



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

Connecting & Clashing

April 28, 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

Youth Group: today with Kathryn & Ines

Communion next week. All who want to know God better may join

Choir: Sunday mornings at 9:45.

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

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

Drop Box: We accept non-perishable food, baby items (diapers, food & clothes) and clothes.

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



Embrace 23 - C Aust

Contacts

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Approaching God



Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship

Let us worship God,
our light and our salvation.

The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

We desire to live in God's house
and to seek God in his holy temple.

**We have come with shouts of joy,
to sing and to make music to the Lord.**

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**Teach us your ways
and make straight our paths
in this hour of worship and always.²**

🎵 Hymn: At the name of Jesus.....pg 9 (340)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OK8OhC6rol4>



Prayer of Approach³

Let us pray.

From before the world began
and after the end of eternity,
you are God.

From the sea bursting from its womb
to the wind ceasing from its chase,

² *Worship Sourcebook 1.2.5*

³ adapted from *the Wee Worship Book 5th ed.* Iona

you are God.
In the vastness of the universe
and the forgotten corners of our hearts,
you are God.

**You are our God,
And we bless you.**



Because the world is beautiful,
and beauty is a tender thing,
and we are caretakers of creation,
we need you, God.

We need you, God.

Because human knowledge seems endless,
the world is our oyster
and we do not know what we do not know,
we need you, God.

We need you, God.

Because we can live without you

thinking we are the centre of the story
going against you with our wisdom alone,
we need you, God.

We need you, God.

Because you came among us
and sat beside us
and heard us speak and saw us ignore you
and healed our pain and let us wound you
and loved us to the end
and triumphed over all our hatred,
we need you, God.

We need you, God.

Because you, not we, are God,
we need you, God.

We need you, God.

...

Listen, for the God who created us says,
'Do not be afraid,
for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name:
you are mine.

'You are precious to me.
I love you,
I honour you,
I am with you.'

...

So we respond:

Maker of all,

**We are your children,
The creatures of your kindness,
The bearers of your image.**

This day,

**We will walk by your light,
Follow your son.
And live by your spirit,**

This day,


**We will not offer to you
Offerings that cost us nothing.**

For this is the day

**That the lord has made;
We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Amen.

As we look to be good disciples,
let us sing together the prayer you teach your followers:

 **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

Last night my kids found a book called *Children, Can you hear me?* by Brad Jersak. Here's page they asked me to read.



When we meet, how can you know it's really me?
That's easy!

If you hear and see things that make you hate others or yourself,
That's not me.

If you hear and see things that make you feel afraid or ashamed,
That's not me either.

And if you hear and see things that make you want to hide from me,
you guessed it: Not me.

There's no one quite like me!



prayer

*Dear Jesus, help us to hear you and see you around us.
Amen.*

♪ Hymn: What gift can we bring.....pg 12 (798)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qmto2rsq5qA>

🧎 Prayer for Illumination

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

Amen.

✦ Intro to the readings

Last week our passage ended with Paul sneaking off to Athens. After a little time there he heads into today's adventure in Corinth. This is another city that was a centre for trade, the arts, and thinking. It was a place to go to learn and talk philosophy.

While you don't have to answer, I'll ask you what you notice or what struck you in the reading.

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

[Acts 18: 1-18](#)

[1 Corinthians 1: 10-17](#)

[Psalm 27:](#)

✦ Sermon: Connecting & Clashing

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

What caught your attention or wonder during the reading?
Was it a detail or a big thing?

...

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

For me, both the details and the sweeping gestures felt very human.

We hear some very human things about Paul. He got a haircut; something we can all relate to. He also had a day job - which is not normally what we think of with Paul. The focus is usually on him telling others about Jesus, and sometimes getting arrested or thrown out of town - oh, and convincing some people that Jesus is the Messiah who has changed the world. Here we are reminded that he also has a job. It's something else we can all relate to. Whether you have/had a job, run a home, or are in school - we know how these can make demands on us. The sharing of the Good News was something Paul did on top of it all.

We also see an amusing bit of humanity in the letter. It was common practice to speak letters to a scribe. One way we know this is that the person doing the writing sometimes added their own greetings to people at the end. Another clue is the way it is written - such as Paul trying to support his argument by saying he didn't baptize anyone, ...well, except Crispus and Gaius... oh, and there was Stephanas ...and his family ...oh, that's not the point. I don't know about you, but I can relate to forgetting some details, or having them come back a bit at a time, or my brain getting distracted from what I'm trying to focus on.

Something else you might relate to is how Paul wants to deal with the annoying people in the Synagogue. When they kept disagreeing with him he told them he'd had enough and was only going to talk with the outsiders (gentiles). How do you respond to somebody who is getting on your nerves? or with a group of people you find disagreeable? Is it like Paul and 'Those' people

who call themselves Christians? Do you walk out? Perhaps. It might even be the healthy choice, but that's not God's way. We can see in these passages that Jews continue to be involved and come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah. It seems that Paul is yet another Biblical hero who isn't perfect at living God's Way... but this doesn't stop God from working in people's lives... including Paul's.

This gives me hope. I hope it does you as well.

Now, it would be nice if that work by God made our lives easy, but that's not the way. This is something lived in all of today's passages. The psalm flows between "*The Lord is my light and salvation*" and being oppressed to the point of wondering if God has abandoned them. During Paul's stay in Corinth we hear about times they seem to get along, times where he walks out on them, and times when they physically attack someone for following Jesus. In the letter we hear that even within the Christians they are fighting. One would hope that at least among those who believe in Jesus that they would agree, but even that's not a shelter from trouble.

Why not?

Why doesn't God make life better for those who follow?

It's a question that has been asked ...probably since the beginning. There are many answers. Sometimes it's the consequences of our actions (or inactions). In Friday's episode of *The Chosen* a character was so distracted that he bashed into a stone and seriously hurt his toe. Not paying

Prodigal Son - Fr Sieger Koder



attention can lead to trouble. His distraction was because he and a partner had been sent by Jesus (two by two) to share the good news. The message had been passionately heard (like with Paul in Corinth) - except they had been passionately insulted to the point of rioting. While I hope you haven't quite experienced that, I'm sure you've all experienced a situation where somebody, perhaps yourself, said something without thinking it through - and this caused trouble later. People being a cause and leads to a troubling effect can go on to include environmental pollution, sweatshops, and much more. We can be the cause of the trouble.

The letter reveals another way that people cause trouble. Those early Christians are already splitting over differences. They have labels of whose version of following Christ they support: Paul, Apollos, Cephas (Peter), or Christ directly. It makes sense that each preacher to pass through had a different emphasis that connected well with different people. It's the same now and is a reason why we have different denominations. A troubling side, both then and now, is that the differences can become the focus. They can divide us and stop us from focusing on the good news. Not only that, but there are still people like the judge that don't want to get sucked into our internal fights. When our internal arguments become the focus then we lose our way and credibility with others - which is trouble.⁵

People aren't the only reason that life has good times and bad. Another plot line in last Friday's *Chosen* episode included something quite tragic that happened to one of our heroes. This wasn't because of something anyone did or didn't do. God wasn't angry with them, but God also doesn't play favourites. Bad things

⁵ Paul's speaking to the church, but we can see these sorts of divisions elsewhere. Think of Québec and the way that people are divided by language, ethnic origin, and economics. In Montreal we can sometimes see what it's like when people focus on what they have in common rather than their differences - imagine if the whole province did that? Imagine living without these tensions?

happen that nobody deserves because it's not only people that are broken, but creation as well. We can all relate to this when someone we love starts to disappear from cancer or Alzheimer or something else. It can lead one to wonder if God has abandoned them, but that's not the case.

And this is Paul's focus: God is alive, active, good - and experienced through Jesus the Christ. This is all seen, ironically, through Jesus dying on the cross. God will suffer for us, and is not defeated by anything. God's love even reaches out to a sinner like Paul was, turning him into a voice of hope.



flowers & Cross NDG graffiti

I've been asked to be on a national committee to prophetically consider the future of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. We had our first big meeting last Tuesday and shared stories in which we'd experienced hope and possibilities. Our stories were like Paul's lessons with the Corinthians. There are struggles. There are competing/conflicting interests. Relationships take time (Paul was there at least a year and a half); time to build trust, and time to reflect back on experiences. That the point is not to build a church, and especially not a denomination, but to tell people

about the love and hope found in Christ. Our stories were diverse, but they also included prayer and studying scripture. That through focusing on God we saw God's love active in our lives, and through our very human lives.

...Paul isn't the only human God works through.

but

To God be all the glory

Amen.



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: Be thou my vision.....pg 10 (461)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0VpaiwjghY (church)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxvXGgSlRcs (big church)

🗨️ FaithTalk: These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies.
Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Etching: Who was a important person in helping you appreciate/understand God?

Memories: Share stories where you saw or felt hope & possibilities.

Wonder: Try describing the world if everybody focused on God instead of other things or people? If that's too big, try just your work, or family, or neighbours, ...

Actions: Come up with a Bible reading plan with your discussion partner. You could try an online devotional, or read through a book (Mark, Acts, ...) - and talk about it.

Prayer: ...to be able to focus more on God, and to knowingly experience God in life.

✦ Spirit Sightings

Locally, I received an email from St. Asgar's down the street. It was about promoting church events - not asking me to promote theirs, but if they could promote ours. So often churches are afraid that if they tell of what a neighbour is doing then people might switch. Survival is the wrong focus, because it's not about any individual church or denomination - the center of the story should be (to quote Paul's letter to the Corinthians), "*the cross of Christ and its power.*"

This week I also attended a webinar from the national office about a study on congregational risk assessment. Out of over 600 congregations who responded to the national Presbyterian Church survey: 20 congregations are high risk, 89 moderate, 190 low risk, 312 not at risk. While this isn't definitive as it includes some congregations which look to be in bad situations but are really just seasonal, some who are already closed, and others who will experience a soul sucking crisis - but it is also hopeful.

✦ Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on our **website: kensingtonchurch.ca**. Just click the '**Donate Now**' button, and then the pretty button. It gives you various options that are easy to follow.

You can also donate through **interac e-transfer**. Our name is Kensington Presbyterian Church and the e-mail address is info@kensingtonchurch.ca.

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) are also good options.

Prayers of the people

Dear God, creator of the universe,
'Be thou our vision and light.

So that we focus on you, and see the world your way.

It is so easy to focus on ourselves,

but we pray for help in making you the main character
of our story. . .

Help us not to focus on our differences,

but to be an example of working together
and celebrating the diversity you have created.
and we pray that this will spread outside these walls
through Québec...

We pray for those experiencing Prejudice, oppression or racism
here and elsewhere in our global village. . .

We pray for those on the edge

because they are socially awkward or different...

young or old...

society doesn't respect their gender...

on the edge because they have moved...

or are refugees

on the edge economically and are struggling...

or are disconnected...

We pray for those who are not well physically or mentally. . .

Jesus

Hear us

Hold us

Renew us

Amen.



♪ Hymn: [We are one in the Spirit.....pg 11 \(471\)](#)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=bL5bT_Ezeq8 or
www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZY9kS1Fu0A

✦ 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.



At the name of Jesus

KING'S WESTON 6565D

Dm F/A Dm (/E) F Dm F/C Gm/Bb Dm (/C Bb)

1. At the name of Je - sus eve - ry knee shall bow,
 2. Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name
 3. Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong as death,
 4. In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
 5. Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,

F/A F /A C6 Dm Bb 6 F/A Gm (/A Bb)

eve - ry tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
 from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came.
 name with awe and won - der, and with bat - ed breath;
 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true.
 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry and an an - gel train,

C Bb/G C Am /C Dm C/E Fmaj7 G C (/D /F)

'tis our God's good pleas - ure we should call him Lord,
 Faith - ful, Je - sus bore it spot - less to the last,
 this is God the Sav - iour; this is Christ the Lord,
 Crown him as your cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,

Dm/F C/E Am/C Am /C (Gm/Bb F) F/A /Bb C Dm

who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 brought it back vic - to - rious when from death he passed.
 ev - er to be wor - shipped, trust - ed and a - dored.
 let his will en - fold you in its light and power.
 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

Words: Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877) Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
 Words: public domain Music: copyright © Oxford University Press CCLI #4440603 One License #A-719461

Be thou my vision

SLANE 10 10 10 10

Inison Eb /G Ab Bb /Ab Eb/G Ab Fm6 Eb

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom; be thou my true word,
 3. Be thou my breast-plate, my sword for the fight;
 4. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain earth - ly praise,
 5. High King of heav - en, when the bat - tle is done,

Ab Ab/Eb Eb Bb/D Cm Gm7 Ab (maj7) Bb/Ab

thou my best thought in the day and the night,
 thou my great Fath - er, thine own may I be,
 thou my soul's shel - ter and thou my high tower,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Bb Fm (/Eb) Bb/D Eb /G Ab Eb/G Eb6 Bb /Ab Eb/G

naught be all else to me, save that thou art,
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 be thou my ar - mour and be thou my might;
 thou my in - her - it - ance, through all my days;
 grant heav - en's joy to me, O bright heaven's Sun;

Eb/G Eb (/D) Cm Eb/G Ab6 /C Eb

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
 raise thou me heav - en - ward, O Power of my power.
 high King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art!
 still be my vi - sion, O rul - er of all.

Words: Irish anonymous, 8th century, translation, Mary Byrne (1880–1931), paraphrase, Eleanor Hull (1860–1935), alt Music: Irish traditional; harmony, Erik Routley (1917–1982); descant, John Wilson (1905–1992) CCLI No, 4440603

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We are one in the Spirit

WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT Irregular with refrain

Fm Cm Fm

1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are
 2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will
 3. We will work with each oth - er, we will
 4. All praise to the Fath - er, from

Bbm Cm Fm Cm7

pray that all u - ni - ty will one day be re -
 geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our
 guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's
 praise to the Spir - it, who makes us

Cm Fm Bbm

one in the Lord, we are one in the
 walk hand in hand, we will walk with each
 work side by side, we will work with each
 whom all things come, and all praise to Christ

Fm Fm7 Db Cm

stored,
 land,
 pride, and they'll know we are Chris-tians by our
 one,

Fm Cm Fm

Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, and we
 oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, and to -
 oth - er, we will work side by side, and we'll
 Je - sus, who is God's on - ly Son, and all

Fm /Eb Db Fm Fm

love, by our love, and they'll know we are

Words: Peter Scholtes (1938-) Music: Peter Scholtes (1938-); harmony, Richard D. Wetzel (1935-)
 Words: copyright © F.E.L. Publications, assigned to The Lorenz Corp., 1991 Dayton, OH. All rights reserved. Used by permission-license #401891. Music: copyright © F.E.L. Publications, assigned to The Lorenz Corp., 1991 Dayton, OH. All rights reserved. Used by permission-license #401891; harmony, copyright © The Westminster Press, 1972

Bbm Cm Fm

Chris - tians by our love.

What gift can we bring

ANNIVERSARY SONG 11 11 11 11

Unison

D G6/B D/F# Bm G Em A F#m Bm

1. What gift can we bring, what pres - ent, what to - ken?
 2. Give thanks for the past, for those who had vi - sion,
 3. Give thanks for to - mor - row, ful of sur - pris - es,
 4. This gift we now bring, this pres - ent, this to - ken,

Em D A/C# D A7sus/E D/F# G Em /G Asus2 - 1

What words can con - vey it, the joy of this day?
 who plant - ed and wa - tered so dreams could come true.
 for know - ing what - ev - er to - mor - row may bring,
 these words can con - vey it, the joy of this day!

D G6/B D/F# Bm G /F# Em F#7 E/G#

When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering, re - joic - ing,
 Give thanks for the now, for stud - y, for wor - ship,
 the word is our prom - ise al - ways, for - ev - er;
 When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering, re - joic - ing,

F#7/A# Bm /A G D/F# A7/E D7 G Em7 A7 D

what song can we of - fer in hon - our and praise?
 for mis - sion that bids us turn prayer in - to deed.
 we rest in God's keep - ing and live in God's love.
 this song we now of - fer in hon - our and praise!

Words: Jane Marshall (1924-) Music: Jane Marshall (1924-)

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Kensington Presbyterian Church

MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, April 28

The Reformed Parish in Csap/Chop, a congregation of the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia in western Ukraine, has been providing temporary shelter and food for people displaced by the war. Their social kitchen program includes hot food delivery to elderly congregation members who live alone and are unable to cook for themselves. With limited resources, Bishop Zan-Fabian reached out to the PCC for financial support to continue this ministry of care. The PCC provided a grant from Presbyterians Sharing, fulfilling the law of Christ to bear one another's burdens.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, April 28 (Mission Awareness Sunday) We give thanks for the service of all former PCC mission staff who worked with the church outside of Canada in creative and courageous ways and often under difficult circumstances.

Monday, April 29 We pray for our church's incredible history and that, with faith, we will pass on our heritage to generations who will follow us.

Tuesday, April 30 We pray for the many members of the PCC on various ecumenical church councils and working groups, as well as representatives involved in interfaith conversations. We thank God for their involvement and the ways we connect with other Christians and faith traditions.

Wednesday, May 1 We pray for students who are graduating in May from The Presbyterian College, Montreal. May it be a time of joy, celebrating the hard work and successes of each student; may each one experience God's leading in next steps as they discern direction in their respective callings.

Thursday, May 2 We pray for St. Marys Presbyterian Church in St. Marys Ontario. God bless the children there who are interested in Indigenous people and their cultures. May their personal gifts and passions be used to further the kingdom of Peace on earth.

Friday, May 3 We pray for General Assembly commissioners as they prepare to help the church discern the mind of Christ for our denomination.

Saturday, May 4 We pray for the congregation of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church (Lunenburg, NS) as they work through the PCC's New Beginnings Renewal Program to discern their next steps in ministry.