



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

## What kind of God?

October 15, 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.<sup>1</sup> 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).

### Announcements

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

**Pie Making:** Saturday, Oct 21 at 2

Please let Antoinette know if you plan to come.

**Fundraiser:** Sunday, Oct 22

After church we'll be selling fresh pies for our local food bank.

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

[us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107?pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNIUrUT09)

[pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNIUrUT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107?pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNIUrUT09)

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

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

**Family Food & Film Fiestas:** Fridays at 6:30 for pizza

**Akeela and the Bee.** This is a good opportunity to invite someone. Please let Peter know so we have enough food.

<sup>1</sup> note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.



**New Hope Harvest Festival:** October 27 at 5:30

Enjoy a delicious meal celebrating their vegetable garden, a silent auction & a fundraiser! Tickets are \$50 (with a tax-receipt for \$25) and are available from New Hope or [newhopedg.eventbrite.com](https://newhopedg.eventbrite.com)

**Cookie, snacks request:** Saturday, Oct 28<sup>th</sup>

We are hosting a workshop for Presbytery (and anyone else interested) on hard conversations and facilitating meetings. To help people feel at home we would appreciate donations of home baking. Please let Rev. Peter know if you can help.

**Drop Box:** Food donations are welcome for the local Food Pantry, diapers for young mothers through Head & Hands, and cloths & accessories for the New Hope Boutique.

**Concordia Winter Clothes:** The chaplain at Concordia, Rev. Jen Bourque, is looking for winter clothes they can pass on to international students who are unprepared for our winters. This could include old coats, but also knitted mitts/hats/scarves. Talk with Rev. Peter for more details.

### 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<sup>2</sup>

Holy God,  
wholly faithful:

**holding us,  
feeding us,  
teaching us,  
leading us.**

Holy God,  
wholly merciful:

**tending us,  
mending us,  
lifting us,  
loving us.**

Come, let us gather.

**Come, let us worship  
the One who loves us  
with an everlasting love.**



Hymn: All people that on earth do dwell.....pg 9 (65)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xM6Ke4IKJM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xM6Ke4IKJM)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXX\\_3nWbpTc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXX_3nWbpTc) (just piano)



Prayer of Approach

Dear Lord,

You are the creator of the universe  
and still you notice every living thing  
sharing in each one's joy and  
sorrow.

You are the King of kings,  
and yet are humble  
helping in ways we never see.  
You are the one who will judge the living  
and the dead,  
and one whose compassion and mercy  
is always being offered.

Lord Jesus,  
we come to you  
recognizing that while we can think of ourselves  
as better than others,  
we still need to work on putting you first in our lives. . .

Please forgive us our sins,  
and may your Holy Spirit help us.

We realize that you have given us tools to help us: the Bible, a  
community, and prayer.

We now join together to sing the the prayer you gave us:



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.**

### Assurance of Pardon

Hear the word of the Lord through the prophet Hosea

*“My heart recoils within me;  
my compassion grows warm and tender.  
I will not execute my fierce anger;  
for I am God and no mortal,  
and I will not come in wrath.”*

and know that we are forgiven.



Comforting - Daphne Odjig



## *Listening to God*

♪ Hymn Sing: a chance to sing people's favourites

🧘 Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds  
through the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may come to know you better.

Amen.<sup>3</sup>

✦ Intro to the readings

Our main passage is from Hosea. He was a prophet delivering God's message to Israel before they were completely taken over by Assyria. There were a multitude of ways they weren't faithful to God (or each other). The main metaphor in Hosea is that of a marriage with one unfaithful spouse - and the other being faithful anyway.

This passage presents another image. In doing so, it encourages us to consider what image we have for God.

We will read the whole of psalm 107 (which is longer than normal for us). While you'll pick up on the pattern, I encourage you to pay attention to the differences. Is there a section you can relate to?

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

[Hosea 11: 1-9](#)

[Psalm 107](#)

<sup>3</sup> adapted from Worship Sourcebook 3.1.10 & 23

<sup>4</sup> 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



## Sermon: What kind of God?

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

We exist in relationships with other people. (Some people even say we exist to be in relationships.) Some relationships you chose - like who to be friends with - especially close friends. Others are part of life - like your teachers, colleagues, neighbours, ...and family. You can choose if you become friends with these people, but they will be a part of your life regardless.

In any relationship, it's a good idea to know what the person is like. What interests do they have - and what you'd enjoy together? What makes them grumpy or angry or laugh out-loud? How can they help you out - by knowing things, fixing things, listening, or even pushing you to be better? How can you help them?

Not knowing about someone leads to surprises. They can be positive. This week I heard about a neighbour who showed up

out of the blue and offered to visit someone's cat. It was unexpected, kind, and appreciated. Not knowing someone can also lead to misunderstandings and hurting each other. When I moved to Germany I learned that being a minute late was interpreted as not caring, which wasn't the intent.

Of course, relationships are not quite that black and white. The point is that if you have a good idea of who someone is you will have a better relationship.

The same is true with God.

So, what is God like?

There are many opinions, and they lead to different expectations and relationships.

- Some people feel that, if God even exists, God is a passive old man watching the world go round. This leads people not to care about God.
- Some people look at Bible passages about conquest, and the destructive actions of people who represent God - and they turn away.
- Some people focus on the judgment passages in the Bible. This leads to concern for following the rules - and concern about helping others not end up in hell.
- Some recognize that God is the all powerful creator of the universe. This can bring comfort when they struggle. It can also lead to frustration and anger with God at the horrible things that can happen.
- Then there's stories of Jesus, and others, helping the poor and the sick. This encourages them to come to God for help, and can inspire them to try and help too.
- Some people focus on the passages about how God's 'steadfast love endures forever'. This can bring comfort



Angels Unawares - Timothy Schmalz

from knowing they are loved. Other love passages encourage them to love others without any judgement.

Let me share these ideas of what God is like in another way. I came across a poem this week. It starts like this:

God the warrior  
God the destroyer  
God the almighty

God the befriender  
God the tender one  
God the lover

God the holy one  
God the angry one  
God the judge

God, creator of the universe  
God the mysterious  
God who knows us by name

What kind of God do we worship?  
What kind of God do we pray to?  
What kind of God loves us?  
Which story of God haunts us?

What do you think God is like?

Do you think of God like Hosea shows in today's passage?

Here we have God as a loving parent. If we think in stereotypes, this is God the mother. She is bending down to feed her child; teaching them to walk; lifting them to her cheek when they need healing; calling them in. Do you think of God as a

mother? as the loving mother of others?

Hosea does more than present God as a caring mother. This is a mother who cares deeply. In this description the kids have repeatedly gone and done what they were warned not to - and these choices have consequences. It makes her mad that they didn't listen. She feels '*fierce anger*'!

You may not have had children, but I expect you've had people in your life that didn't listen to you - and their choices led to lost opportunities - even to pain and destruction. Personally, I feel regret and frustration. I try to avoid using the word 'anger', but if I'm honest I feel that too. Can you relate? Have you felt anger that your caring is ignored?

Do you think of God like a parent feeling '*fierce anger*'?



Embodying Forgiveness - Bernard Racincot

Do you think of God as emotional? as having deep emotions? I think sometimes, especially Presbyterians, we tend to think of God as beyond emotions - at least the emotions we don't like. We prefer reasoning. Love is okay, even sacrificial love, but anger? A '*fierce anger*' at people who aren't listening or living as God believes is best? What's it mean if God has these primal emotions - these human emotions?

It's a reminder that we are created in God's image. We feel

emotions, because God does. We feel love & anger, because God does. We can be intensely hurt, because God can. We can want the other person to suffer, ...and so can God.

God can feel *fierce anger* with people. This includes ‘bad guys’ - such as people who kill others. It also includes us, because even if you’re a ‘nice guy’ you are still a part of a society that is taking advantage of migrant labourers, sweat shops in the 2/3 world, and sacrificing the environment for our standard of living. We live in a world that encourages us to covet what our neighbours have. Little lies are normal, including denying our emotions.

God feels this anger - and then what? God’s “*compassion grows warm and tender*” and stops her from “*coming in wrath*”. There are consequences to our actions, but God is there to help us learn to walk. The psalm drives this home with various examples of people in trouble, often of their own making. They realize where they are and turn to God - and God helps.



This is another aspect of God having intense primal emotions. God cares.

You don’t get angry if you don’t care. Can you relate to that?

It’s a good thing to reflect on with your FaithTalk partner. When did you last feel anger? What was it that really bugged you? What do you care about?

Thinking of relationships, I expect you can think of somebody who has driven you nuts, but that you also love. What did you do? Did you act out of that

anger or frustration in a way that broke the relationship?

Hosea reminds us that God doesn’t act on the anger. It may have felt like it when the Egyptians tried to make slaves out of the Israelites again... but that was then not taking responsibility for their actions. They chose not to go to God for help, but to Egypt instead. They chose to follow other gods (Baals), not God. This made God angry, but she chose compassion.

This is part of who God is.

What do you think God is like?

God is the creator and will be the judge. People have done and said horrible things in the name of God. Here we are reminded that God is like a mother who cares deeply for her children. She gets frustrated - even fiercely angry - when they don’t listen. Her love is stronger - and this is what drives God’s actions. God is deeply emotional - and most deeply loving.

To God be all the glory  
Amen.



### *Responding to God*

♪ Hymn: Saviour, like a shepherd lead us.....pg 9 (485)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=5d6XN-2NIRI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5d6XN-2NIRI)

🗨️ 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: How do you feel of God? What sort of god is God?

Values: Why do you value your image of God?

Wonder: Imagine that you encounter someone who has a different idea of God. How can you relate to them in a way that honours God?

Values: What do you think of God having intense emotions? How does that affect your image of God? How does that affect you?

Memories: Share a recent experience of intense emotion (anger, joy, ...). What is it that you care so strongly about to have that intense emotion?

Prayer: ...that you will both get to know God better.



Grandmother and I - Gunnarsdóttir

### ✦ Spirit Sightings

A sign that the Holy Spirit is at work is when coincidences catch your attention.

I recently visited Peggy. She shared with me that when she is in hospital staff visit her from around the hospital. They want to know how she lived to over 100 and is so lovely. The answer, she tells me, is prayer.

This week I attended a workshop on the future of the church. These experts say that one of the key ingredients to the long life

of the church is prayer - individually, but especially as a group. They also say it's important to study and help others together.

We have the Thursday 6:30 am zoom prayer group. If there is another time you can gather online or in person to pray, please let me know.

### ✦ Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on our **website**: [kensingtonchurch.ca](http://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](mailto:info@kensingtonchurch.ca).

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) are also good options.

### 🧎 Prayers of the people

The world can feel so dark at times,  
with problems towering over us  
From wars & refugees  
to inflation and those needing food  
to struggling health - and a struggling health care system,  
to loneliness in the big city.  
We can find it hard to see the hope.

Into this broken world,  
you bend down to cuddle us  
to help us up  
so that we can climb into your future.

Remembering the wisdom of the psalms  
we turn to you for our help.

Please God,  
help us to know you are here,  
to remember that you are the God of resurrection  
and to know your hope.  
Please Jesus,  
grow our faith.

We pray Lord for the families whose loved ones have been killed  
this week. We pray that people’s compassion may grow so that  
cycles of violence may stop.  
With so much pain it will take time,  
but we pray for healing between Israel and Palestine,  
...and other places of war.

Jesus, we also pray for your church here at Kensington. There are  
exciting things happening. We ask that you continue to build  
your community here. Help us to remember your teachings  
and to share your passions.

Please watch over us this week,  
and help us to see you in those we meet.

In Jesus name  
Amen.

♪ Hymn: God be with you till we meet again.....pg 10 (621)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXq3van1aOs](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LXq3van1aOs) (organ & choir)

✦ Benediction: Romans 15:13  
May the God of hope  
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.



The hardening of the US sanctions and the global financial crisis are contributing to a shortage of food, fuel, clean water and medicine in Cuba. With partners’ support, the Evangelical Seminary of Theology in Matanzas carries on, providing high quality, diversified theological education, and serving the community through diaconal projects. In 2022, the PCC helped improve the infrastructure for hybrid teaching and assisted with the renovation to the library and the Historical Archive. The Rev. Dr. Carlos Ham, Rector, shared at the 2023 General Assembly: “We appreciate the ways in which you accompany our work, not only providing much-needed financial support, but also through prayers.”



DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, October 15 (Student and Colleges Sunday)** We give thanks to God for our three theological colleges—The Presbyterian College (Montreal, Quebec), Knox College (Toronto, Ontario) and St. Andrew’s Hall/Vancouver School of Theology (British Columbia)—and we pray for the students as they prepare for ministry.

**Monday, October 16** As we celebrate World Food Day, we are grateful for PWS&D programs that support sustainable agriculture and fill gaps in access to food.

**Tuesday, October 17 (International Day for the Eradication of Poverty)** Pray for PWS&D projects helping adults and youth build sustainable livelihoods so they can meet their needs and build bright futures.

**Wednesday, October 18** We pray for the Rev. Dr. Carlos Ham, Rector of the Evangelical Seminary of Theology and a pastor of the Presbyterian-Reformed Church in Cuba.

**Thursday, October 19** We pray for ministers and professional church workers on medical leave, that they will know God’s healing touch in body, mind and spirit.

**Friday, October 20** We pray for stewardship and mission committees who work to inspire vision and enthusiasm.

**Saturday, October 21** At this harvest time, we pray for all who lack food, that they be given a glimmer of hope and a source of food to sustain them in the days ahead.



# All people that on earth do dwell

OLD 100th 8 8 8 8 LM

G D Em Bm Em D G

1. All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing  
 2. Know that the Lord is God in - deed; with -  
 3. Oh en - ter then his gates with praise; ap -  
 4. For why, the Lord our God is good; his

D Em C G D Em D/F# G D G/B

to the Lord with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with mirth; his  
 out our aid he did us make; we are his flock, he  
 proach with joy his courts un - to; praise, laud and bless his  
 mer - cy is for - ev - er sure; his truth at all times

C Am6 G D/F# G Em 6 D Am G/B /C D 7 G

praise forth tell. Come ye be - fore him and re - joice.  
 doth us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.  
 name al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.  
 firm - ly stood, and shall from age to age en - dure.

Words: Psalm 100; paraphrase, William Kethe (c. 1535–1594) as in Scottish Psalter 1650  
 Music: Genevan Psalter 1551; last line from Ravenscroft's Psalter 1621; fauxbourdon, John Dowland (1563–1626) *Words: public domain Music: public domain*

# Saviour, like a shepherd lead us

BRADBURY 878787

D (A/G D/F# A7)/E D A D/A A7 D

1. Sav-iour, like a shep-herd lead us: much we need your ten-der care;  
 2. We are yours; in love be-friend us; be the guard-ian of our way;  
 3. Let us al-ways seek your fa-vour; let us al-ways do your will,

(A/G D/F# A7/E) A D/A A7 D

in your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your folds pre-pare:  
 keep your flock from sin, de-fend us; seek us when we go a-stray;  
 Je-sus Christ our on-ly Sav-iour, with your-self our spir-its fill:

G D A7 D

bles-sed Je-sus, bles-sed Je-sus! you have bought us; yours we are.  
 bles-sed Je-sus, bles-sed Je-sus! hear your chil-dren when we pray.  
 bles-sed Je-sus, bles-sed Je-sus! you have loved us; love us still.

G D D A7 D

Bless-ed Je-sus, bles-sed Je-sus! you have bought us, yours we are.  
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bles-sed Je-sus! hear your chil-dren when we pray.  
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bles-sed Je-sus! you have loved us; love us still.

Words: Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779–1847), alt Music: William Batchelder Bradbury (1816–1868);  
 harmony, V. Earle Copes (1921–)  
*Words: public domain Music: harmony, copyright © Abingdon Press, 1964*

# 621 God be with you till we meet again

RANDOLPH 9889

*Unison* D /F# G Em7 Asus4 - 3 D

God be with you till we meet a - gain;

*Harmony* D E/D A/C# F#m D6 E 7 Asus4-3 /G D/F# G D6/F#

1. lov - ing coun - sels guide, up - hold you, with a shep - herd's  
 2. un - seen wings pro - tect - ing, hide you, dai - ly man - na  
 3. when life's per - ils thick con - found you, put un - fail - ing  
 4. keep love's ban - ner float - ing o'er you, smite death's threat - ening

*Unison* Em /D A/C# A7 D D7/F# G Em7 Asus4-3 D

care en - fold you:  
 still pro - vide you:  
 arms a - round you: God be with you till we meet a - gain.  
 wave be - fore you:

Words: Jeremiah Eames Rankin (1828-1904) Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Words: public domain Music: copyright © Oxford University Press from *The English Hymnal* CCLI #4440603



Wade in the water - Rombeek