

Kensington Presbyterian Church

Growing in Faith and sharing God's Love since 1786

Seven Days

June 4, 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 & snacks), as well as through Zoom, YouTube, and this printable PDF. If you have any prayer requests, ideas, or just want to talk, please reach out to your elder or Rev. Peter (Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca)



7 Days of Creation - Safina

Contacts

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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.

Zoom Prayer Group: Thursday at 6:30 a.m.

You may use the worship login details

us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107?

pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNlUrUT09

or phone: 438-809-7799 Meeting ID: 773 730 107

Password: 7864826

Jesus & Java: Join us as we share the joys and questions of faith.

Thursday, 3:30 pm at Beetz, 5914 Sherbrooke @ Clifton

Pizza & Movie Nights: Fridays at 6:30

June 9: Mama Mia!

June 16: Robin Hood (Disney)

Please let Rev. Peter know if you plan to come.

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

Drop Box: Food donations are welcome for the local Food Pantry.

Induction: Sunday, June 11 @ 4 pm

Rev. Bien Chung will be inducted as the minister of Taiwanese Robert Campbell Presbyterian Church. 2225 Regent Ave Everyone is welcome.

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



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
O God, who called all life into being,
The earth, sea and sky are yours.
Your presence is all around us,
every atom is full of your energy.
Your Spirit enlivens all who walk the earth,
with her we yearn for justice to be done,
For creation to be freed from bondage,
for the hungry to be fed,
for captives to be released,

for thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven.²



Controluce - Gianluca Benini

☐ Hymn: Thou whose almighty word.....pg 11 (291) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGuUQiDkQA4 Prayer of Approach (Walter Brueggemann) God before and God behind. God for us and God for your own self, Maker of heaven and earth. creator of sea and sky. governor of day and night. We give thanks for your ordered gift of life to us, for the rhythms that reassure, for the balance that sustains. for the reliabilities that curb our anxieties. We treasure from you, days to work and nights to rest. We cherish from you, days to control and nights to yield. We savour from you, days to plan and nights to dream, Be our day and our night, our heaven and our earth,

and in the end, our true home.

our sea and our sky.

Amen.³

² from Holy Ground, wild goose publ. 243.

Walter Brueggemann, Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth.



Listening to God

Prayer for Illumination Lord,

open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may hear your Word with joy.

Amen.

🛊 Intro to the readings

- The first reading is both familiar and long. There are many ways to connect with this text... which one attracts your attention this time? Notice that. Is it something you appreciate? or upsets you? you question? or didn't notice? Pay attention to where your attention wonders... and bring it back if it wanders too far.
- Our Psalm may be familiar. While it has two distinct themes, they both build on the first reading well.

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

Genesis 1 to 2:3 Psalm 19



James Webb Space Telescope - New stars

🔆 Sermon: Seven Days

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

I expect the 7 days of creation are familiar to you. There's a lot of ways to connect with it. You might feel wonder at what God created. You might wonder how the account can fit with scientific theories on creation. You might celebrate that God brings light to the world, or that God declares creation to be good. You might be frustrated with the translation using 'dominion' and 'subdue'. You might embrace that humans are created, not just 'man'.

This week, what resonated with me was that God worked - and rested. God starts by forming the foundations: dark & light, water & land, day & night. Then God creates life: birds & fish, trees & flowers, and animals of the earth. All this life was created in more diversity than we can imagine. Creating life, and life giving systems, is work.

And God didn't take the easy way. I've mentioned this before,

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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

⁵ Psalm 19:14

but God created so many types of birds & fish & trees & flowers. What's perhaps even more interesting, or complicated, is the emphasis on opposites in this passage. Dark isn't done away with, but now there is space for light. The waters aren't suppressed, but there is room for land. It continues with life: fish & birds, male & female. All of which God declares to be "very good".

God put a lot of work into creation. Humans have been studying it for thousands of years, and we're still learning how complicated it is.

One of the more complicated pieces of creation is us: humans. We (you, me, every gender, every race) are made in the image of God. We aren't God, but together we reflect God. One aspect of this is that we are to work.

There are many types of work, and many reasons for doing it. People work because that's what's expected of them; they work to pay the bills, or to get ahead. You might also work to reach your potential, whether that's in a job or hobby (tennis, music, ...). You might work to help others, or help shape the world to be more like God's Kingdom. These are all good things.

On Friday morning I heard an interview with Oliver Jones on the CBC.⁶ One of the things that came up was how he was encouraged by people in his church and community to reach his potential. Not only did he work at that, but he also works to help children to reach their potential as well. This is bringing life - which is part of the image of God.

Now, Oliver Jones isn't doing this the same way now as he used to. When he was 5 it was more about playing the piano. This turned into a career playing and leading other musicians. Later he added teaching to the mix, and then used his name to

raise money to support those who need help to reach their potential.

Like Oliver Jones, how we work changes over time. There's youthful energy, skills that come with practice, and wisdom from life experience. Not even God worked the same each day.

Which leads to the other thing that struck me from the passage: the seventh day. Walter Brueggemann⁷ noticed this in an interesting way. He points out that God didn't show up on the 7th day anxious that things wouldn't be working, that the world had collapsed. There also wasn't any tinkering to make it just a little better. God shows up to enjoy it - to 'take it all in'.

Personally, I find this hard. How about you?

Kara Root is the minister of a Presbyterian church⁸ that has made Sabbath keeping a focus. She writes that this has been immensely rewarding for the congregation, and that "Sometimes we just spend the day in a restless form of withdrawal from activity, or in a knock-down, drag-out battle with things we tell ourselves we should be doing." Does that sound familiar?

Even people who are retired feel bad about not being as productive as they used to be, or feel they should, or as much as somebody else. This can be motivating, which is good. It can be soul sapping, which is bad. It can also cause us to forget the importance of what creation let to - the Sabbath. Work is important - so is rest. This is the rhythm of the world. This is how God formed things. It needs to be an important part of the rhythm of your life - or each of our lives.

⁷ We sometimes have prayers written by him.

www.lakenokomispc.org/sabbath.html Twice a month they don't meet Sunday morning, but instead meet on Saturday evening to start a Sabbath day with various prayer and contemplation stations. They then take Sunday as a day of rest - and encourage each other not to give in to work

⁶ www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-15-daybreak-montreal/clip/15988733-sitting-oliver-jones

Why?

Because it is important to rest. Workplace research shows that people are more productive if they rest - but I suspect when God rested it wasn't to be more productive. It was to appreciate things - and that takes time. Think about a meal. The faster you eat it the less likely you are to enjoy it. The same is true about everything else. Enjoyment takes time.

It even takes time to relax, to become restful - though there are techniques that can help.

- make Sabbath a part of your routine. It doesn't have to be Sunday. It doesn't have to be a full day. It does help to be part of the rhythm of your life. Schedule it in.
- have an intentional start and end to your Sabbath time. It could be a short prayer, or lighting a candle. Separate this time from the rest. It is different.
- Consider each time how to make this Sabbath different. Kara Root's family answers two questions as they start their Sabbath. "What will I say 'no' to so I remember I am free?" and "What will I say 'yes' to so that I remember whose I am?"
- don't try it alone. You don't have to be with others, but have some others that are also trying to keep the Sabbath. It is hard at every stage of life. Perhaps form a 'Sabbath Club'. (I can help if you like) You can share your experiences, struggles, discoveries, ...

Does it mean not doing anything? What does it actually look like?

That will vary. You may find gardening relaxing and that it helps you 'take it all in'. You may find gardening stressful and 'work'. It may be with people, or alone... or a combination. You

will find you change.

Does God still take a Sabbath? Is there a day that God doesn't do anything?

No. Jesus reminds us that the Sabbath was created for people, and not people for the Sabbath. For example, when his disciples were hungry it was okay to pluck grain to eat. I'm sure that God takes time to appreciate creation, and that God will always be there for you.

Chapter one of the Bible teaches us many truths. One is that God worked, and God rested. This is a theme that keeps going through the Bible - because we are also to work, and to rest. In our resting, we will likely struggle before we feel at peace. With practice though, space will be created to be with God and enjoy creation - with all its complicated and diverse relationships.

To wrap up, I want to leave you with a possible image, or feeling, for the Sabbath. Remember back to when you were a child in school. It's winter. You wake up and discover... it's a snow day. Instead of having to go to school, you hang out with your friends, go tobogganing, build snow forts, ... You celebrate and enjoy creation to the fullest.

To God be all the glory Amen.



Particular Conf

Responding to God

☐ Hymn: Creator God, creating still.....pg 12 (286)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ctz89xD-2qQ

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 about a time you felt rested to the depth of your soul.

What created that experience?

Can you make it a regular part of your life?

Values: What drives your agenda?

Is this helping God create the Kingdom 'on earth as

it is in Heaven'?

Does it show faith that God won't let everything fall

apart if you take a Sabbath?

Values: What do you wish you could do, but can't?

Actions: Form a Sabbath Club. invite a few people to start.

Each person sets their own goal and style - which they share with the group. You check in with each other weekly to support each other.

Prayer: ...that you accept what work God is calling you to now, and also accept rest with God.

╆ Spirit Sighting

Sabbath keeping isn't the only rhythm in the world. Another is yard sale season. Yesterday was Montreal West's Garage sale & Garage Band. Usually though it's a table with items scattered about the lawn.

Last week, Mary Ellen emailed me about a piece she wrote that

was published in the Globe & Mail.9 It combined both her joy of yard sales, and her work with palliative care and grieving. She realized that it's not usual for there to be grief laying under the yard sale. It could be grief at with parting long held possessions. It can also be because the person treasured the items has died



The Holy Spirit revealed this to Mary Ellen. It has allowed conversations to grow that are a step towards healing... and allows us to wonder why items are for sale, and if we can listen to their story.

Thanks be to God!

╆ Offering

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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.

⁹ www.theglobeandmail.com/life/first-person/article-yard-sales-are-often-about-grieving-not-just-good-deals/





Communion

☐ Hymn: O Holy Father.....pg 12 (529)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=3M4yo7c3MhY

☀ Invitation to the table

Maintenant, c'est le temps de se rassembler autour de la Table de notre Seigneur.

Parce que

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

Join us,
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 have wandered.

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.

Amen.

❖ 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.

Today Lord, we remember your creations; the wonder of it the diversity of it the goodness of it.

You set the galaxies spinning
growing and developing.

Developing life here on Earth
...and maybe elsewhere,
because your creativity
continues to be more than we can imagine.

All of which shows your fingerprints,
reflects a bit of your wonder.

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.

But you don't stay in the highest,
you come right down here
not afraid to get muddy.

Not just creating us,
but nurturing us to grow in healthy ways
and always trying when we reach in another direction
spending our energy in ways we don't need to
and in ways that hurt others, ourselves, and creation.

Please forgive us. . .

and thank you for coming as Jesus, showing that you are with us

and how we can be with you. Showing that you will not only live to help us, but die to save us.

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

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

We so look forward to your coming again. We know there will be judgment, but also mercy, and more joy than we can imagine.

And until that time,
we thank you for your Holy Spirit.
Who is working around us, in us - between us.
May you continue to create in us a new spirit,
so that we will work in ways that share your glory,
and rest so that we may know your peace
always growing closer to you.

Dear Jesus,

You want us to be honest with you, and share what's on our minds & hearts.

- We thank you for families and communities that we can turn to for help.
- We thank you for Yard Sales and the connections that can be made, and honoured
- We pray for those who have lost their possessions & memories to forest fires.

• We give thanks for those who have received healing, and pray for those who still need your presence.

As we gather at your table, we pray that as we share your bread and your cup.

your will make them alive so that we may be closer to you and be strengthened by you until you come again.

Let us join together in speaking the words Jesus taught us to pray, saying:

Lord's Prayer (feel free to use another version/translation) Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, vour 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.



Pentecost - Kelly Latimore

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 vous"

[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]

Prayer 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. and we thank you for bringing us together through your Word and your table.

Through you, we are saved.

Vous êtes ici maintenant avec espoir et amour.

Help us to share your love with all the world.

In Jesus name Amen.

☐ Hymn: God who gives to life its goodness.....pg 13 (334)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=UpCS7f2BKwk

* 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, June 4

MISSION MOMENT

In Haiti's Artibonite region, two-year-old Gloria lives with her parents and three siblings. One day, Gloria's parents noticed that their daughter would not eat, and that her breathing was laboured. They rushed Gloria to St. Marc Hospital, supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development and its local partner. There, Gloria was diagnosed with acute malnutrition, as well as tuberculosis and edema. Her treatment consisted of a regimen of antibiotics and therapeutic milk, administered over the course of a few weeks until she was deemed healthy enough to



begin outpatient care. Not long after, Gloria had gained enough weight to assure the doctors that she had made a full recovery, both from malnutrition and tuberculosis.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, June 4 (Trinity Sunday/General Assembly Sunday) We pray for the commissioners, young adult representatives and national office staff as they gather for the 148th General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada in Halifax, Nova Scotia, to learn, worship and discern Christ's will for God's church at work in the world.

Monday, June 5 As the 2023 General Assembly of the PCC begins, we pray that God blesses the church with the gift of the Spirit and opens the hearts and minds of those participating in the Assembly.

Tuesday, June 6 We pray for the committee conveners, clerks and staff of the General Assembly as they help commissioners discern the mind of Christ.

Wednesday, June 7 We give thanks for the commissioners who participated in the 2023 General Assembly, along with the committee conveners, clerks and staff who provided support and guidance under the direction of the Holy Spirit.

Thursday, June 8 (World Oceans Day) We pray for the integrity of ocean ecosystems, and for an increasing reduction of plastics pollution, acidification and unsustainable ocean resource extraction.

Friday, June 9 As we mark one year since the church adopted the confession to God and LGBTQI people, we pray that the God of justice and mercy gives us courage and hope as we engage in the work of repairing, restoring, reconciling and healing the harm the church has caused by excluding and marginalizing LGBTQI2+ people.

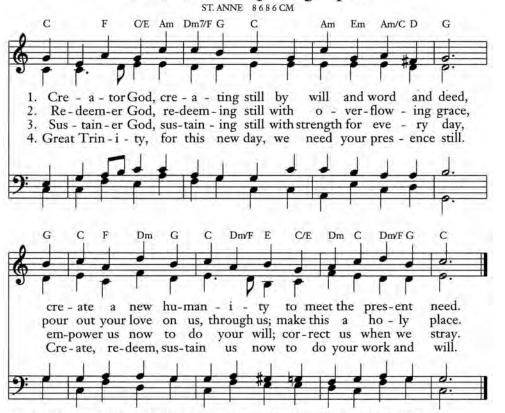
Saturday, June 10 We celebrate and give thanks for the recipient of the 2023 Cutting Edge of Mission award, Parents Circle-Families Forum, a joint Israeli-Palestinian organization of over 600 families working towards reconciliation and peace.



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O God, our help in ages past



Words: Genesis 1:2, John 15:26, Titus 2:11–14; paraphrase, Jane Parker Huber (1926–)

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Bamford Beauty - Lee Howdle

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