

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

Layers
Feb 4, 2024

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).

### Announcements

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

Communion this week: All who want to know our Lord better are invited to join us the Lord's Supper. If you are celebrating from home you will have to provide your own elements.

Questions Hour: Sunday, Feb 4 from 12-1

This month's theme: The Bible. (future topics welcome)

You may want to bring a lunch

Shrove (Pancake) Tuesday: Feb 13<sup>th</sup> 6 pm

\$12 adults, \$5 children under 12 (financial assistance available)

Food will be collected for the St. Mary's Food Pantry

Money after costs will support St. Andrew's Home Foundation.

Ash Wednesday: Feb 14<sup>th</sup> 7pm @ Westley United 5964 av. NDG This is the other side of Shrove Tuesday, in which we start Lent by recognizing our sins as a way to know peace.



Zoom Prayer Group: Thursday at 6:30 a.m.
You may use the worship login details
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

Family Food & Film Fiestas: Fridays at 6:30 January 26 - Feb 16 The Chosen: season 1 (RSVP with Peter appreciated)

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

NDG Community Cafe - Mondays 10-1 at 5964 av. NDG Enjoy some food and conversation. You can also get help with tech questions. A Community Council community worker will be there as well. shadysafar@ndg.ca 514-484-1471 Volunteers Needed to help with clean up and dish washing

### Contacts

Church Office: 514-486-4559 .....info@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 of the Christ Candle
Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Call to worship (Matthew 11:28-29)

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart,

and you will find rest for your souls."

In awe and hope, we come to worship you.



Conversion of Paul Hyatt Moore

Prayer of Approach
God of care and compassion,
you always pay attention to us,
you are eager to take care of us,
for your endless love
we give thanks and praise.

Son of hope and healing, you are with us in every situation, you never abandon us. For your unconditional presence, we praise you.

Spirit of tenderness and grace,
forgive us when frustration and fear
convince us that you have walked away.
Grant us patience and peace
as we journey on
this morning in worship,
this day in life,
this lifetime in your service.

we praise you now and forever.

Amen.<sup>2</sup>

2/14

<sup>2</sup> adapted from Spill the Beans #17



# Listening to God

## Children's Time

In today's story Jesus is on his way to help someone who is very sick - when he is interrupted.

How do you feel when you are interrupted? What do you do when you are interrupted?

Jesus is patient. He is willing to listen whenever we need him. We don't have to worry about interrupting him.

...and we can work on paying attention to the needs of others, and being willing to be interrupted if they need help.<sup>3</sup>

#### prayer

Dear Jesus, Thank you for always being willing to listen to us. and help us to also pay attention to others.

#### Amen.



**Become** like little children Bota

idea from worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2015/05/year-b-proper-8-13th-sunday-in-ordinary.html

■ Hymn: When Jesus the Healer Passed Through......pg 12 (203) www.youtube.com/watch?v=W15Xab1Mjhl

**Prayer for Illumination** 

Lord,

open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may be feel your loving attention helping us to 'be well'.

Amen.

☀ Intro to the readings

Last week we heard about Jesus' brief adventure into foreign lands on the other side of the sea. He brought healing to somebody everyone had given up on, but the locals were scared and asked him to leave - so he returned to Capernaum.

In today's passage you will hear two stories, with one interrupting the other. What does this help us notice?

In the larger frame, we have the oversea adventure before, and Jesus visiting his home town afterwards - where they are so closed minded about him he can't do any deeds of power.

Our psalm sounds like a song somebody wrote to share in worship and coming through a tough time.

3/14

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.

Mark 5:21-43 Psalm 30

or for the more academically inclined, The New Oxford Study Bible NRSV

If you'd like a new Bible with helpful notes, I recommend the 'Life with God Bible' NRSV from Renovaré. ISBN 0061834963

Sermon: Layers

Dear Lord, please bless these words and the meditations of our hearts.<sup>5</sup> Amen.

You've probably gathered by now that I like art; all kinds of art: visual, musical, word, movement, .... Art is powerful and complex. It can teach us, comfort us, challenge us - all parts of us: minds, bodies and (especially) emotions.



Church in Yuquot - Emily Carr

The artist always starts with something. It could be a real scene or event. It could be an idea or feeling. They may not quite know, but it starts with something.

Emily Carr was a West-Coast painter who started receiving national attention about a hundred years ago. Her starting points were often indigenous communities on the West Coast of Canada - and the forests around them.

A quick glance at any of her paintings and you can tell that she has changed things. In creating their piece the artist may leave things out, or add something, or exaggerate something to make a point. You may have no idea what it is, or think it's 'simply' a

nice photo. Here's the church Emily Carr painted. You can see that she removed the other buildings and brought the trees closer. She stretched everything. The trees have life in a way you wouldn't see in a photograph. I don't know what she had in mind, but she changed it for a reason.<sup>6</sup>



As the person experiencing the art, such as looking at a painting, you bring your own experiences and assumptions. I've heard people say this painting is a criticism of religion with the church rigid and the forest so alive. Perhaps that she was leaving the church in the graveyard and worshipping nature. I've also heard people say this painting celebrates that our living God is found in nature.

Reading the Bible is a bit like experiencing art. There were real events, questions and feelings. These lead to stories being told.

<sup>6</sup> Here is an interesting site that helps you engage in this paining, and others. www.tvoarts.org/works-of-art/emily-carr-church-in-yuquot-village

Some were more historical, some like myths, some poetry, some letters, ...and more. You could call the people who originally started telling the stories/songs/etc artists - as were those who retold them, and eventually wrote them down.

In our reading of the Bible we have an added step to looking at a painting - the translation into English. This could be a bit like a musician taking what the composer wrote and interpreting it, or translating it, for the audience.

...and there's us - the audience if you will. We bring our own experiences and assumptions to the Bible. This will, obviously, influence what you take from the Bible.

Today's Gospel passage is about healing. We are presented with two people who come to Jesus with the belief that he can bring healing - and their faith is rewarded.

But...

these stories will remind many of times they prayed for healing - and there was none. Is this passage telling us that we don't have enough faith? that we're not good enough, or desperate enough? or God doesn't care?

These are valid questions and feelings. The Bible has lots of passages with people asking questions like, "How long, O Lord?" The psalms, for example, are very honest about people's feelings and questions to God.

Like looking at a painting, it is helpful to remember the various layers of interpretation. What the text is trying to do, and what we are bringing to it. This passage isn't a criticism of your faith or why you may not have seen the healing you wanted. It is about miracles - times when God does something rare to help build faith. It is about healing, and it is about hope.



Woman with the Flow of Blood - Frank Wesley

Thinking of the healing, there's some interesting details in these stories. The woman whose menstrual period hadn't stopped for 12 years desperately hoped that if she could just sneak up and touch Jesus' robe, then she'd be healed - and we're told she felt healed immediately. Yet, that's not the end. Jesus calls her out of the crowd. Scared, she talks with Jesus. She shares the experience she brings - her truth. This includes becoming poor from doctor's bills. It would have included the loneliness from not being able to join the community in anything. Despite being a natural process, when blood didn't stay inside the body the person was considered 'unclean'. People couldn't join in religious services. If they touched someone, the other would also become unclean. [Think about how the crowd must have been feeling when they realized what she had.] She would have been excluded from all community.

Jesus gives her a new experience - a new truth. "Daughter, it is your faith that has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease." She is not only healed of her bleeding, but is also now a part of a family. Being "made well" is more than just physical. She is given peace.

...I'm reminded of talking with people who have had tragic diseases, yet their spirit is well. They know peace. Am I saying that there are no longer miraculous physical healings? No. To

<sup>7</sup> Psalm 13

borrow from Shakespeare, "There are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of..." and then there's the amazing healing that happens daily in our medical system. That said, I would humbly suggest that God's miracles can also be about restoring relationships and bringing peace.

Peace is something Jairus would not have been feeling. Being an important leader at the synagogue, I imagine he wasn't used to waiting. He had publicly humbled himself at Jesus' feet - a risky thing to do in an honour based society. While Jesus stops to talk with a woman who is at the bottom of society, almost outside it, AND who is already healed - he receives the bad news. But with God, nothing is impossible.

That is one of the places to find hope. It's never too late for God. There are other places too.

One of the assumptions we bring to life is that one person's gain is another's loss. I hear this everyday in the news, but learned it earlier in races at school. We see this in promotions at work: one person gets it, the others lose out. I heard about this week in health care - The government is considering organ donation as the default. Doctors warned that this isn't an easy solution as it would tie up important trauma beds and extend the suffering of the family. One person's gain is another person's loss. But not with God. This story tells us about a win-win. The woman from the margins is made well - and so is Jairus' family.

Which tells another story of hope. We often hear stories of Jesus helping people that nobody else would touch. We hear him say "the first shall be last, and the last shall be first." This story illustrates that. The woman who was last in the community and in getting to Jesus is healed first. The first person in the community, and to ask Jesus, is last. The important part to remember is that both are made well. Your status, wealth, education, aren't factors in God's caring. Jesus will come to

anyone, anywhere - although that's another story.

With this story, pay attention to the different layers: what you bring, and what is there in the text. In this case, hear that Jesus brings life & hope to all.

To God be all the glory Amen.



J Hymn: Precious Lord, take my hand.....pg 12 (675) www.youtube.com/watch?v=OJlOqqLKn7q

www.youtube.com/watch?v=d58bZ4kSPDs (Elvis)

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: Recall some interruptions from the last week. How did you feel? How did you deal with them? In hindsight, are you happy with how you responded?

Values: Pick a movie, piece of music, art, \_\_\_\_ that you both know - and compare notes. What's it about? What is important in it? What do you appreciate? etc. What does this say about the text? about you?

Values: What do you appreciate about today's passages? How could they be challenging?

Values: Try and figure out what assumptions or experiences you bring to the text.

Prayer: ...to have the faith the know that Jesus is always willing to stop and listen to you.

🚣 Spirit Sighting

Every since coming here I've been meaning to connect with other churches in the area, but there always seems to be something else to do. Well, Wesley United around the corner has a new minister, and she reached out to me. The Holy Spirit is connecting the Body of Christ - and this is a good thing.

### 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.

## MAN WY

### Communion

Invitation to the table

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11: 28-29)

The Lord has prepared this table for all who have much faith, and those who would like to have more, all who have come often and those who have not joined for a while, all who have tried to follow Jesus, and those see their failures.<sup>8</sup>

I would like to invite you to The Table.

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

Rassemblons-nous 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 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.

<sup>3</sup> very adapted from Iona Wee Worship Book 4<sup>th</sup> ed

## 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.

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.

We praise you God for all that you do.

for the wonderful creation that came from your song, and for all the songs and other creations this have inspired We celebrate that your creation can nourish us even if we don't understand it.

like a Sunrise,

or the people you place in our lives.

While we may not know how you did what you did, we can see that it is good and full of your attention and caring.

Now we join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

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.

Thank you for the Blessed One - for Jesus. We are blessed that you came and walked among us. teaching, listening, and helping people become well.

We admit, we all need help being well.

We struggle with physical issues, and with mental demons, and our lack of faith

to put everything at your feet and leave it with you

so that you can lead us.

We struggle with not believing that you can do it, and with wanting solutions our way - not your way. Please forgive us. . .

...and may we feel your touch inviting us to 'get up'.

Jesus, we thank you that you walk with us, and will stop and listen to anyone who asks ...that you will even follow people wherever... to the dead, so that they can be invited to know you and believe.

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

#### Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Jesus, as we wait for your return, we praise the presence of your Holy Spirit Who guides us, flows between us, and helps us both to know you and live into your Reign.

As we wait.

we bring our troubles and sorrows to you for healing.

We pray for those who are sick. . .

their families. . .

and for those who are doing research to bring healing. . .

We pray for those who feel pushed out,

that they don't matter,

and their situation is hopeless...

may they know you will turn towards them. . .

We pray for those living in cycles of violence. . .

may they know your peace...

and we pray for those who seem good and living well, because we all need 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.



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]

**♣** Prayer after Communion

Loving God,

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

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

In Jesus name, Amen.

☐ Hymn: Blessed Assurance.....pg 14 (687)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=MeRT4FdEsqE

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.



### MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, February 4

For decades, Presbyterian World Service & Development has faithfully dedicated itself to serving those in need across the globe. In collaboration with our valued partners, PWS&D is actively contributing to positive transformation within our global community. From responding to emergencies to helping families and communities access



nutritious food, clean water, adequate health care and quality education, PWS&D is helping people thrive. As people of faith, we respond to Christ's call to walk with the distressed and marginalized, work towards equality, the restoration of human dignity, peace, and care for God's creation. Together, we are working towards a sustainable, compassionate and just world.

#### DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, February 4 (PWS&D Sunday)** We give thanks for congregations celebrating PWS&D Sunday by learning about Presbyterian World Service & Development and responding generously to bring about abundant life for all.

**Monday, February 5** We pray for theological students who graduate this spring and begin the process of seeking a call to a congregation.

**Tuesday, February 6** We pray for Nidal Abu Zuluf, Director of the Joint Advocacy Initiative of the East Jerusalem YMCA/YWCA and for staff working for a just peace in Palestine/Israel.

**Wednesday, February 7** We thank God for financial and prayer support received from congregations for Presbyterians Sharing.

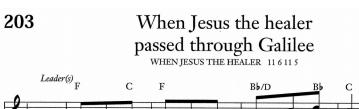
**Thursday, February 8** We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Algoma and North Bay.

**Friday, February 9** We pray for the people who gather at Place of Hope Indigenous Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg.

**Saturday, February 10** We give thanks for those who have financially supported theological colleges to help educate and equip ministers and leaders for service in the church and the world.



Words: Fanny J. Crosby (1820–1915) Music: Chester G. Allen (1838–1878) Words: public domain Music: public domain

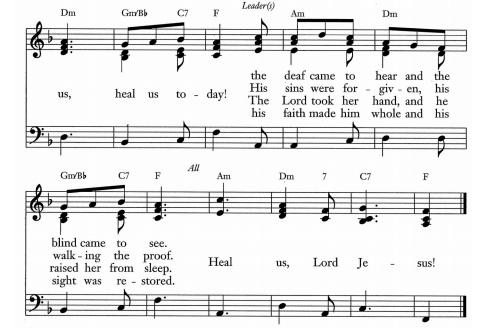




- 1. When Je sus the heal er passed through Gal i lee,
- A par a lyzed man was let down through a roof.
   The death of his daugh-ter caused Jai rus to weep.

  Heal
- 3. The death of his daugh-ter caused Jai rus to weep. 4. When blind Bar - ti - mae - us cried out to the Lord,





- 5. The lepers were healed and the demons cast out. Heal us, heal us today! A bent woman straightened to laugh and to shout. Heal us, Lord Jesus.
- 6. The twelve were commissioned and sent out in twos, Heal us, heal us today! to make the sick whole and to spread the good news. Heal us, Lord Jesus.
- 7. There's still so much sickness and suffering today. Heal us, heal us today! We gather together for healing, and pray: Heal us, Lord Jesus.

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### Here is bread, here is wine

Here is bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, He is with us. Break the bread, drink the wine, Christ is with us here.

Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, He is with us. Know His grace, find peace, feast on Jesus here.

art: Eucharist, Source & Summit - Garcia

In this bread there is healing, in this cup there's life forever. In this moment, by the Spirit, Christ is with us here.

Here we are, joined as one, Christ is with us, He is with us. We'll proclaim, 'til he comes, Jesus crucified.

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