

Welcome / Announcements / 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.

➤ *For mornings bright (verses 1 and 4)*

Call to Worship

Long ago God called us to the mountain,  
to beat swords into ploughshares and spears into pruning hooks.

**Long ago God called us to the mountain,  
to receive the gift of commandments and become a servant community.**

Long ago God called us to the mountain,  
to see what we could become with God's power shining through us.

**God is calling us again – come, let us meet with God!**

† Gathering Prayer and Words of Hope

God of grace and wonder, you reveal your presence in so many different ways. Your glory glistens on snowy mountain tops and sparkling streams. Your mercy moves in classroom conversations and bedside prayers. Your word of comfort frees us from fear - your voice can transform our doubts. We come before you in worship to dwell in your goodness and seek your truth, as we offer all praise and honour to you.

God of mystery and mercy, we confess we sometimes mistake our own desires for your will. We are reluctant to hear a word that challenges our assumptions. We seek assurances that we are right, and resist insights from the experience of others. Forgive our shallow ways O God. Help us to find you wherever you choose to dwell, and to serve wherever you whose to send us. **Amen**

Just as Jesus was transfigured in front of the disciples, we are transformed in the presence of Jesus. He tells us to get up without fear – we are forgiven and set free. Thanks be to God!

† Prayer for Understanding

**God of Word and Wisdom, surround us with your gathering Spirit as we listen for your guiding voice in scripture this morning. Give us fresh understanding and a vision of how to live out your wisdom in the world. Amen**

Scripture    **Exodus 24: 12-18**    [OT 70]

The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction."

So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

**Matthew 17: 1-9**    [NT 18]

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves.

And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"

When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."

And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

### Message

I was flipping through the Lenten Devotional from St Andrews Hall last week and came upon a short reflection based on our reading of the Transfiguration story from Matthew's gospel offered by the Rev. Dr. Jean Morris. She focuses on the line: *"This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him"* because it is spoken, not only here in the middle of the gospel when the glory and mystery of God in Christ is revealed on the mountaintop, but because these are also the words spoken at Jesus' baptism.

Jean says that her favourite part of ministry is the Sacrament of Baptism. She continues...

*The babies are precious, the parents full of hope, and the congregation is delighted. But her favourite part is when she says to the congregation, "Remember your baptism and give thanks."*

*Remember that you are a beloved child of God, called, blessed, and assured of the grace, love, and communion of God, no matter what. With the baby in her arms having just received the sign of the promises of God, she see the faces of those who need to be reminded that they have received them, too. In the middle of the tumble of life and faith... remember your baptism. Remember the steadfast promises of God for you now.*

These are also words that I invoked not that long ago as we received new members as part of our congregation. They are a reminder that the promises of God are not just at the beginning of our journey when things are fresh and new. We know the promises of God in the midst of life when pressure is mounting, when the future is unclear, when suffering is at hand, just as it was for Jesus.

I found Jean's insight helpful for me at this time in my life, in my ministry, in our life together as a congregation. God comes to us in the midst of our lives reminding us to trust and listen to Jesus. This is not only when we are feeling strong and vital at the cusp of some new adventure but also as we struggle to discern a path through *Mirkwood* when we are depleted and fragile.

Some of you will recall that I took sailing lessons several years ago – twelve to be exact though that hardly seems possible! Turns out it wasn't the sport for me but I don't regret a moment of it. One day was particularly challenging as I went for the lesson overtired and anxious about work that was incomplete. It was not a calm day. It was blustery and may have even been raining. I was not feeling confident as we headed out and my feet were cold and wet – not good. Eventually I ended up in the support boat which I thought would be more relaxing – an opportunity to develop a deeper sense of security on the water. It was not to be however as two teams capsized and we needed to rush to assist!

Eventually we had all the salty sisters safe and warm, debriefing over lunch after helping to take down the rigging from one of the capsized boats, hanging sails to dry in the shed, getting towels, sharing warm clothes, etc. There was conversation about how they had capsized and each person's perspective on the event. I remember standing beside one woman for a time – holding her until her shaking subsided. Crazy since I had arrive that day feeling depleted and fragile – unsure that I whether I was going to be the weakest link that day. In the moment I knew I was where I needed to be – where God hoped I would be. I knew that I had been helpful – that despite my anxiety about some things, about others I was calm and confident and reassuring because I knew God was with me. I could remember my baptism and give thanks for God's reassuring promises of our loving God.

Just as the transfiguration of Jesus is a moment when his divinity is revealed in a powerful and mysterious way, we too are blessed to experience the divine presence of God in ways that stretch, challenge, surprise and overwhelm us. We never know when we will be invited to offer the saltiness of our faith in this broken world, but we can be confident that God provides – comes to us wherever we are reminding us to trust and listen to Jesus. *Remember your baptism. Remember the steadfast promises of God for you now. Amen*

➤ *Shadow and Substance*

Offering and Prayer     *Praise God from whom all blessings flow*     306

God reached out to the world in Christ Jesus, calling us to share God's transforming love. We offer our gifts as a sign of our readiness to follow him, praying they will become tangible tokens of that transforming love.

**God of love that transforms lives, we offer our gifts in gratitude for all we have received in Christ. Take our gifts and transform them into acts of love that will bless the world in Jesus' name. Amen**

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Call to Order

Recording Secretary

Adoption of Minutes: **13 March 2022** and **14 August 2022**

Business Arising from Minutes

Presentation of Ministries

Do you know who...?

*Presbyterians Sharing Thank You Video*

Finance

~ Auditors Reports 2019, 2020 and 2021

~ Presentation of 2023 Budget

~ Declaration of Trust (Trust Deed) - update

~ Treasurer, Auditor, Trustees and Signing Officers

New Business – congregational meeting in March to review financial statements for 2022.

Courtesies

Adjournment

† Pastoral Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

Loving and ever living God, we praise you for the power and the grace that you pour out on and through your people. While your Spirit knows no boundaries, your care no borders – you keep your promises and attend to those who call upon you in faith and in truth. We thank you O God, that when we are not able – you are. We thank you for sending us helpers, for giving us siblings in Christ, for making us a part of a community of care – a part of your church, your people – so that what we lack, others may make up – and what they lack, we may provide according the riches of your grace.

Caring and merciful God, we thank you for the faith of others when our faith is low – for the love of others when we cannot marshal the strength to be loving – for the work of others when we cannot work ourselves. May we be faithful, loving and diligent for our friends in Christ and for the least of those among us. Help us to remember that we are not alone – that you work your will among us and through us all.

Gracious God, we thank you for this church and its people down through the ages, people who have sought to follow in your footsteps and to make your love and justice known in the world. We are thankful that you are with us – guiding and giving us courage when we look at the work and witness of Knox Church during the past year and as we dream towards the future. Help us to be open to your will and your mission so that others may know of your love and faithfulness in their lives. We have been blessed by your presence in our deliberations, in our lives and in the world that you have made. Through differences of opinion, your Spirit speaks to us and helps us to clarify our work and your vision for us as a church.

Merciful God, fill us with your Holy Spirit that we may show your love to others even as we pray for the poor, the homeless, the hungry – those who mourn and are alone – the powerless and the oppressed in all nations – all who need our ministries as your servants...

Bless our lives O God and bless this community of faith. We pray together in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord... ***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 our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen***

➤ ***Deep in our hearts***

### Blessing

We have witnessed Christ, God's Beloved, on the mountain in glory. Now, go into the world to shine the light of his glory with grace and compassion. May God's beauty inspire you – Christ's brilliance restore you – and the joy of the divine Spirit empower you to shine in every place you go. Amen

➤ ***We are marching (repeat)***

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