



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

*Easter... unfinished*

*March 29, 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).

*Announcements*

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

**Communion:** Will be next week. Everyone who would like to know Christ better is invited to the Lord's table.

**Youth Group:** will be starting next week, April 7<sup>th</sup>, with Ines & Kathryn. They have some exciting ideas, come and help shape what happens.

**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's fabulously friendly food & film:** pizza at 6:30 pm

Starting season 3 of *The Chosen*. RSVP with Peter appreciated

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



the holy women at the tomb - William Bouguereau

**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

### Three Women<sup>2</sup>

- A: We were there ...
- B: back in Galilee...
- C: around Capernaum...
- A: and all along the sea shore...
- B: always moving...
- C: seeing Jesus reaching out...
- A: to everyone...
- B: the bad and the good...
- C: the out and the in.
- A: Jesus was so generous...
- B: feeding with words and food
- C: always pausing to help.
  
- A: Remember when he was going to heal Rachel
- B: Jirus' daughter
- C: and stopped to heal Beth from 12 years of bleeding.
  
- A: Jesus was...
- B: Amazing...
- C: Confident...
- A: Powerful.
- B: He had such authority...
- A: in his teaching
- B: and over storms
- C: and over demons.
  
- A: and he was down to earth...
- B: using common things to show us God
- C: like the mustard seed

<sup>2</sup> inspired by a similar script from *Stages on the Way* by the Wild Goose Worship Group

- A: and the lost coin
- B: and being a guest at dinner
- C: and ...bread and wine at dinner.

- A: That was special
- B: and will always be special.
  
- C: I remember him teaching about now
- A: telling us that he would suffer,
- B: be rejected
- C: and die.
- A: I didn't want to believe it
- B: I still don't
- C: ...I wish I had been strong enough to stay closer
- A: instead of standing at a distance
- B: watching him die
- C: thinking he was dying alone
- A: and watching our hopes die
- B: our dreams die
- C: seeing them
- A & B: seeing him
- C: be buried



♪ Hymns: Where you there #5-6.....pg 10 (233)  
[youtu.be/T6FL353Yr0w?t=105](https://youtu.be/T6FL353Yr0w?t=105) (band)

📖 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,<sup>3</sup> or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Mark 16: 1-4](#)

table is uncovered

[Mark 16: 5-6](#)



Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Jesus MAFA

🗣️ Call to worship

Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

🎵 Hymn: Allelu, allelu, alleluia - praise ye the Lord

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4\\_6xRF\\_mfo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4_6xRF_mfo)

<sup>3</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

🎵 Choir: Christ is Risen

🙏 Prayer of Approach<sup>4</sup>

Risen, glorious Christ,  
we join with all your people  
in heaven and on earth  
to greet you,  
and to celebrate the victory you have won.

And what a victory!

Beneath you, defeated, lie all humanity's ancient foes:  
pride, self-sufficiency, status, security, even death.  
By your triumph on the cross  
you have put back in their proper place  
those things we have come to rely on for life itself:  
friends, health, family, occupation, achievement, success.  
Lifted high on the Cross,  
you hold up before us the ultimate power of love;  
risen glorious from the tomb, you stand before us now,  
companion, brother, servant, ... and living God.  
What can we do now but worship you, and praise you,  
and seek to follow you?

Master, you know that for us, life is still tough,  
the battle is not done.  
Even as we celebrate the completeness of your triumph  
still we look to you for strength and help  
and for less difficulty day by day.

<sup>4</sup> adapted a prayer by John Harvey found in *Fire and Bread* ed. Ruth Burgess pg. 40

If, in our battles against everything that dehumanizes anyone or damages your creation, we forget that your way of fighting evil is faith, hope, and unconditional love  
Forgive us, we pray.

In Jesus name.  
Amen.

✦ Assurance of Pardon  
Hear the Word of the Lord from Paul's letter to the church in Corinth (2:13-15)  
*When you were dead in trespasses,  
God made you alive together with him,  
when he forgave us all our trespasses,  
erasing the record that stood against us.  
He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.*  
Thanks be to God.

One of the tools Jesus gave us to reshape ourselves, and the world, is the Lord's prayer.  
Let us pray together. . .

✦ 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.**



### *Listening to God*

♪ Hymn: I danced in the morning.....pg 11 (250)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEAIJV6CmtA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PEAIJV6CmtA)


✦ Prayer for Illumination  
Lord, open our hearts and minds  
through the power of your Holy Spirit,  
so that we will be filled to overflowing  
and can't not share your amazingness.  
Amen.

✦ Intro to the readings  
Just after Christmas we started going through the Gospel According to Mark. We didn't quite get it all squeezed in before Easter, but most of it. It's really not that long (if you need some quiet time this Easter, you may want to read it through). Shortly Marcela will read the entire original ending.

I say 'original ending', because you'll find in your Bible there are some notes. about how the oldest sources stop we're we will, and then there's another little bit that seems to have been added, and then a longer bit that also seems to have been added. It's as if the people reading and copying this Gospel (which means Good News) were uncomfortable with it - so pay attention to how you feel about what you'll hear read.

You can also imagine what you would have felt if you had been one of the women, or male disciples, in the story.



 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,<sup>5</sup> or click on the name to be taken to an online version.  
[Mark 11: 1-11](#)



women at the tomb - Bryans

## Sermon: Unfinished

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

Do you find that a satisfying ending?  
Jesus is nowhere to be seen, but is apparently alive. The people in the story just run away, not telling anyone. This ending is unfinished. It's uncertain.

Can you imagine living in a world that feels uncertain?

What were the women feeling?

On their walk we are told they were concerned about how to move the stone away - but I suspect they were feeling more than that. They had followed Jesus from their homes. Travelled through places no self-respecting person would go - but they had learned a new respect. Jesus had taken them as students, just like

<sup>5</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

the men. With his death, they lost that role, that position, that identity. They lost their direction in life. What would they do now? Well, get on with what was proper and honour Jesus' body, but after that? And, they'd lost Jesus. The man they honoured and trusted who inspired them to live in new ways.

They would have been sad, and possibly angry. Angry with the Temple leaders, the crowds; with Rome; with Jesus - and with themselves. Why couldn't they have been closer to Jesus so he wouldn't feel alone?<sup>6</sup>

Would going to the tomb help ground things and bring some reality, some stability back?

Let's hear from them again:

A: We went there ...

B: first thing ...

C: the three of us.

A: It was very damp ...

B: there was a heavy dew ...

C: you could see the sun rising.

A: We took some flowers ...

B: I picked them on Friday ...

C: and we took some perfume ...

A: we thought there would be a smell ...

B: you know the way corpses go ...

C: I was scared.

A: It was just us ...

B: the men wouldn't come ...

C: they were scared like me.

<sup>6</sup> If they were feeling that way, imagine what the men must have been feeling as they had disappeared.

A: We ran up the road ...  
B: we were out of breath ...  
C: but we walked through the graveyard.  
A: We wondered about the stone ...  
B: who would roll it away?  
C: We should have brought the men.  
A: And then we looked ...  
B & C: THE STONE WAS AWAY!

A: I went in first.  
B: I was terrified.  
C: I never wanted to go.  
A: There was nothing there ...  
B: there were just bandages ...  
C: right where we had left him.  
A: But no body ...  
B: and then we heard a voice ...  
C: but it wasn't his voice.  
A: It said he was risen.  
B: It said he wasn't there.  
C: It said we had to tell the others.  
A: So we've to go back ...  
B: but who will believe us?  
C: They'll think we're mad.  
A: We've to tell the others ...  
B: but they'll never believe us ...  
C: they'll say that we're just stupid women.  
A: But the stone was rolled away ...  
B: and the body wasn't there ...  
C: and we did hear a voice ...  
A, B & C: AND HE IS RISEN!<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> from *Stages on the Way* by the Wild Goose Worship Group

The fears raised are good. It may be what they were thinking.  
Was it just too strange - did it 'blow their minds'?

It's likely they would be called stupid. The testimony of women back then wasn't legally acceptable; women weren't trustworthy. With this story of Jesus being risen, but not yet seen, causes them to lose what respect and trust they had earned?

Maybe they were afraid that if this continued they'd have to repeat what they'd gone through over the last few days. Jesus had talked about life not being easy for those who lived the way God wanted... at least until the world was reshaped.



Easter - Sharron Helleman

They run away and don't tell no-one... except they do.  
because we know the story - an unlikely one with women giving testimony. It's a story of Jesus continuing to use unexpected ways to share God's glory with all people. Despite being told, nobody expected Jesus to rise again. Nobody would expect him to not use Peter, James & John - but to use the women (except those who paid attention and noticed that women all through the Gospel

have understood better than the men). Jesus was going to continue the predictably unexpected by leaving the centre of their society and going back to the grass roots of Galilee.

This is part of the good news of Mark.

- Jesus is the Son of God - God walking and living with us.
- Jesus doesn't do the expected,  
if we remember what God is about.
- Jesus does do the surprising, the shocking, things that can startle and scare us... to get us to change our ways to God's ways.

...ways that will help us receive the love of God that knows no bounds... even death.

This can shake our lives and be scary.  
and it is amazing.

*To God be all the glory!*



## *Responding to God*

🎵 Choir Anthem

💬 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: What do you like about Easter?

Values: If somebody asked you why Easter was important, what would you say?

Values: Thinking back over the Gospel of Mark, which story do you like best?

What are the big themes/ideas/lessons?

Values: Can you think of an example when we become more concerned about detail (like rolling away the stone), than the good news (like Jesus telling them he would rise again)? Is the devil in the details and tempting us with problem solving instead of faith?<sup>8</sup>

Actions: It's possible that the Gospel of Mark isn't intended to have an end, but is just "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God." (Mark 1:1) If so, how should it continue? How can we (and you) help the angel's instruction happen? Based on Jesus' teachings in Mark, how else should we live?

Prayer: ...that we will be so full of the good news of God that we can't not share with others.



Easter the stone rolled away - Michael Torevell

<sup>8</sup> this one comes from Pulpit Fiction: [www.pulpitfiction.com/narrative-notes/2-32](http://www.pulpitfiction.com/narrative-notes/2-32)



✦ Spirit Sightings

One way I see the Holy Spirit working is through New Hope. While they aren't explicit about anything Christian, it is a place where people can find companionship, healthy activities, and learn new things. It is good for their hearts, souls, minds & strength - and they share this with others who come. Being at Kensington means that I am able to spend some time with them, which helps to bring God into the discussions.

✦ 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.

- ♪ Hymn: Now the Green Blade Rises.....pg 12 (256)
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVduV0ustWw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVduV0ustWw) (choir)
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpU01KQIUJM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpU01KQIUJM) (folk)
- [www.youtube.com/watch?v=M\\_6XZOvln6Q](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M_6XZOvln6Q) (folk & fast)

✦ Prayers of the people

Christ, you are risen.  
and walk the earth  
along the street  
though gardens  
smelling flowers  
and enjoying people playing in the parks.  
Thank you for your presence,

and the joys you share with us.

God of life, hear our prayer  
**and in your love answer.**

Christ, You are risen  
and walk the earth,  
going into homes and schools  
hospitals and shelters  
wherever people are  
you will go.

We pray for those who need your healing. . .

God of life, hear our prayer  
**and in your love answer.**

Christ, You are risen  
and walk the earth  
not afraid of anywhere that  
needs love, hope &  
healing...

You walk in Gaza & Ukraine,  
central Africa and Haiti.

We pray that your presence  
which changes lives,  
will change them in these  
places, and others. . .

God of life, hear our prayer  
**and in your love answer.**



Who will roll the stone away  
Michael Torevell



Christ, You are risen  
and walk the earth  
into Kensington during the weekday programs  
and here on Sunday morning - right now.  
and into gatherings of Christians around the world  
as we turn to look for you  
to celebrate you  
and to be guided by you.

We pray that wherever people gather today  
we are shaped by the promise  
shown in your resurrection and life.  
And that we will not be driven apart by details  
of how to move the stones away that we think will stop you.  
May we all follow you in faith  
to help your Kingdom come  
on earth as it is in Heaven.

God of life, hear our prayer  
and in your love answer.

In the name of Jesus, the Christ  
**Amen.**

🎵 Hymn: Jesus Christ is risen today.....pg 2 (243)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_6sj9ljVsfk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_6sj9ljVsfk)

✦ Benediction

As you go, remember that Easter is about good news. That nothing will stop God from trying to bring healing to the world, and each person in it. And that despite our fears, we can also follow the angel's advice and share what we've experienced. and...

*May the King of kings  
whose arms spread to embrace the whole world  
and who turned death into a way bring healing.  
May our God who is able to accomplish  
abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine  
help us to journey along The Way,  
Amen.*



## Were You There

Chord symbols: Eb, Fm7, Bb7, Eb, Ab, Eb, Bb, Ab, Bb, Cm, Fm, Eb/Bb, Fm7, Bb7, Eb, Ab, Eb.

Lyrics: Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there? Oh, some-times it caus-es me to trem-ble, trem-ble, trem-ble. Were you there when they laid him in the tomb? Were you there?

Words: African American spiritual, P.D.  
 Music (WERE YOU THERE 10,10,14,10): African American spiritual; harm. C. Winfred Douglas, 1940, P.D.

6. Where you there when he rose up from the dead...

## MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, March 31

In Malawi, Madalitso Mphamba, a determined 16-year-old, once doubted she would ever have the chance to attend secondary school. When Madalitso's mother fell seriously ill and had to give up her job, they moved in with family for support. At first, Madalitso's grandma's beer brewing venture was thriving and played a crucial role in supporting her primary school education. However, Madalitso's grandmother eventually had to stop this business, and the family could no longer afford to send Madalitso to school. With help from PWS&D, the Blantyre Synod Education Department's Neno scholarship program allowed Madalitso to re-enroll, enabling her to dream of a brighter future.



### DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, March 31 (Easter Sunday)** God of new life and of hope, fill us with peace, joy and the desire to live in new ways, guided by hope and recognition that reflect your Good News.

**Monday, April 1** We pray for the person who will be named as Moderator-Elect for the 2024 General Assembly, that the God of hope will fill them with joy and peace, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. We also give thanks for Mary Fontaine as she continues to serve as Moderator of the General Assembly in these coming months.

**Tuesday, April 2** We pray for Knox College students as they complete the 2023/2024 academic year, for clarity and confidence as they write their final papers and prepare for their summer commitments.

**Wednesday, April 3** We pray for the treasurers and bookkeepers who are preparing reports for our governments.

**Thursday, April 4** We pray for all associated with The Parents Circle-Families Forum, a joint Israeli-Palestinian peace-seeking organization of more than 600 families who have lost an immediate family member in the ongoing conflict.

**Friday, April 5** We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Eastern-Han Ca.

**Saturday, April 6** We pray for the unity of the Committee on Church Doctrine as they reflect the theological, geographic, ethnic and gender variety of the church and work for General Assembly.



# I danced in the morning / Lord of the dance

G Em Bm Em Am

1. I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I danced in the moon  
 2. I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but they would not dance  
 3. I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame: the ho - ly peo -  
 4. I danced on a Fri-day when the sky turned black; it's hard to dance  
 5. They cut me down and I leap up high; I am the life

Bm Em Am D 7 C/G G

danced on the earth; at Beth - le - hem I had my birth.  
 James and John; they came with me and the dance went on.  
 hung me high, and they left me there on a cross to die.  
 thought I'd gone, but I am the dance, and I still go on.  
 live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

D G Em

and the stars and the sun, and I came down from heav-en and I  
 and they wouldn't fol-low me; I danced for the fish-er-men, for  
 ple said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they  
 with the de - vil on your back. They bur - ied my bo - dy, and they  
 that - 'll nev - er, nev - er die; I'll live in you if you'll

Refrain D6 Bm Em G Am7 D /C

Dance, then, wher-ev-er you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, and I'll

G/B C G/D D/C G/B Am7 D7 G C G

lead you all, wher-ev-er you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

Words: Sydney Carter (1915-) Music: 19th century, Shaker tune; adaptation by Sydney Carter (1915-);  
 arrangement, John Birch

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# Now the green blade rises

FRENCH CAROL 11 11 10 11

Fm (Bb6/F) Fm Bbm6 Caug (C9) Fm

1. Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
 2. In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
 3. Forth he came at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,  
 4. When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing or in pain,

Fm Bb6 (Bb) Fm 7 Bb Caug (C7) Fm

wheat that in the dark earth man - y days has lain;  
 sure that he would nev - er, ne - ver wake a - gain,  
 he that for these three days in the grave had lain;  
 then your touch can call us back to life a - gain,

Bb6 Bb Eb C/E Fm 7 G 7 C

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:  
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:  
 raised from the dead my liv - ing Lord is seen:  
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

Fm Gm/F Fm /Ab Gm Caug (C) Fm

love is come a - gain like wheat new - spring - ing green.

Words: J.M.C. Crum (1872-1958), alt from Oxford Book of Carols Music: French traditional carol "Noël Nouvelet"; harmony, Martin Shaw (1875-1958) from Oxford Book of Carols

# JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY

1. Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day,  
 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing,  
 3. But the pains which he en - dured,  
 4. Sing we to our God a - bove, } Al - le - lu - ia!

1. Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,  
 2. Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly King,  
 3. Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured;  
 4. Praise e - ter - nal as his love, } Al - le - lu - ia!

1. Who did once up - on the cross,  
 2. Who en - dured the cross and grave,  
 3. Now a - bove the sky he's King,  
 4. One true God by all con - fessed, } Al - le - lu - ia!

1. Suf - fer to re - deem our loss,  
 2. Sin - ners to re - deem and save,  
 3. Where the an - gels ev - er sing,  
 4. Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest, } Al - le - lu - ia!