



Kensington Presbyterian Church
Growing in faith and sharing God's love
since 1786
Loving with all that you are
March 10, 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

Hymn Sing & Lunch: will be postponed to Palm Sunday - March 24

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

March's Marvelous Meal & Movie: pizza at 6:30 pm

You can still join us for *The Chosen* and follow what's going on-
 RSVP with Peter appreciated

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



love - Banksy

Good Friday: March 28 at 10:30

We will be having a Tenebrae style worship to help us journey with Jesus into Easter.

Easter Breakfast: March 31 from 9 am

St. Ansgar's (4020 Grand and NDG) has invited us to join them for an Easter Breakfast. They ask that you RSVP to SaintAnsgars@gmail.com or 514-984-7656 (call or text)

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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 514-773-4620
 Zoé Dupont-Foisy (music director).....zoedupontfoisy@hotmail.com



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 (from Psalm 89)

We will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;

with our mouths,

we will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Blessed be the Lord forever.

Amen and Amen.



Love Park - C Cormier

♪ Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.....pg 10 (371)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eb6xfRzjhg



Prayer of Approach²

Hear, O Israel,

the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

We come, dear Lord,

to worship and praise you

with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.

In you we find the source of our being,

the foundation of love,

and the wellspring of relationship.

It is to you we turn this day,

from the business of another week

with all of its cares and concerns,

joys and worries,

successes and failings,

for we give thanks that you journey with us,

knowing us as a loving parent knows their child.

We praise you for the observations and encounters

recorded in Scripture for us to ponder,

conversations with scribes and rulers,

glimpses of a poor widow offering all she has,

and we wonder what your Son, Jesus,

might remark about us if he stood and watched us for a day.

Would he point to us and our actions as an example

of the life of the Kingdom?

Would he smile as he witnessed

an act of selfless generosity?

² adapted from *Spill the Beans* # 18

Some days he might, on other days... not so much.

Lord, we give thanks for those days when we make a difference,
when we raise ourselves to the challenge of your Way,
when we take the steps towards your ministry
with all our heart, soul, mind and strength.
And yet, Lord, we also recognize that on other days
we get it wrong,
we love ourselves more than you,
we neglect the harm we do to others,
and we fail to contribute to your Kingdom.

Forgive us, Jesus, and may we be encouraged
to step forward again,
that our lives, our words, our deeds, our thoughts
might be filled with the wonder and joy
of your perfect presence.

Amen



According to Luke - Rhonda Chase

✦ 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 try to 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,

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

I think we've done this before, but it's a good thing to practice.
If somebody were to say, "What's Christianity about?", what
would you say?

³ *Worship Sourcebook 2.4.39*

...what if you had to do it in one word?

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, Thank you for showing us what it means to love God, and to love each other. Please help us to love like you.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Take my life and let it be.....pg 11 (637) www.youtube.com/watch?v=bIxWaucRinA

🧘 Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds through the power of your Holy Spirit, so that we be so filled with your love that we can share love with everyone.

Amen.

✦ Intro to the readings

We've settled into a pattern with our readings with one longer reading and a psalm. While a longer reading can give too much to talk about in one sermon, it also helps provide the context for what's going on - helping us see a bigger picture. The psalms are full of very real feelings and examples of living with them. Today we'll going to pull a little switch and have the psalm first, because it raises some feelings that you may find answered in the Gospel reading.

Today's Gospel passage carries right on from last week. Just in case you missed it, Jesus has been in Jerusalem a few days and has attracted the attention of important church people. While teaching at the Temple, where debates aren't unusual, these church leaders tried to make Jesus look bad or dangerous for the crowds... except they were the ones who ended up losing face.

One of the experts heard Jesus' answers. Can he succeed where the others failed? or are things not that black and white. . .

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

[Psalm 89](#): 1-4, 30-40, 46-52

[Mark 12](#): 28-44

✦ Sermon:

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

I'm sure you've all had to summarize things. Most people will have to do it at work, and definitely at school. We also summarize books and TV shows and experiences for friends. There's the struggle of how do you boil something big down into something short.

My kids aren't teenagers yet, but they still tend to summarize their day in a word. I don't find this very helpful, but the exercise can be.

How would you summarize the Bible in a word? _____



Love sculpture - Robert Indiana

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

I think I'd pick 'love'.

I see God's love in the stories of creation - from the goodness & beauty in the Seven Days story⁵ to God being willing to get the divine hands muddy in the Adam story. I see love in God's loyalty to people throughout the Bible. It's not that God is always trying to make their lives easy, but is trying to make lives better. It's also not because the people always return God's love - because many (most?) passages involve people turning their backs on God. This shows both the struggles that are part of a loving relationship, and the necessary honesty. God speaks harsh words, at least they sound harsh in our society; harsh words as well as words of love. All this is part of a loving relationship.

'Relationship' could be another word to summarize the Bible. I like 'love' better because it's more specific, but love can't exist without relationship.

When Jesus is asked what the greatest commandment or directive is, he responds, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' " This is about relationships - with God and everyone else - relationships that start with loving. We are asked, or tasked, to love God with all our heart, soul, mind & strength. ...and to love others & ourselves, with everyone having been created special by God. ...and I think that loving God also leads to loving others with all our heart, soul, mind & strength.

What's this look like?



If you give a relationship all your heart⁶ - then you care about it. It's not just a relationship of convenience - perhaps someone who will help you get connections. It's not a relationship because you happen to be neighbours, or you see each other at the Y. If your heart is in it, this is a relationship where you care what happens. You will take calls at awkward times. You put off things you want to do so that you can be there for the other. You will spend time so that it will grow. This applies for people, and for God.

If your heart is in the relationship, then you are emotionally invested. You have a greater risk of being hurt, and experiencing a deeper joy. How easily do you take these risks? What emotions do you feel for God? or Jesus? or the Holy Spirit? (it's normally to relate more to one aspect of God than another).

Jesus invites us to love God and others with all our heart

...and with all our soul.

Soul can be used to talk about that part of us that continues living after our body dies - but I think here it's more about your core - who you are. More than our fingerprints, we are all created unique by God - and who we are at our centre is our soul.

To love with all your soul - this will mean recognizing how God made you and putting who you are into the relationship. It means offering your gifts and your weaknesses, your passions and your fears. Our soul is a gift, and can be a blessing to others - and their souls can be a blessing to you. Loving God with who you are will also be a blessing for God as this is how the world was created.

⁵ and in the very real winter wonderland this morning, providing much needed moisture to crops

⁶ picture: Meu Coracao - Amanda Vivan

Loving with all your soul risks your identity being challenged... or even changed. While this is often hard, it can lead to beautiful blossoming - in others, and in yourself, as souls grow.

I think of some magical relationships I have had with people through sharing our souls longing for praising God and making music. This combination took us into a new world that nourished our souls - and those who heard our music.

I think of God's soul revealed in the creation stories: one tells of creating order, the other the messiness of creation. I think of how part of Ines' core is organization - and how she shares this with those she loves... and it is a blessing. ...and how my creative messiness is also a blessing. These combined bless God by helping us love God better, and to love others.

We (including you) are to love with all our heart, soul,

...and mind.

This one Jesus added to the original list from Deuteronomy 6:5. One reason for this is that Biblical Hebrew doesn't have a word for 'mind'. In Biblical Hebrew the 'heart' was home to both emotions and thinking. With Mark being written in Greek, perhaps it was felt the distinction needed to be made in case people started thinking that religion was only about emotions.

We are to love with all our mind. This means thinking things



through. Wrestling with how the Bible was originally intended, and what it means now. Noticing how it is written. What does this teach us about loving God and others both in the big picture summary, and the complexity?

Loving with all our mind also means looking for God outside the Bible - which is why Christianity has driven so much scientific research through the ages. Loving with all our mind means asking questions and discussing possible answers... like Jesus was doing with the scribe in today's passage (although, as they both agreed it wasn't much of a discussion). If you love God, you will ask questions. You will listen & look.

If you love others, you will also ask questions. This is where holding people accountable comes in. If you notice somebody behaving in a way that seems to be hurtful - you try and find a way to respectfully ask why. In listening with your mind, and your heart, your souls (together) might come to a better way.

⁷Perhaps you notice a neighbour who seems never to leave their home. As we were made to be social, to various degrees, you could reach out. In asking and listening you may learn why they stay home - and perhaps you can help provide some support or companionship.

Perhaps you have a friend who has said something hurtful - maybe even to you. Again, you could use your mind to think of

7 picture: 1 Corinthians 13 - Ivan Guaderrama

reasons, and ask questions. You can include your heart in listening to what might be behind what they say... and ask more questions. This loving with your mind and heart won't undo the hurt, but may bring healing to the relationship.

Loving with all your heart, soul & mind can be hard; it requires also loving with all your

...strength.

Occasionally this might mean physical strength - such as helping someone move. More likely it involves tenacity - not quitting; loving God and others when society, or family, or your boss don't understand, think you're being stupid, or even don't want to allow you to do what is loving. It can be big things, like Rosa Parks taking on systemic racism, or small things, like respecting your body when going past the bakery - because when you love your neighbour as yourself... you have to love yourself too. You can have a croissant, because God created amazing flavours and taste buds to use, but also look after the body God gave you. Part of loving someone is respecting what they give you... even when others around you make different and tempting choices. This love takes strength, as can the bigger issues like loving those created by God whom society, or even you, don't like.

When loving yourself, remember that it's about appreciating and respecting yourself as one of God's precious children. This isn't about trying to be the favourite child - to make you better than others. Remember in the passage when Jesus moves the conversation from friendly mode with the one scribe, to criticizing others dressing nice to buy respect - and using the donations of widows to do it. Instead, he praises the widow who

shows her she loves God with all she is by giving all she has... even if it is to the institution Jesus is criticizing.

This reminds me of a professor I had at Seminary who had worked as a journalist. She was given the assignment to get a story from a family who had recently suffered a tragedy. She was to get the story or not come back. In loving the family with her heart she knew it wasn't right (loving) to push them at this time. In loving them with her soul, her identity was to help more than marketing their grief. In loving with her mind she had to ask what was best. And it took loving with all her strength to walk away from her job. This was her loving herself, the family, and God with all her heart, soul, mind and strength.

But if we want to boil it down, it's about something that only happens in healthy relationships: love.

To God be all the glory.

Amen.



Responding to God

🎵 Hymn: Where Charity and Love Prevail.....pg 11 (692)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=H7vSCcbgAEI

🗣️ FaithTalk: These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies.

Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Value: What is something that you are good at.

Value: Describe who you are, deep down. Share your core... your soul.

Actions: Consider some relationships that you have (a family member, a neighbour, somebody you don't like) and consider each of the four categories Jesus listed: loving them with all your heart, soul, mind, & strength. Identify a way you can do that for each.

Value: What would you like to change about yourself?

Prayer: ...for the Holy Spirit to help you live God's way.

✦ Spirit Sightings

March 12th is our 238th anniversary, going back through our family Kensington family tree. In honour of this Howie has set up a little history table and is providing a cake.

While we usually look for what God is doing now, it is good to also remember what God done to bring us to where we are now... and especially to remember all the relationships. As the Bible is more than pages, the church is more than bricks. Remember, and share, stories of the people.

✦ 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 Father, Son & Holy Spirit

Though we know you are one,
we can't help but describe you in relationships.

This is how you have made us to understand the world,
as relationships.

We thank you that you made the world good.

While it can be hard to see at times,
this is part of the core of the universe - it is good.
with another part being love

A love from you that will transcend anything... everything.
Let us remember aspects that are good,
and those that show love. . .

Jesus,
you invite us to join you in loving with all our heart, soul,
mind & strength.

This is hard.

Society teaches us to build walls,
and to look out for ourselves.

But you call us to love - which means being vulnerable.
Please help us to think of every relationship
as you would. . .



Kitten in Gaza - Banksy

MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, March 10

"We are brave and strong because we learned important information about rights, feelings and participation." PWS&D supports a human rights program in Guatemala that not only empowers women by ensuring they know their rights but also equips them with essential skills and knowledge about food security and nutrition. Through education on when and how to plant vegetables, grow tree seedlings and how to care for livestock, women have more stable incomes and improve their family's access to nutritious meals. "We are happy for our project. We sell the trees in the town and use the money to buy food," shares one of the participants. This program provides women with the resources and skills they need to lift themselves out of poverty and create a more equitable society.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, March 10 We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide the Atlantic Mission Society into new and effective ways to share Christ's love and light.

Monday, March 11 We praise God and pray for the people in our congregations who share the gift of hospitality—from after church fellowship hours to welcoming the stranger, their gifts put faith into action.

Tuesday, March 12 We pray that we may act with dignity and respect, offering compassionate care and encouraging a sense of belonging and connection to Christ through our actions.

Wednesday, March 13 We pray for the Canadian Armed Forces and all military chaplains who bring guidance and support to our troops and their families at home and abroad.

Thursday, March 14 We give thanks for ministries with Indigenous people that provide support to people impacted by intergenerational trauma and overwhelming loss and grief.

Friday, March 15 We pray for the congregation of St. Andrew's (Lunenburg) as they work through the PCC's New Beginnings Renewal Program to discern their next steps in ministry

Saturday, March 16 We pray for the work of the Leadership Centre at The Presbyterian College, Montreal and its director Adrian Langdon. May the centre's ministry continue to enrich and energize pastors and lay leaders.

Jesus,
 Part of loving is to be honest
 and if we are to be honest with you,
 there are questions we have with the state of the world.
 While we may know that your Spirit is in all situations,
 we ask that your presence be felt, and that healing comes soon
 to places of conflict and lose:
 Palestine as they start Ramadan
 to Haiti and the chaos there
 in Barrhaven as the family and community struggle
 with the sudden deaths
 ...
 May your presence be felt
 by those who are lonely. . .
 and those in need of healing. . .
 and may we be able to love all those around us
 with all our heart, soul, mind & strength. . .
 ...and especially to love you
 with all that we are.

In Jesus name
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Now thank we all our God.....pg 12 (457)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=s99dNPKYtHk
 (orchestra & audience singing!)

✦ 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.



Love divine, all loves excelling

HYFRYDOL 8787D

F C F Bb/D C7/E F C Dm C F/A C7/G F /A

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, joy of heaven, to
 2. Breathe, oh breathe thy lov - ing Spir - it in - to eve - ry
 3. Come, al - migh - ty to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 4. Fin - ish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less

Bb6 Dm C F F /A C F Bb/D C7/E F C Dm C

earth come down; fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing,
 troub - led breast! Let us all in thee in - her - it,
 grace re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er,
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion

F/A Gm 6 F /A Bb6 Dm C F Am Dm7 Dm

all thy faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art
 let us find the prom - ised rest; take a - way our
 nev - er more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be
 per - fect - ly re - stored in thee, changed from glo - ry

Gm C7 Dm C7/E F /E Dm Bb6 Am Gmsus4-3 Bbmaj7 C7sus4-3

all com - pas - sion, pure, un - bound - ed love thou art;
 love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 al - ways bless - ing, serve thee as thy hosts a - bove,
 in - to glo - ry till in heaven we take our place,

F Am Gm C7 F /A C Bb C

vis - it us with thy sal - va - tion;
 end of faith as its be - gin - ning,
 pray and praise thee, with - out ceas - ing,
 till we cast our crowns be - fore thee,

F/A Bb /D E/C C7 F

en - ter eve - ry trem - bling heart.
 set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 lost in won - der, love and praise.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788) Music: Rowland Hugh Pritchard (1812-1887);
 Words: public domain Music: public domain

637 Take my life, and let it be consecrated

LÜBECK 7777

C Am G C F G7/D C G C/E G/B Em C6 D G

1. Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2. Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3. Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly for my King;
 4. Take my sil - ver and my gold: not a mite would I with - hold;

C F/A G C/E Dm/F A7/E Dm Am Dm G/B C Gsus4 - 3 C

take my mo - ments and my days: let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use eve - ry power as thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine;
 take my heart: it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee.

Alternate tune: Mozart

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836–1879) Music: Freylinghausen's Geistreiches Gesangbuch 1704

Words: public domain Music: public domain

692 Where charity and love prevail

TWENTY-FOURTH 8686CM

F Dm C F C F/A Bb C F Dm Bb6 F/A Bb/D C

1. Where char - i - ty and love pre - vail, there God is ev - er found;
 2. With grate - ful joy and ho - ly fear, God's char - i - ty we learn;
 3. For - give we now each oth - er's faults as we our faults con - fess;
 4. Let strife a - mong us be un - known; let all con - ten - tions cease;
 5. Let us re - call that in our midst dwells God's be - got - ten Son;
 6. No race nor creed can love ex - clude, if hon - oured by God's name;

Am Bb C F Bb6 F Bb C F Dm Bb6 F/A C F

brought here to - ge - ther by Christ's love, by love are we thus bound.
 let us with heart and mind and soul now love God in re - turn.
 and let us love each oth - er well in Chris - tian hol - i - ness.
 be God's the glo - ry that we seek; be ours God's ho - ly peace.
 as mem - bers of his bo - dy joined, we are in Christ made one.
 our fam - i - ly em - bra - ces all whose Fath - er is the same.

Words: Latin; translation, Omer Westendorf (1916–) Music: Lucius Chapin (19th cent.)

Words: translation, copyright © World Library Publications, 1960, a division of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc. All rights reserved.
 Used by permission. Music: public domain

Now thank we all our God

NUN DANKET 67676666

F /A Bb 6 F 7 Gm F/A C7 F C7sus4-3 F

1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice,
 2. Oh may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3. All praise and thanks to God who reigns in highest heaven,

/Eb Bb/D Bb F Bb/D F/C Bb6 A Bb6 C7 F

who wondrous things has done, in whom God's world rejoices,
 with ever-joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
 the Father and the Son and Spirit now be given,

C G7/B C F /A C /E F C/E Dm7 Esus4-3 Am

who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
 and keep us all with grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,

D/F# Gm D7 Gm F/A Bb6 Dm F/C C 7 F

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now and shall be ever more.

Words: German, Martin Rinckart (1586–1649); translation, Catherine Winkworth (1829–1878), alt
 Music: Johann Crüger (1598–1662) *Words: public domain Music: public domain*