er says, "with heart and soul and strength; let
 4. "Come, learn of me," the Serv-ant says and mul-ti-plies a feast of

E♭/G B♭ /D E♭ B♭7/F E♭/G Fm G 7 Cm B♭

sear the sense, de - fy the mind and fill the soul with awe, and
 name and use the sov-ereign gifts with - in our hu-man care. With
 fear give way to love; come, step up - on the waves of faith." Dear
 loaves and fish, of bread and wine, trans-form-ing eve-ry guest. "Come,"

A♭ /C B♭/D E♭ /G Fm 6 E♭ Cmsus4-3 A♭ /G /F B♭7

we with o - pen mouth re-ceive God's gifts with in - fant need, and,
 God's own joy some seem to soar, a fierce and ho - ly flame; some
 Giv-er, Gift, we seek your face: you share our thorn, our scar. We
 says the Host, "from west and east bring gifts to share—come, eat!—none

Cm A♭ B♭ /D E♭sus4-3 Cm7 A♭/C Gm/B♭ Cm A♭ B♭

sight un - fo-cussed, scarce per-ceive Love's pre-sence as we feed,
 gifts are thorns we scarce en - dure to touch, or face, or name.
 learn your joy when by your grace we share the gift we are
 lost or wast - ed when God's feast of joy will be com-plete."

Words: Andrew Donaldson (1951-)

Music: Irish traditional melody; harmony, Francis B. Westbrook (1903-1975)

Words: copyright © The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1995 Music: harmony, copyright © Oxford University Press

Thou didst leave thy throne

MARGARET Irregular

D Bm Em A 7 Bm Em/G F#

1. Thou didst leave thy throne and thy king - ly crown
 2. E - ven fox - es found rest, and the birds had their nest
 3. When thou cam - est, O Lord, with the liv - ing word,
 4. Heav - en's arch - es shall ring and its choirs shall sing

Bm 6 A /C# D /F# A

when thou cam - est to earth for me, but in
 in the shade of the for - est tree, but thy
 'twas to set all thy peo - ple free, but with
 at thy com - ing to vic - to - ry; let thy

D C#7sus4 - 3 F#m Dm/F E7sus4 - 3

Beth - le - hem's home was there found no room for thy
 couch was the sod, O thou Son of God, in the
 mock - ing scorn and with crown of thorn, then we
 voice call me home, say - ing, "Yet there is room, there is

A /C# Esus4 - 3 A 7 D /E /F#

ho - ly na - tiv - i - ty: oh come to my heart,
 des - erts of Gal - i - lee: oh come to my heart,
 bore thee to Cal - va - ry: oh come to my heart,
 room at my side for thee!" My heart shall re-joice,

D Em7 D/F# Bm6 D/A A 7 D

Lord Je - sus; there is room in my heart for thee.
 Lord Je - sus; there is room in my heart for thee.
 Lord Je - sus; now thy cross is my on - ly plea.
 Lord Je - sus, when thou com - est and call - est me.

Words: Emily Elizabeth Steele Elliott (1836-1897), alt Music: Timothy Richard Matthews (1826-1910)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

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,

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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NOËL NOUVELE

11 11 10 4

God loved the world so much

1. God loved the world so much— this we know, this we know; God
 2. When peo - ple heard his voice, all were changed, all were changed; when
 3. The wretch - ed of the earth he em - braced, he em - braced, the
 4. On earth it - self he sowed seeds of peace, seeds of peace; on
 5. Shall we who bear his name, stay the same, stay the same? Shall
 6. To God we give our - selves, bod - y, mind, heart, and soul; we

loved the world so much— this we know; God loved the world so
 peo - ple heard his voice all were changed; when peo - ple heard his
 wretch - ed of the earth he em - braced; the sick and sad and
 earth it - self he sowed seeds of peace; and for the world, its
 we who bear his name stay the same? Or shall we turn our
 give our bod - y, mind, heart, and soul. O Je - sus, now in -

much, the world, not just the church, that Christ came in - to touch, in - to
 voice, some ran - kled, some re - joiced: he came to vin - di - cate what was
 poor he led to heav - en's door, and there, be - side the fear - ful and
 health, its wis - dom, and its wealth, he broke the bread of heav'n and he
 face to - wards a dif - f'rent place and, hear - ing words of grace meant for
 still a pas - sion for your will to love all peo - ple and, in our

time, in - to view, de - clar - ing he would make all things new.
 right, what was right, ex - pose de - ceit and spread truth and light.
 flawed, o - ver - awed, they felt the warmth and wel - come of God.
 shared it a - round that jus - tice might be - come com - mon ground.
 all, meant for all, re - spond to Je - sus' prom - ise and call?
 care of the earth, walk in your way and cher - ish our worth.

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949; © 2017, WGRG, c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent CCLI #4440603
 Tune: WONDROUS LOVE; Southern Harmony, 1835