



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

Journey of love
 September 17, 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).

Contacts

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 Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor).....Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca
 514-773-4620
 Antoinette (families).....Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca
 Zoé Dupont-Foisy (music director).....zoedupontfoisy@hotmail.com

Announcements

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

Thanksgiving mission & Gifts of change

Help us choose our project to support. See *Spirit Sightings* pg. 6

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

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

Pizza Night: Antoinette is planning a pizza & games night Sept 22.

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)

Heart for Asia: Sept 23, 6:45 at Snowdon Baptist 5275 av Earncliffe
 Worship, Prayer & Refreshments with guest missionaries Rijke Rombeek (Japan) and Pierre Decourville (Laos). Children's program offered.

Good Grief: Sept 23-25

Mary Ellen MacDonald is organizing a series of events to support those who are grieving from various issues, and increase awareness. While she's still working out of Halifax, you can participate through many online (remember to take an hour off all times). www.goodgriefnovascotia.ca/schedule

Honouring the Day of Truth and Reconciliation:

Sept 30 @ 6 pm at St. Andrew & St. Paul

A time of indigenous and settler-descendant voices raised in story, song, and prayer to Creator God. **The Moderator** of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, Rev. Mary Fontaine, a Cree from Mistawasis, Saskatchewan, will offer a homily, Inuit singer-songwriter Shauit will sing, and Kahnawake elder Don Barnaby will reflect on our nearby community. Wearing orange shirts is encouraged.

Students for Dinner: Friends for Dinner is a Christian organization looking for people to host international students for holiday meals. If you are interested, please visit friendsfordinner.ca

“Meaning on Monday” Thursdays Oct 5 - Nov 2 7-8:30 pm

An online course from Presbyterian College exploring how our faith and our everyday work go together. For more info: www.pcmtl.ca \$55/person - and there's a group discount.

¹ 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 (from psalm 146 & 92)

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD, from the depths of our souls!

Let us tell of your love in the morning
and your faithfulness at night.

Let us praise the LORD as long as we live;

Let us sing praises to our God all our lives long.

🎵 Hymn: Now thank we all our God.....pg 8 (457)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=s99dNPKYtHk



Prayer of Approach

We come here Lord to thank you
and to celebrate you.

because you are wonderful.

We wonder at your love,

that you remain faithful/loyal to us (everyone);

that you don't give up and turn away.

We are sorry when we look to ourselves to decide
and not to you.

When we turn away

and don't try to love as you do.

When we don't reach for someone in need,

or reach out when we need to.

When we give up

and assume the future is hopeless.

Thank you for the prophets you sent to remind us;

for the ordinary people who love us;

and especially for Jesus - who shows us how to love.

Thank you for your Spirit,

who continues to work in and around us.

Thank you that you forgive anyone who wants to do better.

In this time,


may we feel your love,

grow in your love,

so that it shines through our lives.

As we draw closer to you,

let sing together the Lord's prayer...

 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

 Hymn Sing

 Prayer for Illumination


Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
that today we may know your love..
Amen.²

 Intro to the readings³

Today we're going to share the story of Ruth. It's a small book in the Bible that comes after Judges and before 1 Samuel. The story takes place during this Judges period. It's a time after the Tribes of Israel come into the Promised Land when they still live as separate tribes. Whenever there is a crisis (such as a

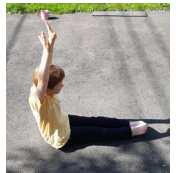
neighbouring nation attacks), God raises up a leader to deal with it. After that everyone goes back to living their own way... which included fighting among themselves and not following the Law (10 Commandments). Not only was there no person as king, but they didn't live as if God was their king either.

This version is by Laura Alary from her children's Bible *Read, Wonder, Listen*. She works in the Knox College Library and attends Knox Presbyterian in Waterloo.

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁴ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.
[Ruth](#) (the whole book)
[Psalm 146](#)

 Children's Time

This is a physical, story because it's about something you need to do (as you are able). First get sit on the floor and make an L with legs out and arms above your head. Love means being willing to get down with people, wherever they need. Ruth sat with Naomi in Moab.



O form big Os with arms in front of you like a big hug
Loving begins with caring about/ hugging people. Ruth cared about Naomi, even when Naomi told her to go.



V in pairs put feet toe to toe, hold hands & lean back to form the letter V. This requires trust that the other person won't let you go... and so does love. Ruth trusted Naomi's plan.



² adapted from Worship Sourcebook 3.1.10 & 23

³ You may be interested in the collection of paintings of Ruth and notes found here womeninthebible.net/bible-paintings/ruth-naomi

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

Esit on the floor with legs straight out, one arm bent at the elbow then straight out at the waist and the other arm straight out at shoulder height. This is harder to get into position. Loving is hard work. We have to be willing to leave behind the familiar and work hard - like Ruth left home and gleaned in the hot sun. Love needs us to give it all.



prayer

Dear Jesus, help us to join people who need loving, to care for & include others, to trust, and to love even when it's hard work.

Amen.

✦ Sermon: Journey of love

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

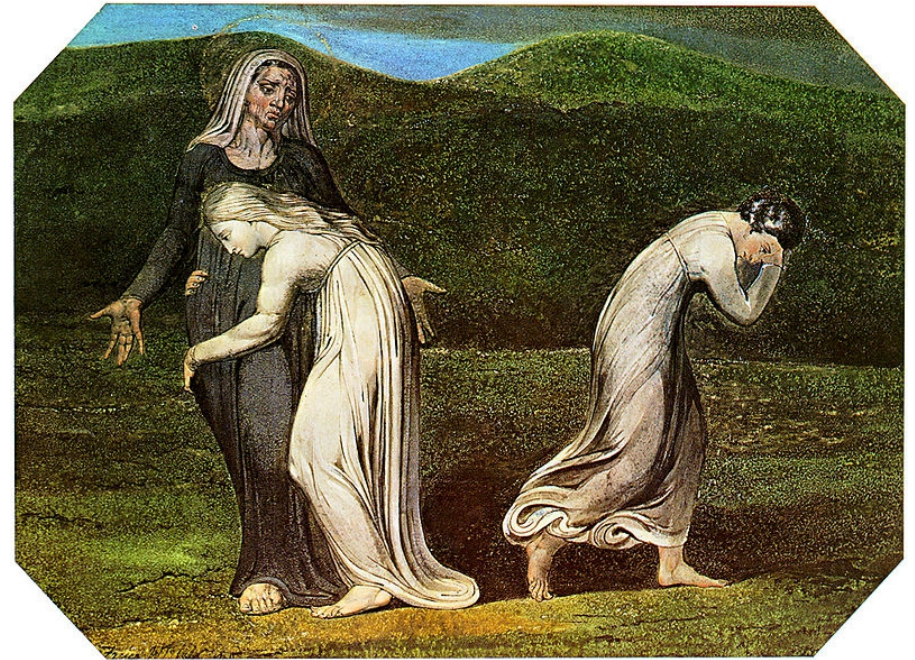
I'm not sure what about the story in Ruth resonated with you. For me, it's the love story. This isn't sexy love, or the passion of Romeo & Juliet (and so many love songs and movies). This is True Love.

Thinking of movies, for some of you the phrase "True Love" will remind you of the *The Princess Bride*. It's about a stable boy and a princess falling in love - which leads to sword fights, pirates, giants, evil kings, and even coming back from being (mostly) dead. It's an incredible adventure.

What's lovely about the story in Ruth is that it's a credible adventure. These are people and situations we can relate to. We've heard about refugees in the news. We've experienced the daily grind and worry about how to make ends meet. We've

grieved the death of loved ones. We've also experienced faithfulness, joy, hope and love.

Ruth, Naomi & Boaz show us true love. It is like today's children's time: stopping to be with someone where they are at (sitting with them), embracing them in a hug that risks our hearts and lives, trusting them to be there for you, and doing the hard work to sustain each other. Love is kindness, loyalty & sacrifice - and wonderful.



Ruth stays - Blake

One of the wonders of love is that it is surprising. Naomi tells Ruth to go live a reasonable life - one that makes sense. But Ruth won't leave her. It is also surprising that when Ruth asks Boaz to marry her, he isn't shocked or threatened by her forwardness; he says yes. One of the most surprising things about this love story is that it's not about prophets or kings. This isn't someone with great wisdom or authority. The central character isn't one of the

chosen people - chosen to reveal God's love to the world. This story of love is revealed through a powerless woman from outside the community. She should be a nobody, yet her surprising love changes lives for the better.



Ruth 2 - TM Rooke

even when it's hard work. That this is something wonderful, and leads to something greater.

Another wonder of love is that it is inspiring. You can see that in the story. Ruth shows kindness, loyalty & love for Naomi. This inspires Boaz & Naomi to want to show kindness, loyalty and love. And this love doesn't stay in the story. It inspires us as well.

We all know stories where kindness, loyalty & love are abused (and there are times when we need to step back and let someone else take over), but love does inspire others to love. This story is a reminder of what love is like - which, I suspect, is why it's in the Bible. They needed reminding. I need reminding. You need reminding. We need these reminders to be kind and faithful, even if it doesn't make sense. To stick with it,

or perhaps that's backwards. We can also say that something greater leads us to love.

While God isn't mentioned very much in the book of Ruth, God is present through it all. This is a story that provides a counterpoint to the selfish behaviour that is going on at the time. It is a reminder of how God loves. God is kind, even when there is no need to be. God is faithful, even when it doesn't make sense. God doesn't give up, even when it's hard work.

This is what God did then.

This is what God does now.

God loves us. Sometimes in surprising ways. It can be something you feel inside you. It can be through others, even surprising ones. It can be through music or art or science. It can be through inspirational stories. God's love gave Ruth strength & hope, even as an outsider, and it will help you as well.

Help you so you can love - in ways that can surprise others - and even yourself. You can take the time to listen in love, to accept and trust someone... even when it's hard. Like sharing where to find water on a hot day, you can share where you find God's love.

To God be all the glory

Amen.



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: Come down, O love divine.....pg 9 (386)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flyKDgktutl>

🗨️ 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 are examples of 'true love' from stories or life?

Memories: Through what/whom have you felt God's love?

Wonder: In what way are you an outsider? How has God called you to stand apart from your heritage to follow him?

Actions: The story of Ruth shows that acts of kindness can both help and inspire others. Share where you have seen needs recently (physical, emotional, or spiritual). Brainstorm how you could act to offer God's love.

Prayer: ...to know love. to share love.

Ruth 3 - TM Rooke



✦ Spirit Sightings

At Thanksgiving we give money to support activity outside our congregation. This year we decided (at the Annual Meeting) to support a project of our collective denomination. Looking through the [Gifts of Change](#) booklet I narrowed it down to three projects that might interest us. Please let me know which one you'd like to support as a congregation this year.

- **Ministry with Indigenous People** | CM24
Eight ministries with Indigenous people offer worship and a range of programs, including healing circles, sanctuary, counselling, housing, arts programs and assistance with employment. Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff and volunteers work together to serve people scarred by

residential schools, racism, discrimination and the loss of culture and language. Your gifts help heal hearts.


- \$25 supports fellowship over a meal
- \$150 offers workshops on Indigenous culture & language
- \$300 supports a week of temporary housing
 - **Sowing the Seeds of Food Security** | PWAGR01
Subsistence farmers in developing countries work hard on small plots of land to provide food for their families. You can help farmers learn to improve crops, conserve resources and sell their goods—providing food for today and an income for the future.
- \$20 supplies seeds and organic fertilizer to a farmer
- \$50 trains a farmer in sustainable farming practices
- \$100 provides one goat for dairy production
 - **Education for Every Child** | PWEDU01
Education is one of the most crucial tools in breaking cycles of poverty, but over 244 million children don't have the opportunity to go to school. By opening classroom doors and providing educational supplies, your gifts will help children reach their full potential.
- \$25 provides a child with textbooks
- \$70 ensures one student has school supplies
- \$375 helps send a student to school for one year

✦ Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on our **website**: [kensingtonchurch.ca](https://www.kensingtonchurch.ca). Just click the 'Donate Now' button, and then the pretty button. It gives you various options that are easy to follow.

You can also 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

Dear Jesus,
You came as flesh incarnate,
sharing love, hope & healing.

Lord, we ask you for healing
for people whose bodies are suffering
especially from long term illness
such as long-term COVID, cancer, & dementia.
and for those who are experiencing mental illness
especially those who are like Naomi in today's story
and have reached a point where they can't recognize
the help that is right beside her in your servant Ruth.

Jesus, may your Spirit help us all to have hope
that the future will become better.

We pray for creation
as some of us are still recovering from storms this year
and new storms are battering the Maritimes.

We pray for our leaders.
It is easy to complain and feel it can't get better,
but please help them to love all those in their care
and for us to help them create a loving society.

We pray our communities:
our families
our neighbours

our colleagues and classmates
and for your church here at Kensington.
Help us to live with kindness, faithfulness & sacrifice.

and Lord, we pray for love.
Help us to love
...because it can be hard work.
and Thank you Lord that loving
can bring so much joy
and peace.
connecting us to you.

Thank you
Amen.

♪ Hymn: think of Ruth, Naomi, Boaz, and us as we sing
(especially verse 1 and 5)
Take my life and let it be.....pg 10 (637)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=blxWaucRinA

✦ Benediction: 2 Corinthians 13:13
*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.*
Amen.



Now thank we all our God

NUN DANKET 67676666

F /A Bb 6 F 7 Gm F/A C7 F C7sus4-3 F

1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice,
 2. Oh may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3. All praise and thanks to God who reigns in highest heaven,

/Eb Bb/D Bb F Bb/D F/C Bb6 A Bb6 C7 F

who wondrous things has done, in whom God's world rejoices,
 with ever-joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
 the Father and the Son and Spirit now be given,

C G7/B C F /A C /E F C/E Dm7 Esus4-3 Am

who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
 and keep us all with grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,

D/F# Gm D7 Gm F/A Bb6 Dm F/C C 7 F

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now and shall be ever more.

Words: German, Martin Rinckart (1586-1649); translation, Catherine Winkworth (1829-1878), alt
 Music: Johann Crüger (1598-1662) *Words: public domain Music: public domain*



Banksy

Come down, O Love divine

DOWN AMPNEY 6 6 11 D

D A/C# D Asus4-3 G Em6 D 6 A/C# Bm A/C# E7sus4-3

1. Come down, O Love di - vine, seek now this soul of
 2. Oh let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions
 3. Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture
 4. And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will

A D G A G/B D Em/G D/F# G6 Em7 Asus4-3 7 D

mine, and vis - it it with your own ar - dour glow - ing;
 turn to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing,
 be, and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing,
 long, shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing,

Bm Dmaj7/F# G D F#m E7 A C/E (D7) G D Em 6 D /F# (G) A

O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,
 and let your glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,
 true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,
 for none can guess its grace, till we be - come the place

Words: Italian, Bianco da Siena (13??-1434); translation, R.F. Littledale (1833-1890), alt
 Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Words: public domain Music: copyright © Oxford University Press from *The English Hymnal*

/G D/F# G A G/B D /F# G6 Em7 Asus4-3 7 D

and kin - dle it, your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.
 and pride in earth - ly glo - ry scorns with loath - ing.
 where - in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.



637 Take my life, and let it be consecrated

LÜBECK 7777

C Am G C F G7/D C G C/E G/B Em C6 D G

1. Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2. Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3. Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly for my King;
 4. Take my sil - ver and my gold: not a mite would I with - hold;

C F/A G C/E Dm/F A7/E Dm Am Dm G/B C Gsus4 - 3 C

take my mo - ments and my days: let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use eve - ry power as thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine;
 take my heart: it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne.
6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee.

Alternate tune: Mozart

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836–1879) Music: Freylinghausen's Geistreiches Gesangbuch 1704

Words: public domain Music: public domain

Sunday, September 17 — MISSION MOMENT

For the five congregations that comprise the Northern New Brunswick Regional Ministry, 'church' goes well beyond someone's physical presence in the building on Sunday morning. Over the past year, they have asked themselves, "How do we reach out to those in our community and meet them where their needs are greatest?" Each congregation faces a wide diversity of social and economic challenge in their communities, including drug addiction, homelessness, unemployment and food insecurity. A common thread that unites their communities despite distance: people are searching for acceptance and help. The congregations are working to meet these needs through compassion and care.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, September 17 We give thanks for the Northern New Brunswick Regional Ministry and pray that they continue to find new ways of meeting the physical and spiritual needs within their diverse communities.

Monday, September 18 We pray for the Ecumenical & Interfaith Relations Committee and its convener, Laura Lee Campbell.

Tuesday, September 19 We pray for those who are grieving the loss of loved ones, especially during this time of lingering post-pandemic challenges. May they find comfort and peace in the knowledge of God's eternal love and presence.

Wednesday, September 20 We pray for international students who are far from home and family. Pray that they will be comforted in times of loneliness and for encouragement as they strive for success in their studies.

Thursday, September 21 (International Day of Prayer for Peace)

We pray for peace worldwide, and for world leaders, as well as for PWS&D partners providing life-saving aid and emotional support to families suffering the terrifying consequences of war.

Friday, September 22 We pray for congregations that support refugee families by welcoming them to Canada and helping them to find housing, jobs and community in which to build relationships.

Saturday, September 23 We pray for health, safety and good weather for those participating in the Journey for Hope on September 23 in support of PWS&D's work to end world hunger.