

February 14, 2021

Knox Presbyterian Church, Victoria

Call to Worship

God said, "Let light shine in the darkness!"

Lord, shine your light into our lives.

We see the glory of God in the face of Christ.

The light of Christ is with us day by day.

Let us follow the light of Christ together.

Let us worship God with thanks and praise.

Hymn: We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdKQQ6CQVfs>

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God of grace and glory,
to this worried world, you reveal your presence
in radiant glory and in gentle whispers,
on mountain tops and in shadowed valleys,
in classrooms and hospital beds,
in homes and churches,
in the quiet of nature and on busy streets.

Yours is the presence that pushes past our fear to calm us;
yours is the love that transforms our doubt with reassurance.

We come to dwell in your goodness
and offer you the praise you deserve.

God of mercy and forgiveness,
we confess that many things keep us from trusting fully in your love.
We are often distracted by our own desires and disappointments.
We cling to anger and resentment.
We fear for the future rather than seek signs of hope.
Forgive us.

Shine your love upon us so that your glory may be seen in us,
and give us courage to follow Jesus wherever he leads,

for we pray in his name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

St. John records that God is love and that God's perfect love casts out fear. Friends, we are promised that those who abide in love abide in God and God abides in them.

Claim God's forgiveness in this Good News:

God's perfect love abides in you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Enjoy this worship music with a Celtic Flavour: In Christ Alone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8kvFtXpHmMU>

Prayer for Understanding

Lord God, all wisdom comes from you. Guide us now as we hear your scriptures read and interpreted. May your Holy Spirit help us understand your Word more fully and be transformed to live it out. Amen.

Hymn: Lord, The Light of Your Love is Shining

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rce9UHYZwl4>

Scripture Reading and Message

<https://youtu.be/c1h4gIYsob4>

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of life, God of love:

You created us and set us in relationship with each other—
in families and neighbourhoods, communities and countries, cultures and nations.

We give you thanks for all the supportive relationships
which bring meaning and encouragement to our lives,
and have meant so much in times of isolation.

Help us contribute what we can to sustain the wellbeing of our community
for all who call it home.

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

God of our faith & our future,

there are so many pressures on homes and families today.

Draw near to those who are struggling in economic difficulty
and those burdened by the challenges to health and happiness this winter.
Work with parents and children, married partners, and next-door neighbours
who face conflicted relationships
to create solutions that express mutual respect and resolve tension.
Help our congregation support families, whatever their size or situation,
as well as people living on their own, to know your love.
God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

God of mercy and forgiveness,
You call us to live together in peace and unity.
We pray for our neighbourhoods and our nation.
Where people are divided and bitterness turns into resentment,
show us how to work for reconciliation.
As the pandemic stretches on,
we pray for all those whose skill and dedication is needed
to support our common life.
Wherever we can, may we offer words of encouragement and appreciation
so that others know they matter to you and to us all.
God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Today we give thanks for our church family
and for the years of worship and witness offered here.
So much has changed for us over these past few months
and we pray you will bless our leaders
who have to think carefully and creatively so congregational life continues.

We remember those of our number in need of your special attention today...
Guide us all with your wisdom and insight
so we find ways to reach out to each other in support and friendship.
Open our eyes to opportunities to reach out beyond our own fellowship
as agents of your healing and hope
for we offer ourselves to you in Jesus' name in the words he taught us to pray:

The Lord's Prayer

(Optional choice The Lord's Prayer sung in Russian

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p3iYnHx8P0s>)

Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive the debts of others. Lead us not into temptation, and deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory, For ever. Amen.

Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (enjoy the views of Hawaii)

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

Benediction (an anonymous 10th century prayer)

May the Lord Jesus Christ be near us to defend us, within us to refresh us, around us to preserve us, before us to guide us, behind us to justify us, above us to bless us, who liveth and reigneth with the Father and the Holy Ghost, God forevermore. Amen

Mission Moment – February 14, 2021

A Meaningful Message

St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church in Creston, B.C., is a small, remote church tucked away in the Kootenay Valley. With a grant from Presbyterians Sharing to support ministry in remote communities, they called the Rev. Stephen Vangroonen to their congregation in the hope that he would help strengthen and grow their ministry. But shortly after he and his family arrived, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and the congregation found itself adapting quickly to move their services online. Then, when churches were permitted to reopen, they had to adapt to the new health and safety protocols. Throughout it all, the Rev. Vangroonen has blessed St. Stephen's with a positive outlook, continually encouraging the new community he serves to trust God and share the love of Christ with others—a meaningful message during this turbulent time.