



Kensington Presbyterian Church
Growing in faith and sharing God's love
 since 1786

Thank you God

June 25, 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)



Through him all things
 Rev Lauren Wright Pittman

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

Communion: Next week you are invited to the Lord's Supper. All who want to know God better are welcome to join... though if you are at 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?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107?pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNIURUT09)

[pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNIURUT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107?pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNIURUT09)

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 30: Bride and Prejudice ...with treat from Bangladesh!

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

Zoé: will be on medical leave for the summer to recover from surgery

Drop Box: Food donations are welcome for the local Food Pantry and diapers for young mothers through Head & Hands.

East Africa Hunger Crisis: until June 30

donations will be doubled by the Canadian government:

presbyterian.ca/pwsd/donate-east-africa-hunger

Contacts

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Zoé Dupont-Foisy (music director).....zoedupontfoisy@hotmail.com



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 80 & 95)

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

♪ Hymn: Come thou fount of every blessing.....pg 10

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ax_NMWLEb6U



Prayer of Approach

All glorious God,
we give you thanks:
that in your Son, Jesus Christ,
you have given us every blessing
in the heavenly realms.

You chose us,
before the world was made,
to be part of your holy people.
You adopted us as your children in Christ.

Sometimes, we confess,



for every mountain - Kevin WAK Williams

we are childish.
grabbing what we want,
even if it forces someone
to work like a slave;
saying what comes to us
even if it brings more
pain than healing;
or turning away in fear,
instead of getting help
from somebody better
able to help.

Despite when we fail, you
set us free through Jesus;
in turning to you, you
forgive our sins.
In you, heaven and earth
are being united;
relationships are healed.

All praise and glory be yours, O God,
for the richness of your grace,
for the splendour of your gifts,
for the wonder of your love.

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 Time

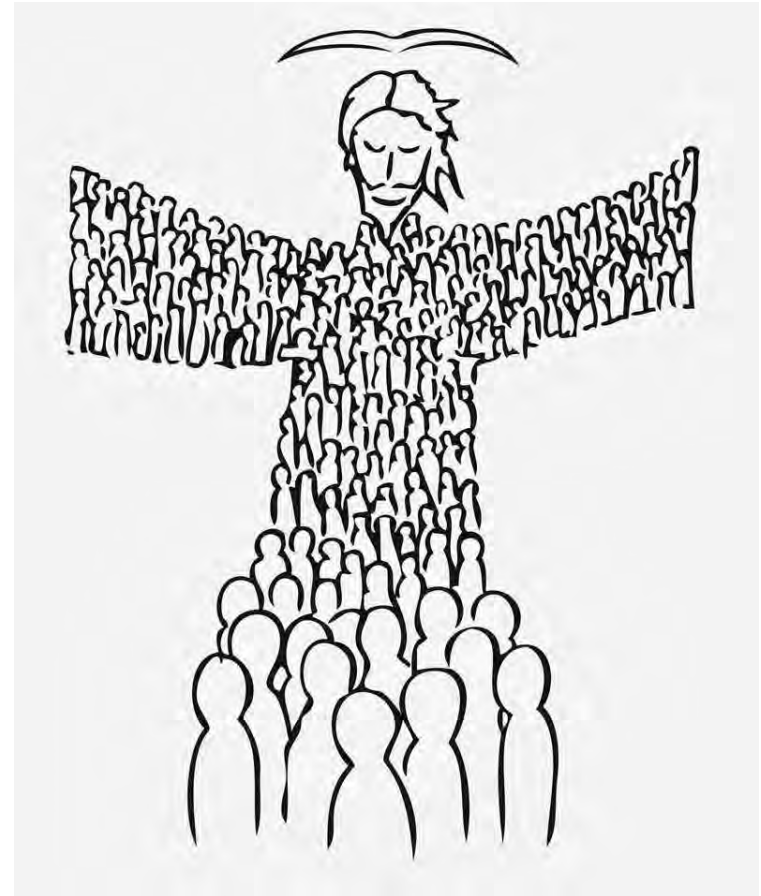
- Can we think of other churches in the area?
 - Korean Presbyterian Church of Montreal
 - St. Ansgar's Lutheran Church
 - Wesley United Church
 - Madison Baptist Church
 - Romanian 7th Day Adventist
 - St. Monica's Roman Catholic
 - River's Edge Community Church
 - etc.
- Today's Bible passage is written to the church, but not just one. Although they disagreed about things, there was one thing they all agreed on. Jesus is the one we are trying to follow. (Jesus is Lord.) It's like that here too. We disagree with other churches about some things, but all agree on trying to follow Jesus.

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for wanting to help everyone.

*Even when we don't agree on everything, help us to work with others
to help make the world better.*

Amen



- ♪ Hymn: Amazing Gracepg 11 (670)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=7n145-J8eig just voices
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tvt6E9N7AQw with guitar
www.youtube.com/watch?v=5p2CbHG9O0s with everything



Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
that today we may be filled with thankfulness.
Amen.²

² adapted from Worship Sourcebook 3.1.10 & 23

✦ Intro to the readings

Today we're starting a series on John Calvin's³ favourite New Testament book: the Letter to the Ephesians. There are many reasons Calvin may have liked it. Personally, I love some of the language and prayers. Often Paul's letters are like a boxing match as he tries to beat down an opponent we never hear from. Ephesians has been described as a theological dance.

Calvin might have liked Ephesians because the structure of the letter highlights good reformed values. It starts by praising God. Then there's prayers for guidance, which leads into a discussion on how we should shape our lives in response to God's awesome actions.

The letter says it's written by Paul, but scholars are split on whether that's true. The alternative is that it was written by one of Paul's students. Putting your teachers name on something that you think they would have said, given the opportunity, was a common practice. There's good reasons on both sides. What may be even more surprising is that there is reason to believe that the letter wasn't even written to the Ephesians. The oldest copies don't mention them - either as a group, or individuals in the community. If this is the case, then it would have been a general teaching letter to be widely circulated. What all the scholars agree on is that Ephesians is a good letter and an important part of the Bible.

In recent times, this letter has influenced reconciliation in Post-apartheid South Africa, Jewish-Christian Dialogue, and the purposes of ministry.

We'll be starting Ephesians at the beginning - which is with praise. Today's psalm also does this. Both passages remind us of

³ John Calvin was a french lawyer who fled to Geneva during the reformation. There he was an organizer, theologian and teacher. You could easily argue he's the 'father' of the Presbyterian Church.

what God has done and encourage us to celebrate this. As the passages are shared, try to put the academics aside and feel what this means for you - and the universe.

📖 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁴ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Ephesians 1: 1-14](#)

[Psalm 145](#)



Abrahams seed for web - Grace Carol Bomer

✦ Sermon: Thank you God

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

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

Because I want you to absorb the start of Ephesians, I'm going to read it again. This time as translated by a Presbyterian minister, Eugene Peterson.

¹⁻² *I, Paul, am under God's plan as an apostle, a special agent of Christ Jesus, writing to you faithful believers in Ephesus. I greet you with the grace and peace poured into our lives by God our Father and our Master, Jesus Christ.*

³⁻⁶ *How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.*

⁷⁻¹⁰ *Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we're a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. Abundantly free! He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ, a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.*

¹¹⁻¹² *It's in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ and got our hopes up, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone.*

¹³⁻¹⁴ *It's in Christ that you, once you heard the truth and believed it (this Message of your salvation), found yourselves home free—signed, sealed, and delivered by the Holy Spirit. This down payment from God is*

the first instalment on what's coming, a reminder that we'll get everything God has planned for us, a praising and glorious life.

Thank yous are important. It can be hard to remember them as we rush on to the next thing (or seek a break), but it's important to say thank you. Last week school ended for the summer. School has a big impact on our lives. This week Ines & I made sure that we and the boys thanked the various people involved in the school year. I was really impressed with the ones who wrote back handwritten notes thanking us for our thanks. Is that excessive? I don't think so. Giving thanks is important.

Ephesians starts with enthusiastic thanks. In the Greek (after the opening line) it's actually one sentence that just keeps going in its enthusiasm.

What is the writer thankful for?

Salvation: God working to free the universe, and you, from what drags us down so that we can all experience the best.

This isn't some distant creator God... or rather, it's not just the God that started it all. In this passage we celebrate God working as the creator and King, as the Father of Christ, as Jesus Christ, and as the Holy Spirit. God is celebrated in various ways that we experience or see God. It actually gives a pretty good Trinitarian view. We have God in charge. We have Christ showing us God's presence in the world saving us, and the Holy Spirit now and in the future. This diversity of ways God works is something to be thankful for.

Which highlights another reason to celebrate - when this is happening. Before the foundations of the world, God "*had settled on us as the focus of love, to be made whole and holy.*" There is a plan,

and you are a part of it - but not just you, all of us, all of creation.

I don't know about you, but I appreciate it when the person in charge has a plan. Knowing that God, the creator & Lord of the cosmos, has a plan is comforting to me - especially as Jesus shows God's not just a big picture leader, but cares about each of us.

That said, some people might be a little disturbed by God having a plan. We like to have a say in what goes on. If God has a plan, do we have a say? The label for 'God having planned ahead' is predestination. Some people really push the idea that God has decided everything that will happen - which means we don't have a choice in what we do. Some of us will be saved, and some not. Does God really decide that some people aren't saved? Others say that God has decided everyone will be saved - period. This also removed choice, and consequences.

I think the answer is in the middle. God wants to save everyone, but also wants us to engage with life and make choices. How we try to live does have consequences. I'm reminded of an end of year party back in university. The group organizing it decided to have it on a river cruise. A friend of mine won't go. We knew he would have fun, but he didn't want to sacrifice his ability to walk out whenever he wanted to. He chose not to get on board and missed the boat. Now with God, I think if he'd been running to catch up God would hold the boat until everyone could get on board. How is this predestination? God does have a plan. God even knows us so well that God knows what we will do... and always reaches out to help us do better.

This way of thinking about predestination respects both the many passages in the Bible about the judgment to come, and God's abundant grace, forgiveness, and love. God having a plan is something to be thankful for.

Although, sometimes life doesn't feel like something to be thankful for. Life can be painful. Is this a part of the plan? Last

week's sermon talked about this more, but in short: God is working to bring healing to all relationships - between you and other people, you and nature, you and yourself, and you and God. Because aspects of these relationships are broken, it can be painful as we work to fix them. There is also evil. It's been defeated, but is still kicking and breaking things. This is happening now. Sometimes it overshadows our future.

This adds to what Ephesians says about when God is bringing about Salvation. It was a plan before "*the foundations of the world.*" It was all "*summed up in Christ.*" And, as a sign of the glory that is to come, we have been "*stamped with the promised Holy Spirit.*" (J.B. Phillips translation). God is saving us in the past, the present, and the future; God is behind us, with us, and ahead of us.

God working throughout time to bring healing is something to be thankful for.

If you're asking the important investigative questions, we've answered who (God through Christ) and when (all the time). We've also touched on where: in you, in others, and in every aspect of the entire cosmos. God bringing salvation isn't some isolated thing - it's for everyone and everything. It can be hard if you're ticked off at someone, or perhaps this is hopeful because they could improve. The same can be said about your own life. When it's down, know that God is working to bring it up. This hope can enlighten our view of the state of the world.

The other side of the where this is happening is why Ephesians helped with reconciliation after apartheid, dialogue between Christians and Jews - and with the original Greek and Jewish listeners. This big thank you to God celebrates that God will "*Gather up all things.*" In Christ, everyone may join the Jews in

becoming children of God.⁵ The invitation was planed before the foundations of the world... before we did anything to deserve it. This inclusiveness of different people is something to be thankful for.

There is a warning label: the ‘how’ may not happen as we imagine. After all, who would have expected God to come as a helpless baby, grow up and allow us to kill the Saviour? Still, God is working to bring healing everywhere and in everyone - which is something to be thankful for.

The last of the 5W questions is ‘why?’ Why does God do this? Why all the effort to make all relationships right? Because you are loved, I am loved, we are all loved by God. And so I pray that you may feel assurance of this passage in your soul and know the “*grace and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*”

This is something to be thankful for.

Amen.



Responding to God

🎵 Hymn: The Clay Stained Hands of Love.....pg 11 (296)
youtu.be/w36w2keM2iY?t=2611

💬 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: What examples or teachings did you have about giving thanks growing up? Do you still live it?

⁵ We'll get into that more in the next few weeks.

- Etching: When has somebody done something really exceptional for you? How did you thank them?
- Wonder: How would lives change if we started each day like the letter to the Ephesians - in gratitude to God actively working at healing/saving the cosmos? (Try it.)
- Actions: Express a thank you to 5 people this week (almost one a day). You could call them or send a note. Be specific as what it is about.
- Prayer: ...that we may constantly remember how good God is, and express our thanks.

✦ Spirit Sightings

Fouzia was adopted by her aunt and uncle after being orphaned as a teenager. She moved to Kabul, Afghanistan, to live with them. After the Taliban took control, the family fled to Pakistan. Unfortunately they didn't have the right documents to find work.



Then they were selected for a food assistance project supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development. Through the project, Fouzia's family was able to put food on the table. This provides relief while her uncle and aunt continue to look for a source of income. They are very thankful.

✦ 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

Praise the Lord,

Our souls praise you, O Lord.

We thank you for the many blessings that we see.

- for friends who help us
- for family that care for us
- for those that teach us about love

for your love and goodness,
we thank you, O God.

We thank you for

- for places to learn about you
- for your church
- for the people who quietly share your love

for your love and goodness,
we thank you, O God.

For the ways that you are using people, even us, to reshape the world:

- helping us realize our past effects on indigenous peoples

- and our effects on the environment
- and the start of seeing situations from a different point of view

for your love and goodness,
we thank you, O God.

We thank you for the many blessings that we don't see

- ...

for your love and goodness,
we thank you, O God.

and we thank you that we can bring any and every situation to you. That you matter how we are afraid or worried, you are with us and trying to help people to bring healing.

- we pray for women and girls in Afghanistan
- we pray for refugees, and those who wish they could become refugees
- we pray those who are suffering here from illness...
from economics...
from broken relationships...

While we may not see it,
in all things you are working.
for your love and goodness,
we thank you, O God.

We ask that every day we may see glimpses of your glory,
to remind us of the hope we can find in you.

In Jesus name

Amen.



Praise the Lord - M Moyers

♪ Hymn: Glory be to God the Father.....pg 12 (298)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ikH8DfDADxc

✦ Benediction

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



Orphaned as a teenager, Fouzia was adopted by her aunt and uncle, whom she came to live with in Kabul, Afghanistan. After the Taliban took control, the family fled to Pakistan, where they could scarcely find work as they lacked the necessary legal documents. They were then selected for a food assistance project supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development. **Through the project, Fouzia's family received assistance to help ensure that they are able to meet their food needs while her uncle and aunt look for a source of income in Pakistan, providing a sense of relief in the face of great uncertainty.** "With funds received, my aunt bought food items so that we have sufficient meals every day," said Fouzia.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, June 25 We pray for the safety of all those whose lives have been uprooted by the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, and we give thanks for the emergency support that Presbyterians in Canada are helping to provide through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

Monday, June 26 We give thanks and pray for those providing pulpit supply during pulpit vacancies and when a minister is away for a weekly service.

Tuesday, June 27 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Barrie in Ontario.

Wednesday, June 28 We pray for the people who gather and serve at Mistawasis Memorial Presbyterian Church in Northern Saskatchewan, and we give thanks for their ministry.

Thursday, June 29 We pray for rest and renewal for all who have given so diligently to the work of the church in difficult times.

Friday, June 30 We give thanks for the staff and volunteers at PCC camps who share God's love with children and youth over the summer.

15 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1. Come, Thou Fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, Tune my
 2. Here I raise mine Eb-en-e-zer; Hith-er
 3. O to grace how great a debt-or Dai-ly

3 heart to sing Thy grace; Streams of mer-cy, nev-er
 by Thy help I'm come; And I hope, by Thy good
 I'm con-strained to be! Let Thy grace, Lord, like a

6 ceas-ing, Call for songs of loud-est praise:
 plea-sure, Safe-ly to ar-rive at home:
 fet-ter, Bind my wan-d'ring heart to Thee:

Bopplet Hymnal 1991 15
 WORDS: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790
 MUSIC (NETTLETON 8.7.8.7.D): Wyeth's Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, 1843

15 Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Teach me some me-lo-dious son-net, Sung by
 Je-sus sought me when a stran-ger, Wan-d'ring
 Prone to wan-der, Lord, I feel it, Prone to

11 flam-ing tongues a-bove; Praise the mount! I'm fixed up-
 from the fold of God; He, to res-cue me from
 leave the God I love; Here's my heart, Lord, take and

14 on it, Mount of Thy re-deem-ing love.
 dan-ger, In-ter-posed His pre-cious blood.
 seal it, Seal it for Thy courts a-bove.

Amazing Grace!

43.

1. A - maz - ing grace!—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re - lieved;
 3. Thro' man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y come;
 4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his Word my hope se - cures;

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 he will my shield and por - tion be, as long as life en - dures.

5. And when this flesh and heart shall fail,
 and mortal life shall cease,
 I shall possess within the veil
 a life of joy and peace.

6. When we've been there ten thousand years,
 bright shining as the sun,
 we've no less days to sing God's praise
 than when we've first begun.

St. 1-5, John Newton, 1779
 St. 6, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790

AMAZING GRACE C.M
 Traditional American melod
 Adapted and harm. Edwin O. Excell, 190

God the Holy Trinity

296

The clay-stained hands of love

LITTLE MARLBOROUGH 6686 SM

Unison

1. The clay-stained hands of love cre - a - ted hu - man form.
 2. The heal - ing hands of love gave speech and sight and strength.
 3. The wound - ed hands of love showed life had con - quered death.
 4. The hid - den hands of love are build - ing up the church.
 5. We sing our praise, O Love, for your life - giv - ing hands.

Praise love that made us from the earth, the love with clay-stained hands.
 Praise love that came to touch and heal, the love with heal - ing hands.
 Praise love that came in ser - vant form, the love with wound - ed hands.
 Praise love that works with liv - ing stone, the love with hid - den hands.
 O Mak - er, Sav - iour, Spir - it, God, we sing our praise to you.

Words: Richard D. Leach from *Songs for the People of God* 1980 Music: Jack Noble White from *Songs of the People of God* 1980

Words: copyright © Selah Publishing Co. Inc. 1994 Music: copyright © Selah Publishing Co., 1994

Glory be to God the Father

B♭ /D B♭ /F F/E♭ B♭/D E♭ B♭/D Gm

1. Glo - ry be to God the Fath - er, glo - ry be to
 2. Glo - ry to the One who loved us, washed us from each
 3. "Glo - ry, bless - ing, praise e - ter - nal!" an - gel choirs their

F/A F7 B♭ /F /D B♭ Cm Gm/D D

God the Son, glo - ry be to God the Spir - it,
 sin and stain; glo - ry to the One who bought us,
 hymns pro - long; "Hon - our, rich - es, power, do - min - ion!"

Gm D Gm/B♭ Gm F/C C7 F F

God al - might - y, Three - in - One! Glo - ry, glo - ry,
 raised us up to serve and reign. Glo - ry, glo - ry,
 ech - oes all cre - a - tion's song. Glo - ry, glo - ry,

B♭ 7 E♭ Cm B♭/D Cm/E♭ Gm F 7 B♭

glo - ry, glo - ry, while e - ter - nal a - ges run.
 glo - ry, glo - ry, to the Lamb that once was slain.
 glo - ry, glo - ry, prais - es to our God be - long.



Hear My Praise - R Blumenfeld