

Welcome and Land Acknowledgement

*We recognize that the land where we gather for worship belongs to God, as does all of creation. We also know that this is the unceded territory of the Lkwungen and WSÁNEĆ people. As we pray, reflect, and celebrate in this place, we do so as guests lamenting the injustice in our history. We ask that the God of love and justice lead us along the path of reconciliation, bringing accountability and healing. May we be inspired to forge new relationships of respect and solidarity.*

Celebrations / Joys and Concerns

*God's blessing on you. God's blessing on you.  
God's blessing, dear friends. God's blessing on you.*

➤ *O let the power fall on me*

Call to Worship

Let us open our minds to God's teaching and tune our ear to God's word. Let us listen to the stories of the faith of our ancestors and share our stories with one another. We put our trust in God – worshipping the one who gives us life.

This morning we gather together for worship and for a service of remembrance. As we remember, let us be aware of the journey we take deep into our own humanity – a journey that Christ has offered to walk with us. Let us accept that invitation as we worship together singing...

> *Eternal Father, strong to save (alternate words)*

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† Prayer and Words of Hope

God of justice and peace, we gather at this solemn time, aware of the costliness of human history. In the face of hostility between nations and neighbours, you have come to us in Jesus Christ, carrying no sword, calling us to serve as peacemakers. In this time of worship, renew in us the hope that you will turn swords into ploughshares, and lead the world you love away from the study of war to the promise of peace with justice for all your peoples.

God of justice and mercy, we confess that the world around us is in a mess. Countries turn disputes over territory into threats of terror. Old enemies stir up conflict within their tribes and nations. Threats of violence keep us all on edge. We confess we have not learned from past conflicts what leads to peace with justice among nations and neighbours. Forgive us and lead us in a better way. **Amen**

The prophet Micah reminds us that God requires three things: to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God. Receive the forgiveness and peace God offers as we turn away from hostility and seek reconciliation in kindness and humility, The peace of Christ be with you all.

> The NATIONAL ANTHEM

O Canada

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- The LAST POST
- SILENCE
- REVEILLE
- LAYING of the WREATH

† PRAYER of REMEMBRANCE

***“They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old: Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them.”***

As we remember before God those who have made the ultimate sacrifice, let us commend their souls anew to God’s eternal mercy and compassion, and let us pray that God would grant us grace to serve faithfully until our life’s end, to the honour and glory of God’s Holy name.

**In unity with all Canadians, of every race, gender, and creed we offer up prayers of thanksgiving for all those who made selfless sacrifices for God and country so that we and future generations might live in peace.**

Bring your comfort and relief to those who mourn. Enable those who are wounded in body, mind, or spirit to live more peaceful and satisfying lives. Endow us all with a new resolve to hasten that day when war shall be no more, and your will alone is done on all the earth. **Amen**

> The ROYAL ANTHEM

God save our gracious King

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† Prayer for Understanding

**God of wisdom, we turn to the Scripture for insight and understanding. Send your Spirit to open our hearts and minds to receive the challenge and the comfort you offer through your Word. Amen**

Scripture    **Job 19: 23-27a**    [OT 468]

"O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. My heart faints within me!

**Psalm 17: 1-9**    **displayed / responsive**

Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry!

**Give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit!**

From you let my vindication come!

**Let your eyes see the right!**

If you try my heart – if you visit me by night – if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress.

**As for what others do, I have avoided the ways of the violent, by the word of your lips. My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped.**

I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words.

**Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.**

Guard me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings, from the wicked who despoil me, my deadly enemies who surround me.

## **2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17 [NT 206]**

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter. Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### Message

There are regular articles of Presbyterian History prepared by one of our national PCC committees (likely written by Peter Bush) that I share with you via email. I find them all quite fascinating. The most recent one highlighted the life and work of John McCrae – most famous for his poem, *In Flanders fields*. His was a life of sacrifice and service it seems, and we are blessed to have his poetry to keep that memory alive – to honour him – to vindicate his experience.

When Steve and I traveled to the Atlantic Provinces several years ago we did our own trek down memory lane in an effort to honour our family and national history. We toured the Fortress of Louisbourg in Cape Breton, Province House in Charlottetown – the birthplace of Confederation, and various sites in Halifax including the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic, the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21, Africville, and the church where I was baptized.

We looked up the record of Steve's mom's immigration voyage to Canada as a War Bride and pondered the significance of those many nationalities and cultures that have enriched the fabric of life in Canada.

We drove down the street where I lived nearly sixty years ago and toured the place of my earliest memories – what was then Halifax Ladies College – my preschool.

We looked at artifacts and read headlines that told the story of the explosion in the Halifax Harbour in 1917 – we were overwhelmed at the devastation and hardship that resulted.

We saw the photographs and listened to the experiences of those who lived and thrived despite being oppressed by racism in the African Canadian community of Africville. We celebrated with them the opportunity to tell their story – to write it down and have their history live forever – to remember.

Job cries out: *“O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever!”*

Job wants his plight recorded for all time. He demands that his story be written down – perhaps on a scroll or book – no, even better, he wants it to be etched in stone – never to be lost or forgotten. The vindication that Job seeks is for his plight to be heard – to be known – to be remembered. In the midst of the cacophony of traditional voices that suppress the testimony to his trauma, Job commands an audience, and Job persists in his hope for an advocate.

If God is the accused, then who is the advocate? Could it be that those who read and tell Job's story are actually Job's vindicators?

Perhaps those of us attending to Job's stories have, in a small sense, become his vindicators. In so doing, perhaps we are also learning how to hear not only the traumatic testimony of an ancient patriarch, but also the voices of those who suffer around us – sometimes because of us.

On the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month in 1918 the guns of Europe fell silent after four years of the most bitter and devastating fighting. The First World War armistice was signed and at 11am, the war ended.

We remember that moment today even though none of us was alive at that time to experience it. But perhaps you remember those who were alive then – who did have personal knowledge of that moment in our common history. Some of you remember the Second World War – were you a soldier or a civilian, a casualty or innocent bystander? Maybe the Korean War and the war in Vietnam are more familiar to you. Possibly the Cold War and the nuclear arms race are what come to mind when the subject of war is raised. For most of us more recent wars or conflicts in Ireland, Israel, Croatia, Serbia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran and Iraq weigh heavily. Maybe you see the Syrian crisis and refugees of that violence. Surely the hostilities in Ukraine are filling our hearts and minds as we remember the sacrifice and devastation of war this year. Whether you are a veteran or a civilian, young or old, man or woman, immigrant, settler or Indigenous Canadian, Remembrance Day provides an annual opportunity to remember those who serve and to honour those who have died in conflicts across the world. To vindicate their suffering and give thanks for their service.

For some the remembering is very real. It is about sacrifice, pain, loss, comradeship, closeness, real hopes and fears – the evil that threatened – the victory that came. For others the remembering is clouded by time or distance or inexperience. It is a remembering that is more second hand but no less valuable – evoking the deeper truths of God and of this world – things that divide families, groups, peoples, and nations one from the other – the need for peace – for the justice upon which true peace is built – justice that shows mercy to those who seek it and even those who do not.

Sometimes remembering is just about telling the story – sharing what is important – working out what one has encountered. In other circumstances it is the issues – the lessons, the education to be gleaned. Perhaps for you remembering is a matter of honouring, of respecting, of evoking the emotions and feelings that are best in a person.

Remembering is about keeping something in our mind, considering and taking something into account – remembering is powerful and purposeful. It is pulling together the fragments of fractured existence and putting them back together again – *re-membering*.

As Steve and I toured personal and public places of historic significance we put flesh on the past – gave ourselves fresh memories to reflect upon. As we remember those a Knox who have died in the past year we honour their life within this community of faith and make them present again among us. As we pin a poppy to the wreath and sing the words of our national anthem and stand in silence following taps to allow our memories to surface we assert again the importance of service and sacrifice. As we read the scripture today we vindicate Job by hearing his story. We vindicate Job by attending to suffering around us.

Hearing the story – pulling together the fragments of the past and giving them shape – there is vindication – redemption – in remembering the past as we seek God's promised future... **Amen**

> *O God, our help in ages past (verses 1, 2, 4, 6)*

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† Offering and Prayer

In this season of remembrance, the risk and generosity of others is often on our minds. Let their legacy inspire us to risk generous gifts as we present our offering.

> *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*

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**Receive our gifts this day, O God, and bless them with your love and power. Use them in the struggle for justice and the work for healing and peace, undertaken by your faithful people here and everywhere, in the name of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace.**

The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

> *For all the saints (verses 1, 4, 7, 8)*

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**Remembering the Saints**

Today we direct our attention to the richness of Christian history and the varied experiences of the grace of God by lifting up the lives of the saints – those who aspire to the sanctity of God whom they serve. Because the Holy Spirit dwells within them, they too are made holy. A saint, therefore, is one who reflects the blessedness of the God he or she serves: to be a saint in this sense is a sign not of perfection, but of fidelity.

We think of all the people of God, living and dead, who together form the mystical body of Christ and we name those associated with our congregation who have died since our last remembrance of the saints. We remember them in our prayers – we give thanks for their lives – we find strength in their faith and the faith of all the saints both known to us and known only to God.

**1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18**      **[NT 204]**      **Fiona**

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

### **Reading the Names**      **Fiona**

- Mary Carroll - February
- Will Stenton- February
- Hope Stenton – March

### **† Unison Prayer**      **Fiona**

**O Rock of ages, we remember with thanks the saints who have gone before. Keep alive their faith in your goodness. Keep before us their strong witness to your gospel. Having around us this cloud of witnesses – these friends in Christ – may we honour their influence by following in the footsteps of Jesus as they sought to do. Amen**

### Gathering at the Lord's Table

The table that is set, is set for all – around it there are no divisions.

**Just as one loaf is made from many grains, and as one cup is filled from the fruit of many grapes, so, we, though many, are made one in Christ, nourished by him to nourish the world.**

Jesus calls us to this table, and all are welcome here.

**Taste and see that God is good.**

*> Here, O my Lord, I see thee [verses 1, 2, 3]*

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The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Gracious and loving God, we praise and thank you, for you are the creator of all goodness and the source of abundance. In the beginning, your Spirit danced on the waters and brought us life.

In your generosity, you created a garden of delights and nourishment – you called us to live with respect in creation and to care for one another.

**You brought your people out of slavery into a land of milk and honey – flowing with streams of living water and planted with groves of olive trees.**

When we turned away from you – living in greed and violence – you sent us prophets to call us back and remind us to live for a day when no one would be hungry, and we would live together in justice and peace. Therefore, with all your faithful people from every time and place we join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise...

*O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise. And blessed is the one who comes and bears your name always!*

**Generous God, we give you thanks for Jesus, who came to live with us. We remember how he called his disciples to follow him and become fishers of all people. He told stories and taught us to pray. We thank you that he loved eating and drinking around tables where strangers became friends and where outcasts were included.**

Jesus was crucified, died, and was buried, but you raised him from the dead – and like his disciples we meet him again in the breaking of bread as we gather around his table. We remember and give you thanks, O God, that as he sat at the table with friends – sharing the fruit of the vine and the harvest of the fields – he took bread, blessed it, broke it and shared it, saying: *“Take – eat – this is my body which is for you. Do this to remember me.”*

When supper was over, he took a cup of wine and raised it, saying: *“This is God’s new covenant, made possible because of my death. Drink this all of you, to remember me.”*

...We celebrate with great joy the resurrection of Jesus, his presence with us in this feast, and his promise of a new creation as we affirm the mystery of faith:

*Sing Christ has died, and Christ is risen, Christ will come again! Sing Christ has died, and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!*

Around this table our voices fall silent as we pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine. Fill them and fill us with the abundance of Jesus. ~ **Silence** ~

**In Christ, with Christ, through Christ – by the power of the Holy Spirit – all glory is yours, now and forever and so we sing...**

*Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and amen! Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and amen!*

Sharing Bread and Wine

The one who grieved for the death of a friend, shares solidarity through this bread.



The one who is surrounded by the saints in high heaven, offers consolation in this cup.

The bread of life – the cup of grace – we remember and share with thanksgiving these gifts in which God comes to us so that we may come to God.

*Those in person have received a pre-sealed package of elements. Everyone consumes the elements together in their own space...*

#### † Prayer after Communion

Mighty God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. In gratitude for this meal, and these people with whom we have shared it, we give ourselves to you. Take us out to live as changed people in your name. We sing in prayer as Jesus taught...

> *Our Father in heaven (The Lord's Prayer – no repeats)*      **469**

#### Blessing

Jesus called us to be peacemakers. So pray for peace. Work for peace. Trust that peace is possible by God's grace. And may the peace of God which surpasses all understanding keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, and the blessing of God, Source, Saviour and Spirit of Life, be with you now and always. Amen

➤      *May the God of hope go with us every day*      **726**