



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

Following Jesus to...

February 25, 2024

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).

Announcements

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

Annual Meeting: March 3rd after church (and lunch). Reports will be emailed as soon as they are ready. If you need a print copy, please contact Rev. Peter.

LATTE: Lent Accountability Teams Towards Easter

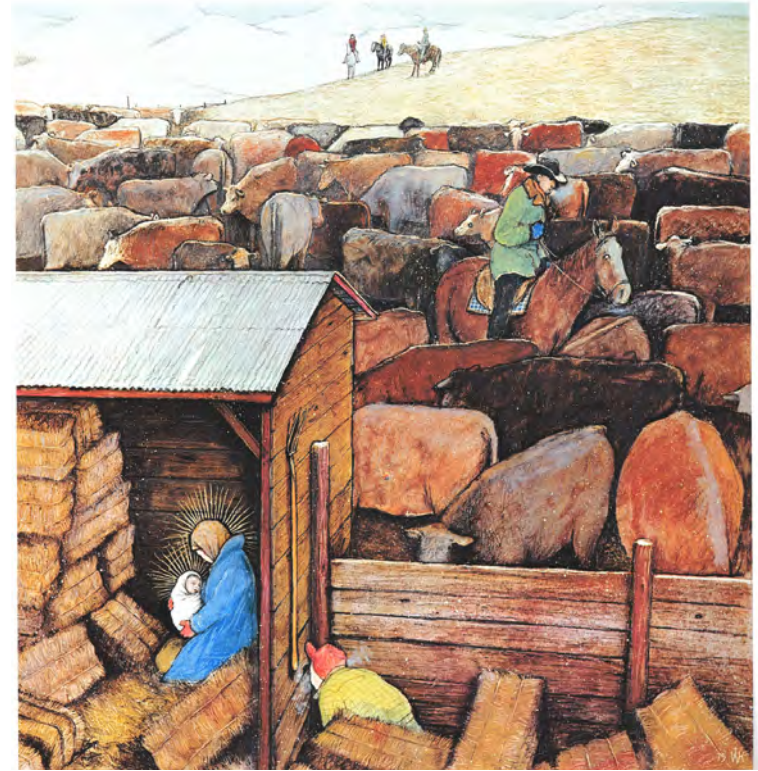
Let Rev. Peter know if you'd like to join a group to share your daily readings with.

Zoom Prayer Group: Wednesday 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

¹ note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.



northern nativity - W Kurelek

Fabulously Friendly Friday Food & Film: pizza at 6:30 pm

This week we'll be starting Season 2 of The Chosen -
 Please join us even if you haven't seen Season 1
 RSVP with Peter appreciated

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.

Contacts

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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

Let us come, looking for the Lord.

Let us taste and see that the Lord is good.

Let us listen to the Holy Spirit for guidance,

and follow The Way of Jesus.

Let us bless our God at all times;

let us celebrate the Lord together!



Pentecost - Kelly Latimore

♪ Hymn: The Clay Stained Hands of Love.....pg 9 (296)
youtu.be/w36w2keM2iY?t=2611



Prayer of Approach.....Sybil

Sybil will be leading our first prayer this morning. Here is an alternate prayer you can use.²

From the stars to the seas,
from mountain to meadows, landscape to loch,
creation is a vast canvas declaring your glory, Lord.
Open our eyes and help us to see!

From a new born child to octogenarian,
from African to Australian, Caucasian to Cantonese,
humanity is a vast canvas declaring your glory, Lord.
Open our eyes and help us to see!

From crocodile to caterpillar,
from wombats to weasels, beavers to buffalo,
wildlife is a vast canvas declaring your glory, Lord.
Open our eyes and help us to see!

Open our eyes and help us to see your amazing universe
of diversity, delight and dynamism
through spirits soaring in wonder,
hearts lifted with awe and
minds filled with imaginative thought.

Open our eyes and help us to see your amazing world and
our place within it all,
our duty of care for it all,
our call to serve it all.

² from *Spill the Beans* #18

We gather in church today, thrilled to view the wonder of life,
yet not to be blind to troubles and traumas and tyranny.

Open our eyes to see environmental concern.
Open our eyes to see the needs of hurting humanity.
Open our eyes to see disharmony in nature.

May we respond in ways that
help rather than hinder,
assist rather than aggregate,
maintain rather than mistreat.

Oh, open our eyes in worship today, Lord of creation,
to see from your holy perspective.
Amen.

✦ Assurance of Pardon
Hear the good news:
To all who turn from sin in sorrow,
to all who turn to God in hope,
this is God's Word of grace:
We are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved.
This gift we have from God.
Amen.³

As we follow Jesus, let us sing 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,**

³ Worship Sourcebook 2.4.39

**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
Think of a good friend.
What do you like about them?

What do you think would make a good leader/teacher/coach?
...that they try to help?

That's what Jesus said. Jesus talked about how there are many
leaders who just think about themselves, but the good ones think
about others first.

How could you be a good leader?
- look for people who need somebody to play with
- share with somebody if they need it
- ...

Prayer:
Dear Jesus, help us to help others and to be good leaders.
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love.....pg 9 (229)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjFNpoEy8mY

🙏 Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
so that we can follow your way.

Amen.

✦ Intro to the readings

Previous in Mark...

Back in the middle of Chapter 8 Jesus healed a blind man. After that Peter confidently says that Jesus is the Christ or Messiah. Jesus takes this as an opportunity to explain that the Messiah will be rejected by the church leaders, killed, and after three days rise again. Peter tells the Messiah off for being wrong.

Then we have the transfiguration, where Peter, James & John witness the glory that is in Jesus... and want to stay in it. The disciples continue to not get it. There's a boy they can't heal, and an argument about which of them is the greatest, and an attempt to put down people who aren't a part of their group. Jesus teaches that we need to be like children (vulnerable, dependant, trusting, curious, ...). A rich man hears that he must not only be nice to people, but depend on God.

Then our passage starts.

One question I get asked is how God answers prayer. While this passage isn't about prayer, it does show Jesus answering.

Something else this passage shows is a little humour. Like a good TV show, the Bible is able to combine serious and funny. Today's passage has several funny things. One is when we meet Bartimaeus. In Hebrew 'Bar' means 'son of'. So his name means

'Son of Timaeus'. Listen for how he's introduced.



Even though today's psalm was written hundreds of years before the gospel reading, it picks up the feelings of Bartimaeus, ...and feelings of people today.

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

[Mark 10: 32-52](#)

[Psalm 34:1-8](#)

Dance of Grace - Mark Keathley

✦ Sermon: Following Jesus to...

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

Did you notice the funny way Bartimaeus was introduced? "Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus" - which is basically saying, 'Son of Timaeus, the son of Timaeus'. It might have been to emphasize the meaning of the name Timaeus. Unfortunately we've forgotten what the name means. (I checked three different places and found three different definitions for the name.) Even if there was a deeper meaning, this introduction is still silly.

I'll tell you about a couple of other funny things as we go, but more importantly: What's the point of the passage?

It's the same as the point of the whole Bible: people's relationship with God. There's examples of struggles; examples of

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

how to follow, how not to follow... and people like us who sometimes get it right & sometimes don't.

I've volunteered my sister for a little script I found⁵ that will help remind us of some of the things going on in this passage.

A: There were three men who wanted something.

B: Three men who wanted something from Jesus.

A: Two men came confidently from his closest circle.

B: One man shouted from afar, a stranger in a crowd.

A: The two men came and demanded, "Jesus, do what we ask!"

B: The one man came and begged, "Jesus, have mercy!"

A: When others heard the demand of the two men, they were indignant and angry.

B: When others heard the cry of the one man, they rebuked him and told him to be quiet.

A: Jesus was easily approached by the two men. Unbeckoned, they came.

B: Jesus was out of reach to the one man, but Jesus stopped and said, "Call him," and he came.

A: The two men wanted to be seen.

B: The one man wanted to see.

A: The two men wanted glory.

B: The one man wanted to see.

A: The two men wanted places of honour.

B: The one man wanted to see.

A: Jesus raised many questions with the two men.

B: Jesus gave a simple answer with the one man.

A: Eventually Jesus said to the two men,
"No, I can't give you what you demand."

**B: Immediately Jesus said to the one man,
"Yes, I can give you what you ask."**

A: Jesus, with many words, reasoned with the two men so that their minds might be changed.

B: Jesus, with few words, released the one man so that his life might be changed.

A: The two men heard and they didn't get it.

B: The one man heard and he got it.

A: And the two men followed Jesus on the way.

B: And the one man followed Jesus on the way.

A: There were three men who wanted something

B: and they followed Jesus

A: on the way.

I like how the script reminds us that they all follow, though they don't all get it. It's like the disciples don't really see who Jesus is, but the blind man does see. (Which is another of those funny things: the disciples don't see - the Blind Man does.)

That said, I wonder how much better the Blind Man really is. He gets up and follows Jesus, but so did the disciples. He names Jesus as the Messiah, but so did Peter.

I wonder if there's a lesson here about the challenge of following Jesus over time. When you start to have a personal relationship with God (beyond just growing up in a Christian culture) there's often a sense of wonder, or a deeper peace, or excitement, or more. This can gradually become real for you, or it might be like the disciples and Bartimaeus who can easily point to a specific moment when their life changed for the better. I wonder if they expected it to continue to get better. Do we, deep down, believe things will be better or easier if we follow Jesus?

Because that's not the Bible story. Trying to stay in the happy place is like staying camped on the mountain hoping Jesus stops in the transfiguration. This isn't the way it is. Jesus is headed to Jerusalem. He's going to challenge people's ideas so much they

⁵ [What do you want?](#) from *Spill the Beans #18* ...a little adapted

will persecute and kill him. That's not the end, but it is the way.

This passage is about the expectations of those following Jesus, and expectations bring us another funny element.

Jericho is a great city. Some people claim it's the oldest in the world. It was the first city the Israelites came to in the Promised Land (remember 🎵 Joshua and the Battle of Jericho). It was where Herod's winter palace was. This was an important city. When the narrator says "*They came to Jericho*" people would be expecting something big. Immediately in the text Jesus is leaving Jericho, but gives time to a blind beggar. Someone who is outside of town and on the edge of society is apparently more important than the great city of Jericho. This is both silly and serious. This is acting out what Jesus had been telling the disciples about greatness.

James & John are focused on greatness. The other disciples are angry about this; presumably because they are feeling left out of being great. This is not part of what Jesus is doing - "*that is not for me to give*". Jericho is great, but not along the way of Jesus. The Rich Man in the previous passage was great through his possessions, which Jesus tells him to sell & give the money to those in need.

Where do you think following Jesus will lead? What are our dreams? When we think of how we want the church to be, do we picture greatness? What sort of greatness?



Homeless Jesus - T Schmalz

While we don't know what become of Bartimaeus, in this story

he's the good example. He refuses to let things be wrong. He causes a fuss to get needed attention. When getting up he throws off his cloak - which is probably the only thing he owned (and he'd never find again if he remained blind). He trusts God to make him well. This is following the way of Jesus.

The way also includes the likes of James & John - not their drive to be Great, but their drive. Jesus spends time trying to redirect their focus. Jesus explains, again, that he is not a king like the ones they know - think Herod, or Caesar, or so many in the Bible... and since. Jesus tells, and shows them, that to follow the way you need to be prepared to leave everything behind. Jesus shows them that you don't stop for something great, but you do for someone in need - and then you keep going. Jesus teaches that greatness is about being a servant of all. "*whoever wishes to become great must first become a servant*" And Jesus shows this as he will live out his statement, "*For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life to set others free.*"

So, following Jesus can be exciting, hard, and sometimes a little funny in the way life works. It seems that even the best of the disciples get it wrong - in this case focusing on being great instead of helping others - even if they are the sort of people everyone else tries to ignore or hush up, like the Son of Timaeus. And when following God with this passion, great things can happen.

To God be all the glory.

Amen.

Responding to God

♪ Hymn: Lord make us Servants of Your Peace.....pg 10 (739 ♪25)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=66L78JfkqxA



the twelve apostles - Bhanu Dudhat

💡 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 funny situation that you have been in.

Memories: Describe the most impressive church you've ever seen.

Wonder: What dreams do you have for Kensington?
Describe what Kensington could be like if it were "great"?

Actions: What is it you want to shout to God to fix? ...try it.

Value: What do you struggle with in following Jesus?

Wonder: Who is sitting on our roadside? (like Bartimaeus)

Prayer: ...for help in following Jesus.

✦ Spirit Sightings

This week I learned how the Presbyterian World Service and Development supports a Digital Learning Centre in Peshawar, Pakistan. This provides online learning for refugees from Afghanistan who don't qualify for local education. The program not only increases their opportunities, but provides hope.

✦ Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on our **website**: 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 God,
Creator of the Cosmos,
and one who will stop to listen when we call.

We thank you that you go to grand places,
and those that are not so grand.

We thank you that you don't look for who is important to meet,
but will stop for anyone who calls.

We thank you that you accept our passion
and will help us to use it to follow you.

Lord of lords,
we pray for our leaders:
PM Trudeau, P Legault, and Mayor Plante.
for corporate leaders,

and for our church leaders.
may they, and our other representatives,
be inspired by your idea of leadership...

Jesus, our teacher,
help us to have the passion of Bartimaeus,
and even James and John.
May this not fade with time,
or slide into bad expectations.
May your Spirit guide us so that we will focus on you,
and trust that you will remember us...

Help us to know that we can bring anything to you;
and to trust you to do what is best.
In this, we pray for Ukraine and Russia - may they know peace.
and other places of conflict.
We pray for refugees...
We pray for people who need food - even here in Montreal...
We pray for people who need medical treatment,
may you help them get the help they need to be well...

And Jesus, we especially ask you to help us see
how to travel with you along The Way.

In Jesus name
Amen.

♪ Hymn: *Take up your cross*.....pg 10 (211)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvFe-DVIXVA

✦ 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.



"We really appreciate the program, as we are in dire need to keep the education going for our kids," shared a grateful parent. For Afghan children who sought refuge in Pakistan, education is often out of reach because they are not nationals. PWS&D supports the Digital Learning Center in Peshawar, which provides out-of-school children and adults with basic digital literacy classes, high school courses and tutoring sessions that aim to help a total of 520 students. Students and their family members are benefiting from the Darakht-e Danesh Library, which provides free and open educational resources on such topics as math, language, business and the sciences. Students access classes both in English and Dari/Farsi, equipping them with essential skills and providing hope for those who have lost so much, broadening their opportunities for the future.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, February 25 We pray for inclusive communities who come together to explore important life questions, support each other in living with purpose and meaning, and work towards peace and justice.

Monday, February 26 We pray for the Rev. Stewart Folster and the people at Mistawasis Memorial Presbyterian Church on Mistawasis Nehiyawak First Nation.

Tuesday, February 27 We remember in prayer PWS&D's refugee sponsorship program which helps Canadian congregations provide new opportunities for refugees worldwide.

Wednesday, February 28 We pray for the discovery of new, faithful, and hopeful directions for congregations that do not have the finances to call a part-time minister.

Thursday, February 29 We lift up in prayer the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024) and pray for a world of justice and equity where anti-Black racism is eradicated.

Friday, March 1 (World Day of Prayer) We pray for the Christian women of Palestine who have prepared this year's World Day of Prayer service for the Women's Missionary Society.

Saturday, March 2 We pray for patience, strength, and inspiration for ministers who are not only serving their own congregation but are also engaged in long-term interim-moderatorships.

God the Holy Trinity

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The clay-stained hands of love

LITTLE MARLBOROUGH 6 6 8 6 SM

Unison

Gm Cm6/G Gm7 Cm/G 6 Gm Cm 9 F7 Bbmaj9

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.

Bb Ebmaj7 Cm7 Dm7 Ebmaj7 Cm9 Dm7 Gmsus4-3

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

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Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love

Refrain

F /A Gm6

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love; show

C7 F /A Bb6 C7 F Fine

us how to serve the neigh - bours we have from you.

F Dm7 Gm /Bb C7 /E

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
 2. Neigh - bours are rich and poor, var - ied in col - our and
 3. These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should
 4. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

F /A Dm /C Bb6 C7 F

feet, mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 race; neigh - bours are near and far a - way.
 love; all are neigh - bours to us and you.
 feet; this is the way we should live with you.

Words: Tom Colvin (1925-) Music: Ghanaian folk melody; arrangement, Jane Marshall (1924-); adaptation, Tom Colvin (1925-) CCLI #4440603

Words: copyright © 1969 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: adaptation, copyright © 1969 and this arrangement © 1982 by Hope Publishing Co.

739 Lord, make us servants of your peace

O W A L Y W A L Y 8 8 8 8 L M

Unison (D11) G C/G Am7 Bm7 (G/B) Em7

1. Lord, make us serv - ants of your peace: where there is
 2. Where all is doubt, may we sow faith; where all is
 3. Je - sus, our Lord, may we not seek to be con -
 4. May we not look for love's re - turn, but seek to
 5. Dy - ing, we live, and are re - born through death's dark

G/D Cmaj7 D7/G /F# C6/E G/D Baug/D#

hate, may we sow love; where there is hurt, may we for -
 gloom, may we sow hope; where all is night, may we sow
 soled, but to con - sole, nor look to un - der - stand - ing
 love un - self - ish - ly, for in our giv - ing we re -
 night to end - less day: Lord, make us serv - ants of your

Em Am7 Bm7 Csus2/E D6 (7) G

give; where there is strife, may we make one.
 light; where all is tears, may we sow joy.
 hearts, but look for hearts to un - der - stand.
 ceive, and in for - giv - ing are for - given.
 peace, to wake at last in heav - en's light.

Words: Francis of Assisi Music: English traditional; arrangement, Noël Tredinnick (1949-)
 Music: arrangement, copyright © 1982 by Hope Publishing Co. CCLI #4440603

211 Take up your cross

HESPERUS 8 8 8 8 L M

E /G# C#m A6 B E /G#

1. Take up your cross, the Sav - iour said, if my dis -
 2. Take up your cross; let not its weight fill fright - ened
 3. Take up your cross, nor heed the shame, nor let your
 4. Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and eve - ry
 5. Take up your cross and fol - low Christ, nor think till

F#m7 B E F#m/A B F# B/F#

ci - ple you would be; de - ny your - self, the
 spir - it with a - larm; his strength shall bear your
 fool - ish pride re - bel: for you the Sav - iour
 dan - ger calm - ly brave; 'twill guide you to a
 death to lay it down, for on - ly those who

F#7 B E 7 Amaj7 Bsus4 -3 E

world for - sake, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.
 spir - it up, and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.
 bore the cross, to save your soul from death and hell.
 heaven - ly home, and lead to vic - tory o'er the grave.
 bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

Words: Charles William Everest (1814-1877), alt Music: Henry Baker (1835-1910)

Words: public domain Music: public domain