



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

Why'd you do that?

April 14, 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

Choir: Sunday mornings at 9:45.

Zoom Prayer Group: Thursday 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

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.

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



Begging Jesus - T Schmalz

Contacts

Church Office: 514-486-4559.....info@Kensingtonchurch.ca
 Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor).....Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca
 514-773-4620

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



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

Joy to the world! the Lord is come:

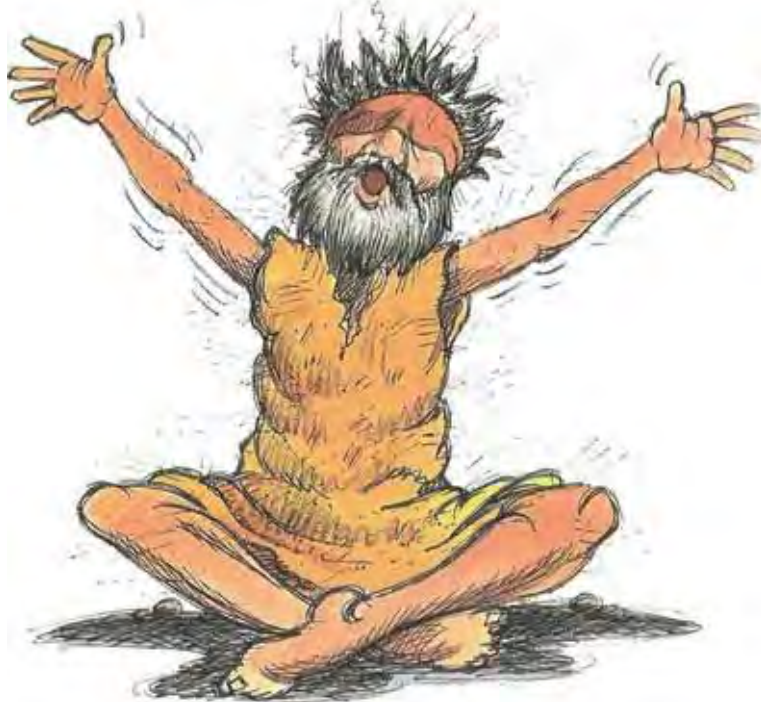
let earth receive its King;

let every heart prepare him room

and heaven and nature sing,

♪ Hymn: Joy to the World.....pg 9 (153)

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



Prayer of Approach

Praised are you, O Lord our God, creator of the Universe.

What you have done is astonishing,

and we are blessed to experience it.

light & dark,

the sun and the moon.

Animals,

and how they reacted during the eclipse.

Your creation is so awesome & complicated

...especially us with our bodies & minds & spirits...

It is incredible that you want to work with us

and through us.

We say incredible because we are so fallible;

hurting creation,

others,

even those we love,

...even you.

Help us to realize when and how we hurt these precious

relationships

because we are sorry.

Please forgive us. . .

We thank you for welcoming us

when we turn to you.


Help us to live into your forgiveness,

and recognize the presence of your Holy Spirit

and the gifts she brings.

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

Did anyone experience something impressive this week?

I saw some worms while walking to school, and they are pretty different. They got us wondering how something like a worm works. It's kinda amazing that they can survive.

Though even more amazing was the eclipse. Did you experience it? I was away at church meetings so I missed totality, but it was still amazing. The Sun, which could hold 1.3 million Earths, was blocked out by the moon (less than $\frac{1}{3}$ of the Earth). Where I was watching a little sliver could peak



around the moon - and it was amazing how much light that provided. The size and power of the sun is amazing - though the earthworm is a wonder as well. Both remind me of how amazing God, The Creator, is.

prayer

Dear God, Creation is amazing.

Thank you!

Amen.

♪ Hymn: This little light of mine.....pg 10
www.youtube.com/watch?v=J2kDsqGeoLU

Prayer for Illumination


Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
so we will become better disciples of Jesus.
Amen.

Intro to the readings

To continue the story of the disciples of Jesus we've moved from the Gospel According to Mark to the Acts of the Apostles (the sequel to Luke). Why do we bother? Because stories of the early Christians teach us about God, and how to be good Christians.

Last week we heard that Jesus had come back after dying to give them some more coaching, then telling them to be witnesses to the ends of the earth - but to wait for the Holy Spirit to come. The lectionary skips that scene to line up with the larger church calendar. (We'll get it on May 19th.) On that day Peter gives a big sermon and many people become open to Jesus being the Messiah. Then there's a description of how the early Christians pooled their resources so that everyone was looked after. Then we have today's scene... which leads into another sermon.

While I'm going to focus on the disciples, the other main character is also important - and the psalms pick up on his feelings.

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

[Psalm 5](#): 1-3, 11-12

[Acts 3](#): 1-10

[Psalm 100](#):

 Sermon: Why'd you do that?

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

Peter & John are being good Jews by going up to the Temple for mid-afternoon prayer. (You may have noticed a difference between the English & French translations. The reason is 3 in the afternoon is the 9th hour after sunrise.) Peter & John also show that they are good disciples of Jesus.

This might be a bit surprising if you remember them from the Gospels. While Jesus was alive they showed some ability to understand what Jesus was about, but more often we read about their lack of understanding. Then in the end they abandon Jesus. However a lack of knowing, or understanding - even failure - doesn't mean you can't be a good disciple.

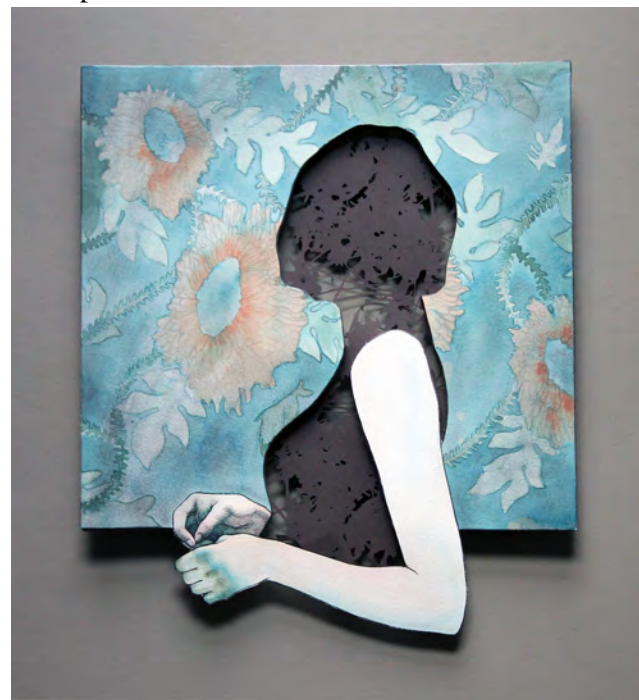
Before telling you how they were good followers of Christ, I want to remind you of what a disciple is. They are students of Jesus, but not like students now who listen to the teacher and try to do their homework. Disciples listened, watched the teacher, and tried to copy them. The last part is key. A disciple tries to

imitate their teacher. Peter & John show they are good disciples because they are imitating their teacher (Jesus).

How so?

They are approaching the Temple - the centre of Jewish religious life, and a big influence on political and social life as well. It was a grand building - one that you never stop feeling awe for. *But* they are seeing as Jesus would.

In the shadow of this great building they see the person who has been lame since birth. They see that he is not well and looking for help.



too much and too little - Christine Kim

Seeing situations that need God is an important part of following Jesus. It's not without consequences. It can make you feel bad as you empathize with those who are suffering. It can also help you experience more beauty and joy. You will feel more.

² 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 caution is to remember that you aren't Jesus and there are times when it's not you who needs to help, but somebody else's turn. Still, following Jesus means to try and see the world as Jesus does.

Now, the lame person is asking for what he thinks will help him: money. While money is important, though it won't solve his problem. Peter & John see the situation and offer what they can do. In this case, they channel God's power so that the lame person can walk and leap about.

What about you? What can you do when you see a situation that needs God's healing? It may feel like an unrealistic expectation for you to instantly cure an illness - though I don't like to put limits on what God can do through people.

We do all have gifts from God that can be used to help. What gifts do you have? (This is a great topic to explore with people who know you - because your ego and humility can get in the way.) Here are some examples (You won't have them all):

- *listening*: you may be able to bring some healing by actively listening to somebody, helping them sort through their thoughts, showing you value them - especially those who are isolated and lonely.
- *wisdom & experience*: This can help people to stand up in situations that have pushed them down
- *gentleness*: your gentleness may provide somebody with a safe place or relationship.
- *advocacy*: While somewhat the opposite to the previous gift, your fierceness and determination may help them get the help they need, or do something they are afraid to.
- *organization*: this could be a gift to a person or an organization. (ex. we could use somebody to organize a

simple church newsletter.)

- *skills*: such as
 - *cooking*: ex. meal for somebody who is overwhelmed by illness or something, some surprise baking for a neighbour to make a connection, or a simple lunch for our 3rd Sunday all ages service.
 - *gardening or repairs*: for a neighbour, fellow Kensington person, or even the church itself.
 - *other arts that can bring joy, or help with other emotions*
 - *drives for people*
 - *helping with their taxes*
 - *etc etc*
- *and prayer!* (not at the end because it's least important, but I don't want it lost in the list)

What gifts or skills or talents has God given you?

What can you do with them?

How can you use them to help?



Seeing as Jesus does is one step in this passage to following God. So is doing something with what we can to help. If we stop there we may receive a lot of gratitude, but that's not the point.

Jesus could have waved his hands and cured everybody, but he didn't because it's about healing the relationship between people and God. The third way that Peter & John show they are good disciples is that they make sure God gets the credit.

Knowing you as I do, I expect your friends think you're a nice person. Do they know why you try to be nice? Do they know why you make the choices you do?

I'm not saying that every time you listen to somebody, share some wisdom, or help out - that you should say, "I'm doing this because Jesus told me too." But what about sometimes using a line like, "I'm glad God gave us this time"; or "It's good to share how God has blessed me"; or in response to fixing something, "Yeah, it's the way God made me." You might even be reminded of a Bible story that you could share.

This isn't without consequences. In Peter & John's case it leads to people looking to them for more answers. Peter ends up sharing another sermon, and getting arrested, questioned... and then released with a warning not to share the joy of his life.

There can be consequences now as well. It's possible that when you mention God or Jesus people will turn away. However I think that if you do it with humility, like you are giving credit where it's due rather than forcing them to become like you, then it will be like a seed being planted.

But what about that lovely saying, "Preach the gospel at all times, and when necessary, use words." Do we really have to use words?

Yes.

Once upon a time everyone knew that people did things because that was how God wanted them to live, but those days are gone. There are lots of nice people out there. If we are to be witnesses - to be good disciples - we need to clearly identify why

we do what we do. We need to give credit where credit is due, or how will others know who to give their thanks to? They won't become witnesses? They may leap with joy, but not with God.




This week, may the Holy Spirit help you to see as Jesus does, to use the gifts & skills you've been given to help, and to be able to share why.

*To God be all the glory
Amen.*



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: Christ of all my hope.....pg 12 (680)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sm6ncB5YgFQ

-  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: When have you seen somebody overflowing with Joy so that everyone noticed?
- Memories: When have you felt great joy?
- Values: What do you like doing?
- Wonder: Brainstorm what gifts/skills/talents has God given each of you?
- Prayer: ...thank God for your gifts/skills/talents.
- Actions: Think of some situations (past, present, or future) where you could use your gifts/skills/talents to help bring love, hope & healing.
- Prayer: ...that you will be able to help someone and share your source of strength with them.

Spirit Sightings

This week I was at the General Assembly Council. It was good to spend time with colleague in meetings, but also in discussions. Some highlights include:


- seeing some motions from the Montreal Presbytery working their way through the system.
- from the Moderator about how the church is growing in Cuba and through the Hummingbird Indigenous ministry. They talk with people and listen to them - and then engage with what they think is important.
- the work towards an apology to indigenous people harmed by the PCC. While the confession made was important step, this is a chance helping us to walk with them.
- seeing how the differences in opinion helped us to see new ways to do things.

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
Faithful God,
we come to you in prayer.

Gracious God,
May your Spirit bring love, hope & healing.

While this week started of celebrating the wonder of creation, it has ended with news of horrors that we can do to each other
chaos in Haiti
increased attacks in the Middle East, Ukraine & Sehel
and the knifing in Australia.
with these pushing aside the memories of other horrors.

Gracious God,
May your Spirit bring love, hope & healing.

We pray Lord for those who need healing
so that they can feel the way you created them to
knowing your hope
joy

peace
and love.

Gracious God,
May your Spirit bring love, hope & healing.

Jesus, please continue to teach us,
so that we may see the world as you do
Appreciating great creations
but especially noticing where your love is needed.
and may your Spirit remind us
what it is we can do to help
to give us the courage to do so,
and to be able to give you the credit.

Gracious God,
May your Spirit bring love, hope & healing.

We pray all this
because you listen and care.

In the name of Jesus, the Christ,
Amen.

Praise the Lord - M Moyers

♪ Hymn: Sing a new song.....pg 11 (422)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZH7t9_mXuh4

✦ **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.



MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, April 14



With support from Presbyterians Sharing, Two Rivers Church (TRC) in Guelph, Ontario, is exploring creative new ways of being the church. Two values that support their purpose of “inviting all to come alive in Christ” are “face-to-face church” and “every voice matters.” These commitments have literally shaped the way the congregation worships God. TRC’s Living Room and Liturgical practices invite people into circles and semi-circles to be seen and heard. Opportunity for conversation, asking and answering questions, offering testimony, and sharing in discernment of the Spirit’s voice creates space for the whole body of Christ at TRC to participate in worship and mission.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, April 14 We thank you for your Word that shows your path. Help us to develop strong spiritual practices in our homes and communities that lead to transformation and growth.

Monday, April 15 We pray for those attending “The Art of Transitional Leadership: Help and Hope for Interim Moderators,” that participants will be energized and renewed as they lead the congregations they serve in discerning God’s future.

Tuesday, April 16 We pray for the 69th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan as they meet with a theme of “Inspire a Life of Faith—Seeking God’s House of Abundance” from April 16-18.

Wednesday, April 17 We pray for Anamiewigummig Fellowship Centre in Kenora, Ontario as it provides practical care and support—an urban “home”—for many elders and young people who have endured the realities of the residential school system or have aged out of the child welfare system.

Thursday, April 18 God of resurrection and transformation, we pray that LGBTQI2+ people experiencing life transitions and coming out will feel your comforting presence through the care of their loved ones.

Friday, April 19 We ask that God bless the efforts of theological students in the last days of the academic year, giving them grace to finish well, to be taught, formed and swept up in God’s reconciling mission.

Saturday, April 20 We pray for the Communauté Chrétien Siloé, a Cameroonian Church in Montreal, as they seek funding to complete renovations of the old church building they have revived for worship. We ask God to bless their vibrant music ministry, their dedicated women and their church choir.

Joy to the world

ANTIOCH 8 6 8 6 CM with repeat

D A7/E D/F# Em/G D/A A 7 D D/F# G Em

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - iour reigns: let us our
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

A 7 D (GD D) (GD D)

ceive its King; let eve - ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -

/F# Em/G A

room and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound - ing joy, re - peat the sound - ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his -

Tenor and bass v.1 And heaven and na - ture sing (Bass), and

A7/C# A7 /G D/F# (aug) G A Bm Em/G D/A A 7 D

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing (Similarly for vv 2, 3 & 4)

Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748), alt Music: Lowell Mason (1792–1872);
 harmony, Henry Rosevear (1903–1982) CCLI #4440603
 Words: public domain Music: harmony, copyright © estate of Henry Rosevear

This Little Light of Mine

This lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine;
 Eve - ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me; I'm gon - na let it shine;

5
 this lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine;
 eve - ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine;
 Je - sus gave it to me; I'm gon - na let it shine;

9
 this lit - tle light of mine, I'm gon - na let it shine, let it shine,
 eve - ry - where I go, I'm gon - na let it shine, let it shine,
 Je - sus gave it to me; I'm gon - na let it shine, let it shine,

13
 let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine.
 let it shine, let it shine.

Hide it under a bas-ket? No! I'm gonna let it shine...

Don't let anyone (blow) it out. I'm gonna let it shine...

Share my light with others! Yes! I'm gonna let it shine...



Festival of Lights
J Swanson

Sing a new song unto the Lord

Unison

Refrain G D D#dim Em Am7

Sing a new song un - to the Lord; let your song be

sung from moun - tain's height. Sing a new song

un - to the Lord, sing-ing hal - le - lu - jah!

Words: Psalm 98; paraphrase, Daniel L. Schutte Music: Daniel L. Schutte (1947-), arrangement Sr. Theophane Hytrek, OSF (1915-1992)

Words: paraphrase, copyright © Daniel L. Schutte, 1972, 1974, 1979. Administered by New Dawn Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music: copyright © Daniel L. Schutte, 1972, 1974, 1979. Administered by New Dawn Music. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

G D7/A Am/G D/F# Em /D C6 G6/B

1. For God's peo - ple dance for joy. Oh come be - fore the
2. Rise, O chil - dren, from your sleep; your Sav - iour now has
3. Glad my soul for I have seen the glo - ry of the

Lord, play for the Lord on glad tam - bou - rines, and
come. He has turned your sor - row to joy, and
Lord. The trum - pet sounds; the dead shall be raised. I

let your trum - pet sound.
filled your soul - pet with song.
know my Sav - iour lives.

680 Christ, of all my hopes the ground

MOZART 7 7 7 7

G D D7 G

1. Christ, of all my hopes the ground, Christ, the
 2. Let thy love my heart in - flame; keep thy
 3. Foun - tain of o'er - flow - ing grace, free - ly thy
 4. Thus, O God, an en - trance give to thy

D/A D7/F# G /B D G D7/A G6 D/F#

spring of all my joy, still in thee may
 fear be - fore my sight; be thy praise my
 from thy full - ness give; as I run this
 cit - y, draw - ing nigh; hav - ing known it

D7 (/F# /A) G G#dim Am /C G/D D G

I be found; still for thee my powers em - ploy.
 high - est aim; be thy smile my chief de - light.
 earth - ly race, may I prove it Christ to live.
 Christ to live, let me know it gain to die.

Words: Ralph Wardlaw (1779–1853) Music: Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart (1756–1791)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

Looking for more information?

The Social Action Hub on the PCC website provides study guides, advocacy tools, liturgies and other resources to help individuals and congregations discern and live out the biblical call to do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God (Micah 6:8).

Organized thematically, you will find positions and actions the church has taken, as well as links to letters, reports and resources it has produced. The Hub is an ongoing project that is continually being updated and expanded with new information and resources, so we encourage you to check back often, and take time to explore all the many ways Presbyterians can seek justice through social action.

Visit presbyterian.ca/social-action.

Visit the PCC's

Social Action Hub

to find current resources and history of the church's involvement in justice issues!

bit.ly/justice-social-action