



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

## Trusting Jesus

February 18, 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.<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).



Wind Blows Wherever  
 Phil Irish



## Announcements

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

**Annual Meeting:** March 3<sup>rd</sup> after church (and lunch).

**LATTE:** Lent Accountability Teams Towards Easter

A LATTE group has formed through email, with people sending something around the group when they have a thought. Let Rev. Peter know if you are interested in joining, or need a copy of the readings bookmark.

**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

**Friday Pizza & Games:**

Pizza at 6:30 with games to follow (RSVP with Peter appreciated)  
 Feel free to bring games or food/drinks to share.

**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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 Zoé Dupont-Foisy (music director).....[zoedupontfoisy@hotmail.com](mailto:zoedupontfoisy@hotmail.com)

<sup>1</sup> 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 (Psalm 42:5; 124:8)

Our help is in the name of the LORD,  
**who made heaven and earth.**

Why are you cast down, O my soul,  
and why are you disquieted within me?

**Hope in God; for we shall praise him,  
our help and our God.**



The Hand of God  
Yongsung Kim

♪ Hymn: A Mighty Fortress.....pg 10 (315)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=PB5XvHq8UHK](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PB5XvHq8UHK)



### Prayer of Approach


God of love,  
we worship you today not because we understand you,  
but because you are awesome.  
You are the giver of all good things,  
welcoming us into your family,  
despite our faults.

As we practice following you  
we learn more of what that means.  
The ways you give,  
and the ways you ask us to give.  
So that your sacrificial love  
will live in our church  
and our neighbourhood  
and our world.


Putting you first,  
putting aside our wants,  
and trusting you to provide what we really need  
Jesus, this is hard.  
Please forgive us when we fail - when we sin. . .

and may your Holy Spirit continue to help us, challenge us, and  
give us friends to try better with.

Thank you for the pray you left us,  
to help us be more like you.  
Let us all sing together the Lord's Prayer. . .

 The Lord's Prayer (please use a version you are comfortable with)

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
Amen.**

 Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news:


Christ died for us while we were still sinners;  
that shows God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

Amen.



*Listening to God*

 Hymn Sing

This is a time when we sing several hymn requests.

You can join in on YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_EPsf2FuWoen7j1iGcz\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_EPsf2FuWoen7j1iGcz_w)


 Prayer for Illumination

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

Amen.



Jesus blesses children - Annie Vallotton

 Intro to the readings

Before we get to the gospel reading, let's take a moment to brainstorm what's great about kids. . .

- observant
- like a sponge
- imitate/copy
- know the don't understand, but try to
- vulnerable
- . . .


Last week we heard how Jesus is a different kind of Messiah than expected. Yes, he's connected with God in glorious ways, but he is also going to be misunderstood, suffer, killed, ...and rise again.

After coming down from the secret mountain meeting with Moses, Elijah & God, Jesus finds the disciples still don't get it. Some can't heal a boy. Others are arguing about which of them is the greatest. Then they want to shut down anyone not part of their way... and Jesus says to let those who are helping others



continue. Don't do anything that will be a "stumbling-block" to others - especially the vulnerable, ...like children.

Today's passage will include children. Remember that back then children had no rights and were possessions. This doesn't mean they were treated badly, but they were more vulnerable. Jesus will also refer to a camel trying to fit through the eye of a needle. Consider that a camel was probably the biggest animal they had seen, and the eye of a needle the smallest opening. Near the end (verse 28) Peter will explode with a statement. Jesus will respond with two lists. As you follow along, try and see what's different in them.

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,<sup>2</sup> or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Mark 10](#): 13-31

[Psalm 19](#)



Dance of Grace - Mark Keathley

<sup>2</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: Trusting Jesus

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

A man ran up. We don't get any sense the disciples thought he was a threat, but what could they tell?

From the running we can assume he's excited to talk with Jesus? or worried about Jesus leaving before they can talk? Maybe he's desperate to have an answer to his question? Is he worried about dying?

We do know he thinks Jesus is a "good teacher." Jesus takes this greeting as an opportunity to slow things down a bit, perhaps to let the man catch his breath... or perhaps just to let him calm down. Jesus teases a little by pointing out that only God is good... although it could also be a bit of a correction. Some would assume it's a correction by saying not to call humble Jesus "good" when that's only God... but as we're in the know, it could also be a correction not to call Jesus just a "teacher" when he is good - as in, God.

Anyway, Jesus doesn't push this and instead turns to the man's burning question, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus mentions the part of the Ten Commandments dealing with relationships between people. The man says he's done this since he was a kid. Neither Calvin nor Luther are impressed by this. John Calvin finds it arrogant, and Martin Luther isn't convinced it's possible. Personally, I can believe he's a good guy (I know lots of good guys). I would also point out to Calvin that the man's humble enough to come to Jesus and ask.

Jesus' response is unique in Mark. "Jesus, looking at him, loved him" It's the only time this gospel refers to Jesus loving an individual. That's pretty positive, but God's love doesn't make

things easy.

Jesus points out the man is missing something from his life. I expect he felt this too, and this is what drove him to Jesus. Jesus tells the man to follow him - give everything away and follow him. Don't worry about the stuff, you'll have what you need - follow.

Everybody was shocked. Being wealthy was generally seen as being blessed by God. The good Jews were like Tevye in *Fiddler on the Roof*. Tevye dreamed of being rich, and having the time to sit at synagogue and discuss the holy books. The wealthy were also expected to be generous in the community - to share their blessings... which is kind-of what Jesus is asking the man to do. Though, as often happens with Jesus, it's so extreme it's radical.

The man went away broken-hearted because this was too big an ask. Giving everything away would make him as vulnerable as, well, a child. He'd have to depend on others, or at least on his Heavenly Father - which is probably the point. There are lots of reasons why children are good models for how to accept the Kingdom of God - but having trust, or faith, is the big one. If you are wealthy; if you are used to having your basic needs met... it's so easy to learn to trust that you can do it. It's usually not even a conscious decision. It's not like you wake up and decide, "oh, I don't need God." You just get used to not thanking God for everything, to not looking to God for direction and provisions. It's so easy to slip into your own patterns and priorities.

How are you at giving thanks to God for everything?  
How are you at trusting in God to provide whatever is needed?

Jesus realizes it's a big ask, but not impossible - "*Everything is possible with God.*" Which is why you have to trust God.

Are you good at trusting people? It can be hard. Chances are people have let you down, but I pray you've also had people come

through for you. An advantage with people is that it's easier to tell when someone lets you down. With a little reflection, you can also tell when they are trustworthy. It's important to do this, because when someone shows they are trustworthy with the little things, then you can start trusting them with bigger things.

If you have difficulty trusting God, you can do the same thing. Try trusting God with little things - not like a magic genie granting your wishes, but with basic needs. Go to God with an open heart for advice, and try not to impose the answer on God. Over time, reflect on what happens (with you or others) and see how God does.

Jesus not only talks about the difficulty in giving it all to God, but also about the consequences. Your life may move away from your family, but you will gain a new one.

This is also hard. The Friday night movie group saw this in *The Chosen* this week as Nicodemus struggled with giving up his wife, children & grandchildren to follow Jesus. We felt his anguish when he didn't - and Jesus' sorrow. We also saw how Mary Magdalene gained a whole bunch of brothers... which, like any family, wasn't always easy.

Have you ever had to explain to your family why you are doing something they think is crazy - but you think it'll help people know God better? or just improve your relationships?

Perhaps not.

Notice that the encounter between Jesus and the man doesn't happen in isolation. Jesus doesn't ask all of them to sell everything. The disciples were just told to follow, not go and sell everything. They presumably had homes and families to go back to. In those days, this was also like a retirement plan.

Why the difference? Why did this man need to up his game? I

suspect because it was getting in the way of the Commandments that Jesus didn't say - the ones about having a healthy relationship with God. His wealth was getting in the way.

What might be getting in your way?

What might Jesus ask you to give up in order for you to accept God's kingdom - God's reign? How can you live more like a child - a child of God?

To God be all the glory.

Amen.



Good Samaritan - Annie Vallotton

## ✦ Jesus & Peter: **Of mouths and money**

by John Bell & Graham Maule

**Jesus:** Eh ... Peter?

**Peter:** Yes, Jesus?

**Jesus:** Did I interrupt a little gambling session earlier on?

**Peter:** What makes you think that?

**Jesus:** Well, sound travels in the open air,  
and as I came down from the hills  
I heard voices raised in a rather unusual fashion.

**Peter:** What did you hear?

**Jesus:** I heard John shouting,  
'I bet you it's rebellion!'

Then I heard Andrew shouting,

'I bet you it's hell!'

Then I heard Judas shouting,

'Put your money where your mouth is!'

And then I heard you.

**Peter:** And what did I say?

**Jesus:** Sshh ... Jesus is coming:

And then it all went quiet.

Now, were you gambling or ... ?

**Peter:** Oh, nothing like that, Jesus.

We were just having a minor disagreement.

**Jesus:** A minor disagreement?  
about what?

**Peter:** About you ... or about what you say.  
It was stupid in a way.

We were arguing about which subject  
you talked about the most.

**Jesus:** I see.

What was on your short list?

**Peter:** We thought that it was either ...  
rebellion,  
family life,  
hell,  
domestic economics or ...

**Jesus:** (*Interrupting*)

Hold on.

One at a time.

What were they again?

**Peter:** Rebellion.

**Jesus:** You mean, like fighting Rome?

**Peter:** Well, yes ...

but that was John's idea, remember.

**Jesus:** And the others?

**Peter:** Family life ...

**Jesus:** Mm-hm ...

**Peter:** Hell ...

**Jesus:** Mm-hm ...

**Peter:** Domestic economics ...

**Jesus:** You mean money?

**Peter:** Yes ...

and there was another one ...  
the 'eschatological issue' ...

**Jesus:** The what?

**Peter:** Oh, Jesus, don't ask me to say it again.

I heard it from a rabbi.

It means the end of time, the last judgment, the ...

**Jesus:** It's all right, Peter, I know what it means.

And I'm pleased to know that you understand it.

But in future, don't try to sound like a priest.

Stick to layperson's language ... like me.

**Peter:** Sorry, Jesus.

**Jesus:** So, which one did you decide on?

**Peter:** We never made a decision ...

you interrupted the conversation.

**Jesus:** Well, which one do you think I talk about most?

**Peter:** I know it's not hell.

And I don't think it's family life.

**Jesus:** What about the 'eschatological issue'?

**Peter:** No, I don't think so.

I reckon it must be money.

**Jesus:** What brings you to that conclusion?

**Peter:** It's just when I think about your stories,

I reckon that you've told more parables about money  
than about anything else.

I can remember at least half a dozen.

**Jesus:** Half a dozen?

**Peter:** Well, there's the Treasure in the Field,

The Talents,

The Rich Fool ... eh ...

The Great Feast ...

Dives and Lazarus ... and ...

The Lost Coin.

**Jesus:** Well done.

Come to think of it, there are probably another six, but I haven't  
told you them all yet.

**Peter:** Jesus, are you obsessed with money?

**Jesus:** No. I'm not obsessed with money.

And in any case, Peter,  
my parables are not about economics,  
domestic or otherwise.

They are about the Kingdom ...

about forgiveness, justice, love.

**Peter:** But Jesus,

you do talk a lot about money.

I mean,

think of what you said to the rich young man ...

and the conversation about the widow's coins ...

and all your talk

about not being able to serve God and wealth.

You say more about money than you do about prayer!

**Jesus:** That may be right, Peter.

And if it is,

it's because people would rather hear me talking  
about spiritual things than about material things.

They'd rather hear a sermon about their souls

than a sermon about their shares.

**Peter:** So do you do it to annoy them?

**Jesus:** No, Peter.

It's just that more and more I realize  
that behind a lot of spiritual blindness,

and behind a lot of injustice in the world,  
there's a money problem.  
And where that's the case,  
then it's safer to talk about faith than about finances.  
But God's interested in both.

**Peter:** You should have been a businessman, Jesus.

**Jesus:** Oh no, Peter ...  
that's not my calling.

As regards money, my vocation is not to have any.

In that way I can get close to poor folk  
and let the rich know  
that all their piety and religion doesn't count ...  
until they put their money where God's mouth is.

**Peter:** Where 'God's mouth' is?

**Jesus:** Think about it, Peter.

Now, come on.  
I've got other things to discuss with you.

**Peter:** Like what?

**Jesus:** Well, we could start with the 'eschatological issue' ...



northern nativity - Walter Kurelek



## Responding to God

♪ Hymn: When the poor ones.....pg 11 (762)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKSF8M2TvSA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKSF8M2TvSA)

🗨️ 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: Share what question would you really like to ask  
Jesus? (It doesn't need to be answered.  
Only ponder it if the asker wants.)

Actions: Brainstorm characteristics of children. Then figure  
out how to add one that will help you grow closer to  
God to how you live. (see God, trust God, follow  
God, ...)

Values: Identify some of your most prized possessions.  
Why do you value them?  
What about what you have at the back of  
cupboards/closets or in boxes?

Wonder: What might be getting in your way from living in  
God's reign, or God's way?

Etching: Who are people that are part of your Christian  
family? Describe some of the challenges and  
rewards.

Prayer: ...that we might be enough like children to accept  
your ways.

✦ Spirit Sightings

The Holy Spirit was very active building community this week.  
On Tuesday we hosted at least 60 people, many from outside  
Kensington.



On Ash Wednesday we shared a special worship with three other congregations. None of us had ever had an Ash Wednesday service before, but despite that, being cold, and Valentine's Day... 25 people came out.

Jesus and Java had 6 people, and our discussion varied from transit planning (not complaining, but helpful examples), to how God answers prayer, to sin/judgement/grace, ...and even MAiD. Through it all, the Holy Spirit moved.

and also among the dozen people gathered to share a meal, companionship, and *The Chosen*.

### ✦ 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

Dear Jesus,  
We thank you for coming  
to show us what it's like to live in a good relationship  
each other, and with God.  
We thank you that you understand that it is hard to follow you,  
and that you offer help.  
We thank you for the Bible  
and that it reminds us of what's important.  
We thank you for our church family

who can help us when life is hard.  
We thank you that we can come to you with any question,  
and you will take the time to listen  
and help us see the way.

Jesus,  
there are things that we are concerned about.  
Please help those who are sick,  
whether from the flue, or worse.  
Please help those who are lonely, or afraid  
know they are not alone - perhaps through us.  
Please help us think about what we really need  
and what's important for you.

All good things come from you.  
Thank you for our good things - for our blessings. . .

In Jesus name  
**Amen.**<sup>3</sup>

🎵 Hymn: I have decided to follow Jesus.....pg 11 (570)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1mmHE4sV-4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P1mmHE4sV-4)

✦ 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.



## A mighty fortress is our God

EIN FESTE BURG 878766667

C /E F G Am D G Am Em F G Am/C

1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a ref - uge nev - er  
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be  
 3. And though this world, with e - vil filled, should threat - en to un -  
 4. That Word a - bove all earth - ly powers—no thanks to them!—a -

C /E F Dm6 C Em Am 6 G/B Am/C D G F

seeks to work us woe with craft and pow - er great and,  
 Je - sus, liv - ing, true. Lord Sab - ba - oth by name, from  
 God will sure - ly quell: their rage we can en - dure, for  
 goods, all earth - ly love. Earth's pow - ers waste a - way; God's

Dm G7 C /E F G Am D G Am Em F

fail - ing, our help - er sure a - mid the flood of mor - tal  
 los - ing, were not a Sav - iour on our side, the One of  
 do us, we will not fear, for God has willed the truth to  
 bid - ing, en - sures that all God's gifts are ours, through Christ in

F C A/C# Dm A Am Em F C Am Dm G7 C

armed with cru - el hate, on earth has not an e - qual.  
 age to age the same, al - read - y wins the bat - tle.  
 look! their doom is sure: one lit - tle word will fell them.  
 word en - dures al - way, whose reign will last for - ev - er.

G Am Dm G7 C Em D G/B D G C/E

ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe yet  
 God's own choos - ing. Who is this Sav - iour, who? Christ  
 tri - umph through us: the powers of death and hell our  
 us re - sid - ing, whose sum - mons rings a - bove all

Words: Psalm 46; paraphrase, Martin Luther (1483–1546), translation, Frederick H. Hedge (1805–1890), alt  
 Music: Martin Luther (1483–1546); arrangement: Hans Leo Hassler (1564–1612)

Words: this version, copyright © The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1997 Music: public domain

# When the poor ones

EL CAMINO Irregular

Unison  
Dm

A7 Bb

1. When the poor ones who have noth ing - share with strang-ers,  
2. When at last all those who suf-fer find their com-fort,

D7 Gm C7 F

when the thirst-y wa-ter give un - to us all,  
when they hope though e-ven hope seems hope-less-ness,

F E7 A7 Dm

when the crip-pled in their weak-ness strength-en oth - ers,  
when we love though hate at times seems all a-round us,

Refrain Bb A7 Dm

then we know that God still goes that road with us,

D7 Gm A7 Dm Gm Dm

then we know that God still goes that road with us.

3. When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing, when our lips can speak no words other than true, when we know that love for simple things is better, Refrain:
4. When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance when we learn how to make peace instead of war, when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbour, Refrain:

Words: Miguel Manzano, J.A. Olivar, English translation, George Lockwood (1946-) Music:

# 570

# I have decided to follow Jesus

ASSAM 10 10 10 8

C F/C C 7

1. I have de - cid - ed to fol-low Je - sus; I have de -  
2. The world be - hind me, the cross be - fore me; the world be -  
3. Though none go with me, I still will fol - low; though none go  
4. Will you de - cide now to fol-low Je - sus? Will you de -

F Bb/F F/C C F/C

cid - ed to fol-low Je - sus; I have de - cid - ed to fol-low  
hind me, the cross be - fore me; the world be-hind me, the cross be -  
with me, I still will fol - low; though none go with me, I still will  
cide now to fol-low Je - sus? Will you de-cide now to fol-low

C F C/G G7 C

Je - sus,  
fore me, No turn-ing back, no turn-ing back.  
fol - low,  
Je - sus?

Words: traditional Music: traditional

Words: public domain Music: public domain



# MISSION MOMENT Sunday, February 18

Two-year-old Moriama Safianu has a congenital deformity linked to hydrocephalus. Born into a poor family in northern Ghana, Moriama faced the heavy burden of social stigma, prompting her parents to keep her indoors to shield her from the community's hurtful judgments. Things changed when she was identified for support during a community survey conducted by a community rehabilitation program. The dedicated staff referred her to the Garu Presbyterian Health Centre for specialized care. The staff at Garu also worked with Moriama's community to address the stigma she had been facing. Moriama's mother expressed her profound gratitude: "I am immensely thankful to the CBR program and PWS&D for coming to our aid. Thanks to your intervention, Moriama is no longer subjected to stigma from the community members."



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## DAILY PRAYERS

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**Sunday, February 18 (Heritage Sunday)** On Heritage Sunday, we pray for those who preserve church records.

**Monday, February 19** We pray for the Rev. Byungho Kim as he completes his term as the General Secretary of the Korean Christian Church in Japan after 10 years of faithful service.

**Tuesday, February 20** We pray for the Holy Spirit's guidance as ministries discern ways to live out the church's Confession to God and LGBTQI People in their communities.

**Wednesday, February 21** We pray for interim moderators and search committees as they work to assist congregations in calling a new minister.

**Thursday, February 22** We pray for the Committee on Church Doctrine as they meet today and tomorrow and discern how to help the church thoughtfully and faithfully point to Jesus Christ in a rapidly changing complex context.

**Friday, February 23** We give thanks for God's love in action through the Women's Missionary Society and ask for guidance as they find both new and old ways to serve God and share the message of salvation.

**Saturday, February 24 (Coldest night walks)** We pray for all people who face housing insecurity. We pray that governments and decision makers work to remove barriers so that all people have access to affordable, safe and adequate housing.



Granlund, Resurrection

Resurrection - Granlund