

Knox Presbyterian Church Service Outline

22 June 2025: National Indigenous Peoples/Refugees Day

Minister: Christopher Stanford-Beck

Music: Connie Dunwoody

Elder: Lilian Sutherland

Reader: Mary Dimech

Welcome/Announcements/Land Acknowledgement (Lilian Sutherland)

As followers of Jesus, we are compelled to act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with God. It is our love of God and neighbour that leads us to acknowledge the land where we gather. We honour God with gratitude for this land and the peoples who have fished, hunted, harvested and gathered here for generations. This is the Coast Salish Territory of Lkwungen people – the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ. It is traditional and unceded land. We pray that past and present injustices can be reconciled as we commit ourselves to just and respectful relationships.

□ *Come Holy Spirit*

Call to Worship

We come to worship God,

For God is just and compassionate. God is Love.

Where will we find our God?

God is among the hungry and thirsty,

in the face of a stranger, reaching out to us.

God is in the silence after the storms.

Let us seek God so that we can serve God.

Let us worship God and seek God's healing, reconciling Grace.

□ *#434 For the Beauty of the Earth*

□ Gathering Prayer

Creator God, you have made a world of such amazing diversity—with unique living things we cannot number, in an interdependent pattern on which all life depends. We praise you for such wonder. You have created such amazing diversity in humankind—through culture and language, custom and community, expressed in creativity and compassion over and over again. We praise you for such wonder. In Jesus Christ, you show us how much you love your creation and how we can live by your love. By the power of your Spirit, give us new eyes to behold the wonders you have made and teach us how to share in the praise your creation offers you each day.

Creator God, the diversity in your creation amazes us, but we confess we prefer what seems familiar. We'd like everyone to speak our language. We wish others held our values and shared our customs. We don't understand discrimination that hurts others. We don't recognize how our own preferences affect other people in harmful ways. Forgive our familiar assumptions, and open our minds and hearts to the stories of

others and the cries of suffering throughout the earth, as we pray together as Jesus taught us, saying...

□ The Lord's Prayer

... 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, for ever. Amen

□ Words of Hope

The Apostle Paul writes that in Jesus Christ we are all children of God through faith. Since we have been baptized into Christ, we have clothed ourselves with Christ, and we are all one in Jesus Christ. Therefore, be at peace with one another, be at peace with yourselves, and be at peace with God. Amen.

🔍 # 736 *For the Healing of the Nations*

□ Prayer for Understanding (Mary Dimech)

God of wisdom and hope, your Word has offered guidance and healing throughout many generations. Send us your Spirit now, that as we listen to the stories of your people we may find wisdom and hope, guidance and healing through your Living Word, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture

1 Kings 19:1-15A (OT 326)

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. ² Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, "So may the gods do to me and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow." ³ Then he was afraid;^[a] he got up and fled for his life and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there.

⁴ But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die, "It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors."

⁵ Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, "Get up and eat." ⁶ He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones and a jar of water. He ate and drank and lay down again. ⁷ The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you."

⁸ He got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. ⁹ At that place he came to a cave and spent the night there.

Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, "What are you doing here, Elijah?" ¹⁰ He answered, "I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have

forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.”

¹¹ He said, “Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.” Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind, and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake, ¹² and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire, and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. ¹³ When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” ¹⁴ He answered, “I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts, for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.” ¹⁵ Then the LORD said to him, “Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.

Psalm 42 (OT 515)

¹ As a deer longs for flowing streams,
so my soul longs for you, O God.

² My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God.
When shall I come and behold
the face of God?

³ My tears have been my food
day and night,
while people say to me continually,
“Where is your God?”

⁴ These things I remember,
as I pour out my soul:
how I went with the throng^[a]
and led them in procession to the house of God,
with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving,
a multitude keeping festival.

⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God, for I shall again praise him,
my help ⁶ and my God.

My soul is cast down within me;
therefore I remember you
from the land of Jordan and of Hermon,
from Mount Mizar.

⁷ Deep calls to deep
at the thunder of your torrents;
all your waves and your billows
have gone over me.

⁸ By day the LORD commands his steadfast love,
and at night his song is with me,
a prayer to the God of my life.

⁹ I say to God, my rock,
“Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because the enemy oppresses me?”

¹⁰ As with a deadly wound in my body,
my adversaries taunt me,
while they say to me continually,
“Where is your God?”

¹¹ Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God, for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

Psalm 43 (OT 515)

Vindicate me, O God, and defend my cause
against an ungodly people;
from those who are deceitful and unjust,
deliver me!

² For you are the God in whom I take refuge;
why have you cast me off?
Why must I walk about mournfully
because of the oppression of the enemy?

³ O send out your light and your truth;
let them lead me;
let them bring me to your holy hill
and to your dwelling.

⁴ Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God my exceeding joy,
and I will praise you with the harp,
O God, my God.

⁵ Why are you cast down, O my soul,
and why are you disquieted within me?
Hope in God, for I shall again praise him,
my help and my God.

Galatians 3:23-29 (NT 189)

²³ Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. ²⁴ Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be reckoned as righteous^[a] by faith. ²⁵ But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, ²⁶ for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. ²⁷ As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Greek; there is no longer slave or free; there is no longer male and female, for all of you are

one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, ^[b] heirs according to the promise.

Luke 8:26-39 (NT 68)

²⁶ Then they arrived at the region of the Gerasenes, ^[a] which is opposite Galilee. ²⁷ As he stepped out on shore, a man from the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had not worn ^[b] any clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. ²⁸ When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, shouting, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me," ²⁹ for Jesus ^[c] had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) ³⁰ Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" He said, "Legion," for many demons had entered him. ³¹ They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

³² Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding, and the demons ^[d] begged Jesus ^[e] to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. ³³ Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd stampeded down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

³⁴ When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. ³⁵ Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they became frightened. ³⁶ Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. ³⁷ Then the whole throng of people of the surrounding region of the Gerasenes ^[f] asked Jesus ^[g] to leave them, for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. ³⁸ The man from whom the demons had gone out begged that he might be with him, but Jesus ^[h] sent him away, saying, ³⁹ "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

Let us hear what the spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God!**

Message

 **#540** **One Bread One Body**

Note: The offering is collected at the door as people enter and brought forward during the singing of the doxology. It is placed by the brass cross to the side of the pulpit.

☐ Offering Words

The Holy Spirit equips us to bring healing and hope to the world God so loves. The gifts we offer God are tangible signs of that healing and hope at work in us and through us, for the sake of Christ Jesus.

☐ **#306** **Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

□ Prayer of Dedication

Loving God, accept the gifts we offer you, today and every day. Put our time, talent, and treasure to good use wherever they are needed, in service to you and for the healing of your world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

□ Pastoral Prayers

O God, early in the morning we cry to you. Help us to pray and to concentrate our thoughts on you: we cannot do this alone. In us there is darkness, but with you there is light; we are lonely, but you do not leave us; we are feeble in heart, but with you there is help; we are restless, but with you there is peace. In us there is bitterness, but with you there is patience. We do not understand your ways, but you know the way for us. Restore us to liberty, and enable us so to live now that we may answer before you and before ourselves. Lord, whatever this day may bring, your name be praised.¹

God of the earth and all its peoples, in Jesus Christ you proclaimed the Good News, that true life and peace are found in you. Guide your church to proclaim this Good News in ways that bring Christ's reconciling love to divided communities and to lives out of joint with each other, ruffling the feathers that need to be ruffled. Shine your light into the world's hidden corners, exposing violence, greed, and exploitation. Reveal what dehumanizes the vulnerable and degrades your creation. Bless us to serve you in your world through our words and actions, and give us the strength to heal the world in your name.

God of healing and hope, we pray for the anxious or discouraged, for those facing death or the loss of someone dearly beloved, for all those who are ill or in pain, and for those struggling to make ends meet...

In the silence now, we pray for those concerns closest to our own hearts, knowing that you bear our burdens alongside us, and that you hear our prayers...

God our defender, storms rage about us and cause us to be afraid. Rescue your people from despair, deliver your children from fear, and preserve us all from unbelief, that we may live out your love in the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.²

❓ **#461** ***Be Thou My Vision***

Blessing

May we leave this place with hearts full and hands ready to do the good work that God sets before us. May we serve the One who is Love through by bringing healing and hope to people and places around us, both near and far, human and other-than-human. Comforted by God's presence, emboldened by Christ's love, and guided by the Holy Spirit, we give thanks through our lives well-lived, this day and forever more. Amen.

¹ Bonhoeffer, Dietrich. *The Little Book of Prayers*, edited by David Schiller, Workman Publishing, 1996, pp. 258–259.

² Adapted from the Anglican Church of Canada Collect for the day:
<https://lectionary.anglican.ca/nrsv/?date=2025-06-22>

For Citizenship

In these times when anger
Is turned into anxiety
And someone has stolen
The horizons and mountains,

Our small emperors on parade
Never expect our indifference
To disturb their nakedness.

They keep their heads down
And their eyes gleam with reflection
From aluminum economic ground,

The media wraps everything
In a cellophane of sound,
And the ghost surface of the virtual
Overlays the breathing earth.

The industry of distraction
Makes us forget
That we live in a universe.

We have become converts
To the religion of stress
And its deity of progress;

That we may have courage
To turn aside from it all

And come to kneel down before the poor,
To discover what we must do,
How to turn anxiety back into anger,
How to find our way home.³

³ O'Donohue, John. "For Citizenship." *To Bless the Space Between Us*, Doubleday, 2008, pp. 149–150.