

Kensington Presbyterian Church Growing in Faith and sharing God's Love since 1786

Amazing! Ianuary 7, 2023

WELCOME to worship. We are offering a variety of ways for people to gather. We are welcoming people to worship n person, 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).



Stump - Youngki Son

Announcements

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

Communion: Everyone who wants to know God better is welcome to join us for communion. If you are doing this service through the PDF, know that we are with you in spirit - and God is with you with the Holy Spirit. We look forward to a time when we can be together in body as well.

Zoom Prayer Group: Thursday at 6:30 a.m. us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107? pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNlUrUT09

Jesus & Java: Join us as we share the joys and questions of faith. Thursday, **3:30 pm** at Beetz, 5914 Sherbrooke @ Clifton

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.

Ordination at Snowdon: Sun. Jan. 14 at 5 pm
We are all cordially invited to the service of ordination and induction of Mr. Stephen Lim as minister of Snowdon
Presbyterian Church (5545 Snowdon, near Cote St Luc & Gerard). I imagine refreshments will follow.

Contacts

Church Office: 514-486-4559info@Kensingtonchurch.ca Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor)......Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca 514-773-4620

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

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



Approaching God

Lighting the Christ Candle
Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Call to worship (Psalm 66:1-2, 4)

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

sing the glory of his name;

give to him glorious praise.

All the earth worships you;

they sing praises to you,

sing praises to your name.

☐ Hymn: Oh for a thousand tongues to sing.....pg 10 (374)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbiQ17uulKU

Prayer of Approach O Lord,

Your love is amazing Steady and unchanging

Your love is a mountain

Firm beneath our feet

Your love is surprising

busy on the margins

changing the world through people

and relationships

We praise you

for all the amazing ways your love is growing.

Thanks you God.

Amen.



Listening to God



Epiphany was yesterday. That's the day the Magi, or Wise Men, arrived at Jesus' house with their gifts. The epiphany, or big idea that this reveals, is that Jesus wasn't just for the Jews. God came for outsiders too.



The Magi responded by dedicated time and money into finding Jesus, and offering him gifts. How do we respond? or to put it another way, how do we follow? (not the Magi, but Jesus)

We have the gospels and letters in the Bible, and centuries of examples in and out of the Bible.

This is what the Sunday School we be focusing on for the next couple of months.

prayer

Dear Jesus, help us all to follow your footsteps so that we can be like you.

Amen.

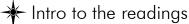
2/13

Hymn: Hallelujah, your love is amazing.....pg. 11 www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLkDWtGpETs

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may be amazed by you.

Amen.



Previously: John has been preparing the way for Jesus by helping them recognize their sins, decide to change (repent), and accepting forgiveness. Jesus is baptized, blessed by God, and immediately driven out into the wilderness where he is tempted. When getting back he does a little teaching and calls some disciples - who immediately change what they are doing and follow him.

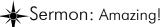
Today we start by entering Capernaum. This seems to be Jesus' centre for the first while. It is also a commercial centre - being at the intersection of trade routes between the coast and Syria, and up the Jordan. This help build it up into a city of 500 people - big enough to have a dedicated synagogue. It was also a local centre for Roman peace/occupation.

Our Psalm picks up some of the feelings in the passage. As you listen to both the psalm and the gospel, what impression are you left with?

Reading: Please look up the passages in your own

Bible,² or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

Mark 1: 21-45 Psalm 66: 1-8



Dear Lord, please bless these words and the meditations of our hearts.³ Amen.

As is usual in Mark, there's a lot going on. There's Jesus teaching at the church/synagogue - and being interrupted by somebody shouting out. Then a healing, and another healing... and a lot more healings. Then up early for some quiet prayer, to be interrupted by his new disciples. Then a road trip... and more healing.

That's the events, but what impression were you left with?

I found it quite touchy-feely. I don't mean this in a sentimental way; Mark doesn't give us time for that. I found this passage to have a lot of touching, and a lot of feelings.

While touching and expressing feelings aren't a big part of my background, they are important. Touching and feeling are also not strong aspects in the Presbyterian tradition, but they are here - both in the church and in the Bible.

In Jesus' first healing in Mark he doesn't touch the person possessed by a demon, he just speaks⁴. With the next person he does the opposite. He doesn't say anything to Peter's mother-in-law, but takes her hand and helps her up. With the man with a skin disease he both assures with words, and touches.

It's important to remember the context. Back then demons and miracles were facts of life. The matriarch of the family would feel shame if she couldn't serve her guests. People with skin

² 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

³ Psalm 19:14

as a bit of a tangent, Jesus speaks rather bluntly. It is usually translated as "Be quiet and come out!". This is because we like the Bible to be nice. A more accurate translation would be "Shut up and get out!"

⁵ Also interesting... the word used for lesus lifting her up is resurrection... as used at Easter.

⁶ yes, there's something with the words here too, but more on that later

diseases, all called lepers, had to wear torn clothes, have messy hair, live outside the community, and shout "unclean" if somebody came near. Anyone who touched them would be considered contaminated until they clean themselves. If you had a skin disease nobody would come near you, let alone give you a reassuring touch on the shoulder. Can you imagine what that would feel like?

Not being touched is hard. People who are sick often express a

longing to be touched - and the reluctance of others to place a hand on them, or hold the hand, or hug them. This includes people with diseases like cancer that are clearly not contagious. Perhaps you've been in that position; perhaps you don't need to imagine what it feels like.



Rembrandt

This passage is full of feelings. In some parts we are encouraged to imagine what people would have felt, and in other parts we are told what people are feeling.

You've probably already imagined what it was like to be separated from your community - to be isolated. We've all experienced some of that in the early days of the pandemic. Some of us, more so. Thinking also of Peter's mother-in-law. You may be able to relate to feeling shame that you can't do what you think you should. The difficulty in asking for help, or of letting others do what you think you should. Now, imagine being restored;

being able to rejoin your family & friends; to be able to do your part. Imagine what the people healed would be feeling. Surprise? Wonder? Peace?

And what would their families and friends would have felt. I expect you've had somebody dear to you be so sick, or acted like a demon is controlling their choices, and you've been worried 'sick' about them. I hope you also experienced them being made well. What emotions would be overflowing? Gratitude? Joy? Amazement?

These emotions lead to one that is not as pleasant. It's when you lose something amazing - panic. When Simon (Peter), Andrew, James & John woke up the next morning they can't find Jesus. This amazing person had called them to leave their livelihood and follow him. He said and did amazing things... and disappeared. They don't just look for him - they hunt for him. The Greek word used is intense. It implies they are worried, perhaps panicking... and then they find him.

And how do they express themselves? "Everyone is searching for you." Is it just a statement of fact? I think it sounds more like a gruff accusation? Instead of 'Thank God we found you, we were worried.' or 'I missed you.' it's 'look at the trouble you caused!' Have you heard people express their caring that way? Perhaps you've done this yourself? Emotions are hard to express.

And then there's anger. Do you remember that in the passage? The demon in the person yelling at the synagogue. "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?" The demon seems to be feeling anger or fear. It's also got something sweet that it's at risk of losing.

Now the panic of the disciples and the anger in the demon

An interesting perspective - do you ever think of Jesus as the destroyer?

aren't directly mentioned in the text, but the next feeling is. When the person with the skin disease asks Jesus for healing, Jesus is moved by pity. ... Though there is a challenge to this. It's not that Jesus, or God, isn't moved by their feelings. It's that in some of the oldest copies of Mark it says that Jesus is moved by 'anger' and not 'pity'. Modern commentators suggest this is more likely because it is harder to accept. They don't imagine a copyist changing pity to anger, but can see them changing anger to pity. If Jesus was feeling angry, what was he angry about? Not that the person had become sick. More likely it was with the way the person was excluded from the community and forced to live in such a humiliating way - or perhaps it is pity for the person. Either way, it seems that everyone is being touched by feelings in

this passage.

The wonder, fear, joy, anger, gratitude, panic, surprise & excitement are mostly implied in the text. Two feelings are repeatedly mentioned are amazement and authority.

I think authority here is a feeling. They don't talk about Jesus' authority because he has a job title or badge that gives it to him. They wonder at his authority because he radiates it. What he says is more solid than the scribes - the experts. Then they see that he has the authority to tell demons where to go. This Jesus person seems to speak on behalf of The One that rules over all - God.



Hear My Praise - R Blumenfeld

This isn't a surprise to us. Even if we didn't know the end of the story, Mark starts by telling us that "the kingdom of God has come near." It seems that the Reign of God is coming near in Jesus - so that his teaching and actions shine with authority. It is also making people well - and this is amazing to see.

We are repeatedly told "they were amazed". We see this in their asking "What is this?" and excitedly telling others. We're told that "Immediately his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee." Also, as soon as the Sabbath ended the whole city turned up with people to be healed.8

Have you experienced excitement like this? Good news that comes out every time you open your mouth? I've been to some concerts, and even heard some

theologians, that were so exciting that I couldn't stop talking about them. When have you experienced this?

I wonder what it would be like for us to feel this amazement and excitement about Jesus? It's hard. In our passage Jesus was new. It's always easier to be excited about something new... but God is no less amazing now.

Can we let ourselves absorb the impressions of the passage and also be amazed by God? Yes, with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Most people think Presbytery meetings are boring - and they can be. However, a few months back Kathryn and I witnessed a

It seems the narrator is excited as well, because it wouldn't be possible for the whole city to fit, but I'm sure it felt that way.

couple of ministers so excited to share about Jesus that their dreams risked bursting all the rules. Their passion was inspiring.

May you catch the excitement, and To God be all the glory, Amen.

Responding to God

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: Share a time when you have been absolutely amazed by someone.

Memories: Tell about someone who radiated authority.

Wonder: Why does Jesus tell people not to tell that he healed

them?

Actions: When visiting someone who is going through

something hard, such as being sick, it's okay to try what Jesus did. Don't say anything. You can listen. You can place a hand on their hand or shoulder.

You can pray (even if only in your head).

Etching: How would you describe Jesus?

Do you ever think of him, like the demon, as Jesus the Destroyer? What sort of destroyer is he? What

did he come to destroy?

Prayer: ...that we will feel amazed and excited by Jesus

Spirit Sighting

This week's prayer partner talks about a family that was touched by God's amazing work in the world. When visiting her sister in Nepal, Lora Nafziger was 'infected' by the work Christians were doing through medical and community development programs. Last week she moved to Kathmandu with her family to



join the team as a clinical social worker. They are being supported by the Mennonite Mission Network and Presbyterians Sharing.

This is one amazing way that the Holy Spirit is exciting people to share God's love.

\lambda 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.

All donations are gratefully received and support God's work in our local and extended community.



Communion

Eucharist, Source & Summit - Garcia

Invitation to the table

You are invited to The Table.

It's not my table, or the churches. This is God's table.

Maintenant, c'est le moment 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 partager ce repas.

As Jesus revealed his amazing glory to people from near and far at his birth, and through his ministry To any of you who seek him, he offers himself here and now in the mystery this time.

As we come together to share this taste of Lord's Supper, let us also join with Christians of many types, around the world and through the centuries. in a common confession of our faith.

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 the dead.
On 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.



We are all One in Jesus Christ - Soichi Watanabe

♣ 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.

With joy we praise you, gracious God, for you have created heaven and earth, made us in your image, and kept covenant with us—even when we fell into sin.

We give you thanks for Jesus Christ, our Lord, who came as the light of the world to show us your way of truth in parables and miracles.

Therefore we join our voices with the whole of creation to proclaim the glory of your name.⁹

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.

We lift our praise to you because you are amazing.

You have authority that can upset people's lives and bring a new peace.

You offer healing that reconnects people to each other and to you.

You can do such amazing things, that our imaginations struggle to keep up.

Jesus, please forgive us when we forget about you, leaving you on the side-lines like an old beloved teddy bear.

Hearing your story so many times it can become common that you died for us, ...and that death wasn't the end.

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

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

8/13

Jesus, may your Holy Spirit help us to not only see you in our lives, but to follow you in yours as your Spirit continues to work amazing miracles.

Knowing that you still work wonders, we come to you with situations that need your touch.

- We pray for the start of school, as students and staff at all levels go back. May they learn how amazing your creation is in the world, and in each other...
- We pray for those for whom the last season has been tough. May this new year bring light and joy into their lives. Where there is pain, may you bring healing...
- We pray for the health care system. May those needing care, find it. May those offering care be given the support they need...
- Lord, there is so much that is good in the world. Help us to see and share this and be with all those who are suffering.
- Jesus, feelings are a part of you and your story. Help us to

⁹ Worship Sourcebook F8.2.2.1

be honest with our feelings - be they anger, fear, or loneliness. Help us to feel amazement, wonder, joy, & gratitude. Help us to be excited about you.

Lord God,
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,
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
now and forever. Amen.

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 sang;
faites ceci en mémoire de moi"

Take and drink.

[take and drink]

rayer after Communion

Loving God,

We thank you for this time with you, uniting us with Christ, and each other.

Take us out in the power of your Spirit bringing love, hope & healing to the world.

In Jesus name, Amen.

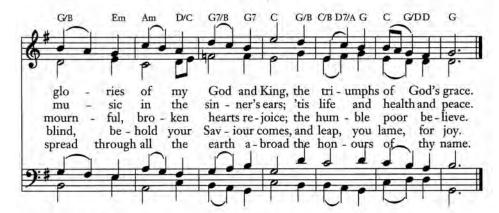
☐ Hymn: O Come, divine Messiah......pg 13 (530)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzNiBdW4Le4

Benediction (Romans 15:13)

May the God of hope
fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may about in hope
by the power of the Holy Spirit.





Instrumental Descant



Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt Music: Thomas Haweis (1734–1820); arrangement, Samuel Webbe, the younger (1770–1843); descant, C.S. Lang (1891–1971) Words: public domain Music: descant, copyright © Novello & Co. Ltd. CCLI #4440603

When the Rev. Lora Nafziger visited her sister in Nepal in 2022, she never imagined that she would return as Staff Care and Counselling Advisor with United Mission to Nepal (UMN). A faith-based international NGO, UMN strives to help all Nepalis achieve a fuller life through medical and community development programs. Responding to God's call, Lora departed for Kathmandu in early January 2024 with her spouse Mitch Rhodes and their two youngest children.

MISSION MOMENT



Lora, who is also a clinical social worker, will provide spiritual and emotional support to expatriate UMN staff and Nepali staff. She is jointly supported by the PCC through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing and Mennonite Mission Network.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, January 7 We pray that the faculty of Knox College, The Presbyterian College of Montreal and the Vancouver School of Theology find joy and wisdom in the work of theological education.

Monday, January 8 We pray for the people of Ochapowace First Nation, SK, for their healing from the colonization tactics used in "Indian" residential schools. God bless their youth determined to overcome the effects of abuse and belittling that their parents and grandparents experienced in residential and day schools.

Tuesday, January 9 We pray for the members of the Women's Missionary Society as they plan programs and special events for 2024.

Wednesday, January 10 We pray for refugees around the world.

Thursday, January 11 We pray for colleague covenant groups and clergy support groups as they support one another and develop healthy perspectives on themselves and their ministries.

Friday, January 12 We praise God for the generosity of people across Canada who support congregations with financial gifts, and pray for the hardworking congregational treasurers who are finalizing their records to prepare year-end reports.

Saturday, January 13 We give thanks for the new members of the Executive and pray for God's guidance as they lead the Atlantic Mission Society into the future.

Hallelujah



Oh, I know the Lord's laid his hands on me







- King Je preach - ing to the poor!
- 2. Oh, was day that hap py when Je washed my sins way! a
- seek the Lord don't seek him right; Some and they fool all day and night, pray at
- My Lord's done just what he said; the sick and the dead; he's healed raised



757

Words: African-American spiritual Music: African-American spiritual Words: public domain Music: public domain

Kev. Peter Kombeek for Kensington Presbyterian Church 12/13

Let us talents and tongues employ 563 LINSTEAD 8888 LM with refrain (5553) Dm7/C F/G reach-ing out with a 1. Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, the ta - ble he make us 2. Christ is a - ble to bear - ing fruit in a 3. Je - sus calls us in, sends out Dm7/C F/G wine poured, bro - ken, the bread joy: bless, ple live to the tone, teach - ing peo tell, share: love to bread gives of doubt. us world Refrain C/G G C C seen and heard. is spo-ken and Christ Je - sus lives a - gain, in word and in deed ex - press. eve - ry - where! God (Im - man - u - el) (Dm7) the Word a-round: loaves a - bound! earth can breathe a - gain, pass

Words: Fred Kaan (1929-) Music: Jamaican folk song; adaptation, Doreen Potter (1925-1980); arrangement, Andrew Donaldson (1951-)

Words: copyright © 1975 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: copyright © 1975 and this arrangement © 1997 by Hope Publishing Co.

jan 7, ∠023 Amazing

367 O Come, Divine Messiah



- 1. O come, Di-vine Mes si ah, The world in si lence waits the day
- 2. O come, De-sired of na tions, Whom priest and proph et long fore-told,
- 3. O come, in peace and meek-ness, For low ly will your cra-dle be:



When hope shall sing its tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way. Will break the cap - tive fet - ters, Re-deem the long-lost fold. Though clothed in hu - man weak - ness We shall your God-head see.



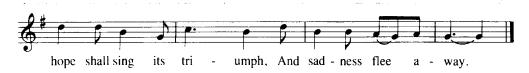
Dear Sav - ior, haste!

Come, come to earth. Dis-pel the night and show your





come, Di-vine Mes - si - ah, The world in si-lence waits the day When



Text: Vonet, divm Messie; Abbé Simon-Joseph Pellegrin, 1663-1745; Tr. by S. Mary of St. Philip, 1877 Tune: VENEZ, DIVIN MESSIE, 7 8 7 6 with refrain; French Noël, 16th C.; Harm, by Healey Willan, 1880-1968, ⊚ 1958, Ralph Jusko Publications, Inc.