



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Ups and Downs

February 26, 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)



Jesus MAFA

Contacts

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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

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

From the rising of the sun to its going down

God calls people to gather.

From the mountaintop

God's light, the perfection of beauty, shines out.

Today we remember the light that shone through Jesus.

We celebrate his mountain top transfiguration.

Jesus the light of the world;

Jesus the light of love;

Jesus the light that shines in suffering;

Jesus the light of hope.

♪ Hymn: We have come at Christ's own bidding.....pg 10 (187)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xP_V2Edi7m8



Transfiguration
M Moyers



Prayer of Approach

Glorious God,
your thoughts are not our thoughts,
neither are your ways our ways.

You look at the ugliest soul
and see, still unopened,
the wings of an angel.

**We see our neighbours,
and find flaws.**

You view time in the context of eternity,
and so find a place for waiting, for yearning,
even for suffering, even for dying.

**We demand instant results;
and look for tomorrow before savouring today.**

You know that only one who suffers
can ultimately save,
that is why you walk the way of the cross.

**We fear that vulnerability
which defies our power;
that is why we allow for crucifixion.**

Your thoughts are not our thoughts,
neither are your ways our ways.

Still, we know
that your way is the ladder to heaven,
while, left to our own devices,
our ways slide into hell.
But we are here,


not to have our worst confirmed,
but to have our best liberated.

So we pray,

**Forgive in us what has gone wrong,
repair in us what is wasted,
reveal in us what is good.**

And nourish us with better food
than we could ever buy:
your word,
your love,
your inspiration,
your daily bread for our life's journey,
in the company of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.²

 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.

² adapted from *Stages on the Way*, Wild Goose Publ.



Listening to God

 Children's story

We're in the church season of Lent. It's a time to get ready for Easter - like the pre-season for sports teams. We work together and encourage each other to do things that will help us be better Christians. It goes on for 40 days + Sundays!

Sometimes this means you stop doing something, and sometimes you add something. This week let's practice thanking God by saying "thank you God" every time we see, or hear, or taste something nice - even if you saw or tasted it yesterday.

It's not a competition, but how many can you do in a day?


(ex. yesterday I thanked God for my son's enthusiastic (and random) singing, banana pancakes, some time with my family, and indoor plumbing.)

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for Lent, and help us to practice following you.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Open my eyes.....pg 13 (550)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=TQMhcuY2m1Y

 Prayer for Illumination


Holy God,
you showed the disciples
the awesome glory of Jesus Christ.

Give us, who have not seen it,
the gift of your Holy Spirit,
as we hear your word

So that we can shine with your transforming glory
and bring hope to all the world. Amen.

✦ Intro to the readings

- Between last week and this week...
 - chapter 13 had some more parables
 - Herod killed Jesus' cousin John because of a foolish promise
 - Jesus feed thousands of people with only a few loaves and fish
 - ...and walks on water
 - Jesus warns against how the Pharisees and Sadducees are focused on the wrong things.
 - He's also quite rude to a foreign woman, but ends up impressed with her faith and heals her.
- The first verse Elizabeth is going to read refers to Jesus and the disciples being in the region of Caesarea Philippi. The local leader had his picture on the coins - with the line 'son of god.' I wonder if that triggered Jesus' question.
- As you listen, imagine that you are there as well. What do you notice? What do you feel?

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

[Matthew 16:8 - 17:9](#)

[Psalm 99](#)

✦ Sermon: Ups and downs

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

Could you place yourself in the story?

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

How did it feel?

What did you wonder about?
or notice?

I don't think it's just the name, but I noticed Peter. He gets special treatment in the gospels. He's the one who speaks for the disciples, and receives questions. He's the models of what it's like to follow Jesus - with the ups and downs that can go with it.

He stands out for me because in these verses his faith journey goes on a real roller-coaster. He states that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. Jesus is the one to save them. He is the Lord - the ruler - the one in charge. He will stop suffering. He will bring in the Kingdom of God. Peter doesn't use so many words, but that's what is meant by saying that Jesus is the Messiah.

There's also risk involved. Calling the wrong person God, which is basically what Peter is doing, is blasphemy - and would get him in serious trouble with the dedicated church people who have spent their lives figuring God out.

It's not the first time the disciples have referred to Jesus as God. There was the night back in the boat. Jesus wasn't with them. They were battered by a storm. With the sun rising, Jesus walked out to them... over the water. Peter tried to join him... but didn't succeed. Those in the boat declared, "*Truly you are the Son of God.*"

It's a story that fits with today's. Peter tries, and fails, ...and is helped back up again. I think that's what I like about Peter. It's not that he's solid, unmovable. He's not always right. But you can depend on him to try and live out his faith - despite himself.

Here Peter goes from declaring Jesus to be the Son of the living God and receiving a blessing from Jesus - to being strongly rebuked by Jesus.

Is your journey with God one that is always good? or always getting better? or is it more like Peter's... a step forward into the light, and then falling on your face? Figuring out something about God... and then discovering that something else you knew was wrong? ...like Peter.

Peter has enthusiasm and courage that I admire. He's prepared to take a stand, to make a statement. ...and sometimes it's good. He's seen and heard amazing things: the Sermon on the Mount, healings, parables... and he knows that Jesus is the Son of God. What helps you realize that Jesus is the Son of God? Do you have stories? or experiences? or healings? Are there teachings/parables that help you see the world in a new way? Did you try living out something from church and discover something better? For me, it's relationships that reveal Christ. People who have tried to follow Christ and have shared with me the comfort and struggles they found. Hearing these stories is one of the great things about being a minister.

For Peter, he had all these in pretty spectacular ways, and it led to him recognizing Jesus for who he is. How does the Holy Spirit draw you close?

Then Jesus talks about how he “*must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes and be killed and on the third day be raised.*” and Peter disagrees. Why? Does this go against Peter's image of the Son of God? How can Jesus save them if he is killed? Perhaps Peter's outraged at the idea that the Son of God would be hurt by humans. Maybe he's

worried about what will happen to all they've been building - to the church - if Jesus is killed? Perhaps he's worried about himself, or maybe he's just worried about his friend Jesus.

I lean towards Peter not understanding that God descending into suffering is necessary to bring God's Kingdom everywhere on earth, as it is in Heaven. This probably reflects my perspective that people (including myself) have difficulty realizing how God's kingdom is coming.

When have you got it wrong?

As you reflect on that you'll probably find your thoughts drifting to others. That's because it's easier to see where someone else has

got it wrong, in your opinion, than yourself - but remember the parable of the log in your eye from a couple of weeks ago. Perhaps for this you need some conversations with people who are different than you. This can be in person, or through books and podcasts.



Transfiguration - P Kret

And Peter's roller-coaster continues as he, big James & John are invited to a mountaintop experience. There they see Jesus meet with Moses & Elijah... and Peter tries to help, only to be foolish. He recognizes this as a good thing - and

wants to keep it going. It's probably closer to the image he has of the Son of God - not the one of suffering. As he opens he tries to keep this experience going, it steps up a notch. They mighty Lord God, King of the Universe, speaks... *"and they were overcome by fear."*

Peter: courageous and fearful, model Christian and failure, witness to who Jesus is and tempter of Jesus away from who he is.

...which is interesting. When Peter takes Jesus aside and suggests that suffering isn't a good part of the plan Jesus uses the same words as when he sent the devil packing. Why? Was Jesus tempted to avoid the suffering? We believe Jesus wasn't just divine, but also human. Who wouldn't be tempted to avoid suffering? Yet, Jesus says that his suffering must happen for the Kingdom to come on earth. Why? I believe it's because if the Kingdom of God doesn't descend to the suffering, then it's just a superficial amusement park. We know that suffering is part of life. This shows us that God will descend into suffering - and build the Kingdom from there.

This is powerful,
even if it's not always pleasant.

Perhaps that's why Jesus had the meeting on the mountain. He needed a pep talk with Moses & Elijah. They had also followed God's plan through suffering and glory - through downs and ups. Moses had successes and failures, went up against the Pharaoh, and tried leading people who just didn't get it - while (usually) trying to follow God's plan. Elijah had similar experiences. They could offer him a sympathetic ear, and some encouragement.

Perhaps Jesus also needed the affirmation of The Father, *"This*

is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased." Yes, he will suffer, but there will be this memory of God's blessing.



Transfiguration of Jesus - C Monsma

We can all relate to appreciating - even needing - an encouraging word. Since Jesus was human, I'm sure he did too. Despite the awesomeness of the transfiguration in revealing the divine aspect of Jesus, perhaps this was needed to balance out the humanness and temptation he struggled with.

and it is a struggle. Life is a struggle. Following God is a struggle. Look at Peter. I left him overwhelmed and afraid in the dirt. Thankfully, that's not where Jesus leaves him - or us.

Jesus accepted and encouraged Peter when Peter recognized who Jesus was. Jesus reprimanded and accepted Peter when he

tried to put human desires before the coming Kingdom. Jesus didn't send him packing, but invited Peter up the mountain to get a hint of what was to come - and when Peter was overwhelmed and afraid Jesus dialed down the glory to something approachable. He touched Peter, invited him to not to be afraid, and to look up.

And so it is with us.
When we are courageous or fearful,
a model Christian, or failure,
someone who is setting our minds on the divine,
or on human things.
Through it all, Jesus relates to us
will reach for us,
and invite us not to be afraid.

...and then lead us down the mountain so that the Kingdom can continue to lift the suffering up so that they will experience the presence of God, and experience the transfiguration to glory.

*To God be all the Glory
Amen.*



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd.....pg 11 (356)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=hs6o_QNeUzI

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

Wonder: Imagine yourself in our gospel reading. Share what you notice and feel.

Wonder: What would you ask Peter? Jesus?

Values: We describe Jesus as fully human and fully divine. What does it mean for you that Jesus was human? divine?

Wonder: How do you imagine the humanness of Jesus being present? the divinity of Jesus?

Wonder: Why do you think Jesus said not to tell anyone until after his suffering, death and resurrection?

Prayer: ...may your hand be felt by those who are suffering, and your light inspire us to look for your Kingdom.

✦ Spirit Sightings

I was thinking of a person who could model for us suffering and hope. I couldn't get Dietrich Bonhoeffer out of my head. He's a bit of a problematic role model as he lived through times that I hope none of us have to again.

As a young man he had a promising academic career, with a passion for following God - even when it went against societal norms. He wrote a wonderful little book about living in community. His major book is based around the Sermon on the Mount called *Discipleship*. In it he explains that while God graciously offers salvation, following God is costly. This belief led

him to stay in Germany as the Nazis became more and more dominant. He ended up being arrested. Despite suffering, he continued to share God's love & hope with his fellow prisoners and guards - having a positive impact on all their lives. Bonhoeffer could do this because there was no denial in him. He suffered, and he knew that God was there... and would transfigure this world into the next. He was executed, but death wasn't the end.

As a more recent note:

This week we've been reminded that the war in Ukraine has been going on for a year now. One of the impacts of war is that it disrupts markets, shipping, and the whole agricultural industry. This pushes people towards poverty, starvation & malnutrition.

The PWS&D is responding with its partners in places like the Ukraine, Yemen, Syria & Ethiopia to help people receive food, and to support local farmers.

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

The Word of God calls us to see that all the places and occasions of the world, even places of sorrow and death, are transfigured by the presence of the glory of God in Christ Jesus.

Let us now call to mind all who are in any need and commend them to God's transforming care, saying, "O merciful God, **hear our prayer.**"

We thank you God that you don't stay up on the mountain, but descend down into the mess of the world. That you aren't afraid of suffering, but reach down and invite us not to be afraid.

Jesus, we pray for those who are alone,
by choice, or fear, or shame, or loss,
O merciful God,
hear our prayer.

For those imprisoned,
by past mistakes,
by assumptions and prejudice,
their own - and others.
O merciful God,
hear our prayer.

For those whose only home is the streets,
and for those caught in addiction,
O merciful God,
hear our prayer.

For the hungry,
for those who cannot feed their children,
For the unemployed and under-employed,
and for those hungry for meaning.
O merciful God,
hear our prayer.

For refugees,
for victims of warfare,
especially on the anniversary of the war in Ukraine.
O merciful God,
hear our prayer.

For our neighbours and communities.
O merciful God,
hear our prayer.

For artists and writers
and for all who think on the edge of society,
O merciful God,
hear our prayer.

For all who your light has touched,
that they may glow with your love, hope and healing,
bringing you to the suffering.
O merciful God,
hear our prayer.

For Kensington,
and those gathered by this worship time.
O merciful God,
hear our prayer.

With Peter and all the people of God,
bearing witness to your great light shining in dark places,
we give these prayers to you.
Lord of love, hope and healing.
Light of the World
Amen.⁴

⁴ adapted from *Worship Sourcebook H.4.4.2*

♪ Hymn: Immortal Invisible.....pg 12 (290)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfu1dqKCGd8

✦ Benediction

Next week we'll be in Matthew 18. 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.*⁵



Transfiguration - Jaison Cianelli

⁵ Numbers 6: 24-26

187 We have come at Christ's own bidding

BREWER 8787D

1. We have come at Christ's own bidding to this high and ho - ly place,
 2. Light breaks in up - on our dark-ness; splen-dour bathes the flesh-joined Word;
 3. Strength-ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our faith de - cline,

D Bm Em7 D/F# Bm Am /C D F#m Bm C Asus4-3

Here we pray for new as - sur-ance that our faith is not in vain,
 Eyes and hearts be - hold with won - der how the law and proph-ets meet:
 but true wor-ship gives us cour-age to pro-claim what we pro-fess,

Bm F#m C G D Bmsus4-3 Em Asus4-3

where we wait with hope and long - ing for some tok - en of God's grace.
 Mos - es and E - li - jah mar - vel as the heaven - ly voice is heard.
 we like Pe - ter find it tempt-ing to re - main and build a shrine,

D Gmaj7/B G6 D/F# Bm Am /C D E/D A /C# F#m D6 E7 A

search - ing like those first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.
 Christ, with gar - ments drenched in bright-ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.
 that our dai - ly lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

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

Alternate tune: Hyfrydol

Words: Carl P. Daw, Jr. (1944-) Music: David Ashley White (1944-)

Words: copyright © 1988 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: copyright © Selab Publishing Co., Inc., 1991

356 You, Lord, are both lamb and shepherd

PARADOX 878787

Gm Dm Gm Eb Cm6 D Gm F Bb/D Eb6 F 7 Gm

1. You, Lord, are both lamb and shep-herd. You, Lord, are both
 2. Clothed in light up - on the moun-tain, stripped of might up -
 3. You, who walk each day be - side us, sit in pow - er
 4. Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus! Wor - thy is our

Dm 7 Eb Gm Eb6 F Bb/D Eb Cm Dsus4 - 3

prince and slave, you, peace-mak - er and sword - bring - er
 on the cross, shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 at God's side. You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 cos - mic Christ! Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - tory.

Gm Cm6 Dsus4 - 3 Gm DmF Eb

of the way you took and gave, you, the ev - er -
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss, you, the ev - er -
 have a love that reach - es wide, you, the ev - er -
 Wor - thy still your peace and strife. You, the ev - er -

F Cm6/Eb D Gm Cm/Eb Dsus4 - 3 Gm (G)

last - ing in - stant, you, whom we both scorn and crave.
 last - ing in - stant, you, who are both gift and cost.
 last - ing in - stant, you, who are our pil - grim guide.
 last - ing in - stant, you, who are our death and life.

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993) Music: John Van Maanen (1958-)

Words: copyright © G.L.A. Publications Inc., 1991 Music: copyright © John Van Maanen



transfiguration

Immortal, invisible, God only wise

ST. DENIO 11 11 11 11

Ab D \flat B \flat E \flat Fm Ab/E \flat E \flat 7 Ab

1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing and si - lent as light,
 3. To all life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4. Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

Ab D \flat B \flat m E \flat Fm Ab/E \flat E \flat 7 Ab

in light in - ac - cess - i - ble hid from our eyes;
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;

Ab E \flat /G Ab /C Ab Fm Ab/C E \flat

most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der: oh help us to see

C Fm B \flat m E \flat Fm Ab/E \flat E \flat 7 Ab

al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise.
 thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and wi - ther, and per - ish; but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dour of light hid - eth thee.

Words: Walter Chalmers Smith (1824–1908) Music: Welsh folk song from Caniadau y Cyssegr 1839; arrangement, John Roberts (1822–1877); descant, C.S. Lang (1891–1971)

Words: public domain Music: descant, copyright © Novello & Co. Ltd. CCLI #4440603

Open my eyes, that I may see

OPEN MY EYES 8 8 9 8 with refrain

Ab Eb7/Bb Eb7 Ab6 Ab

1. O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me;
 2. O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic-es of truth thou send-est clear,
 3. O-pen my mouth, and let me bear glad-ly the warm truth eve-ry-where;

C7/G Fm C7/E Fm C7 Fm Bb Eb

place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un-clasp and set me free.
 and while the wave-notes fall on my ear, eve-ry-thing false will dis-ap-pear.
 o-pen my heart and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren thus to share.

Refrain
 Ab Eb7/Bb Eb7 Ab

Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy will to see;

(Eb/Bb Ab/C) Ab7C# Db(6) Eb7 Ab

o-pen my eyes:
 o-pen my ears: il-lu-mine me, Spir-it di-vine!
 o-pen my heart:

Words: Clara H. Scott (1841–1897) Music: Clara H. Scott (1841–1897)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

With support from Presbyterians Sharing, the Newcomers Mission has faithfully been providing assistance and spiritual care to newly arrived immigrants and refugees in Peterborough, Ontario, and the surrounding



area since 2016. In recent months, the Newcomers Mission has expanded to offer a Ukrainian gathering program that has reached over 40 Ukrainians who fled to Canada because of the war in their country. It provides a place of belonging and care for people living through very difficult and vulnerable situations. Many have turned to this ministry for friendly conversation over a warm meal, assistance accessing services, as well as spiritual support and prayer. Through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, the church is helping to “welcome the stranger.”

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, February 26 (First Sunday in Lent) We pray that we may know the Spirit’s blessing blowing in us and through us, so that we may live out what is required of us: to seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God.

Monday, February 27 We give thanks and pray for the Newcomers Mission in Peterborough, Ontario, providing newly arrived immigrants and refugees with support, care and a sense of belonging in Canada.

Tuesday, February 28 We pray for the people who gather and serve at Place of Hope Indigenous Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and we give thanks for their ministry.

Wednesday, March 1 We pray for the members and work of the International Affairs Committee.

Thursday, March 2 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Quebec.

Friday, March 3 (World Day of Prayer) On this day, we pray as Jesus prayed “that they may all be one” (John 17:21). We pray for our siblings in Christ throughout the world, and that we may all be one in proclaiming the good news in word and deed in this weary world.

Saturday, March 4 We pray for God’s guidance for students studying at the PCC’s theological colleges—The Presbyterian College (Montreal, Quebec), Knox College (Toronto, Ontario) and St. Andrew’s Hall/Vancouver School of Theology (British Columbia).