

Knox Service Outline

09/14/25

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: Pastor James Prette

Music: Connie Dunwoody

Elder: Fiona Gow

Reader: Heather Anderson

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements/Land Acknowledgement - Unison Elder

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 that we gather with gratitude on the traditional and unceded Coast Salish Territory of Lkwungen people. We pray that past and present injustices can be reconciled as we commit ourselves again to just and respectful relationships.

Gathering Song: Come, now is the time to worship

Call to Worship - Responsive

Pastor

The foolish say, "There is no God! We are alone, on our own."

We gather to declare the glory of God in our lives.

The foolish say, "It is your life; you are accountable to no one."

We gather, strengthened by the Spirit, trusting that Christ dwells in our hearts.

The foolish say, "Everything I have is mine; I owe nothing to any one."

We gather to praise the One who calls us to serve others in love.

First Hymn: 350 - To God Be The Glory

Gathering Prayer

Pastor

Storytelling God, we gather in your presence this day, called by the stories of your people over the centuries. You are the source of wisdom we seek, Your mercy eases the troubles that stir our hearts. And we come to praise you, for your stories have the power to challenge us and change us. Draw near to us as we draw near to you this day. Tell us the stories that will change our lives, through the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Second Hymn: 290 - Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Verses 1, 3, 4

Prayer for Understanding - Unison

Reader

God of grace and mercy, we thank you for disregarding our foolishness and teaching us your holy wisdom. Instill in us the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus, who rejoices whenever what was lost is found. Amen.

First Scripture: Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 [OT 702]

Reader

At that time it will be said to this people and to Jerusalem: A hot wind comes from me out of the bare heights^[a] in the desert toward the daughter of my people, not to winnow or cleanse, ¹² a wind too strong for that. Now it is I who speak in judgment against them.

“For my people are foolish;
they do not know me;
they are stupid children;
they have no understanding.
They are skilled in doing evil
but do not know how to do good.”

²³ I looked on the earth, and it was complete chaos,
and to the heavens, and they had no light.

²⁴ I looked on the mountains, and they were quaking,
and all the hills moved to and fro.

²⁵ I looked, and there was no one at all,
and all the birds of the air had fled.

²⁶ I looked, and the fruitful land was a desert,
and all its cities were laid in ruins
before the LORD, before his fierce anger.

²⁷ For thus says the LORD: The whole land shall be a desolation, yet I will not make a full end.

²⁸ Because of this the earth shall mourn
and the heavens above grow black,

for I have spoken; I have purposed;
I have not relented, nor will I turn back.

Second Scripture: 1 Tim. 1:12-17 [NT 208]

Reader

I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, ¹³ even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, ¹⁴ and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me^[a] with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁵ The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. ¹⁶ But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. ¹⁷ To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible,^[b] the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever.^[c] Amen.

Scripture Response

Reader

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

Sermon: “Being found, welcomed, and celebrated.”

Pastor

Third Hymn: 410 - Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee

Verses 1, 2, 4

Offering and Prayer

Pastor

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Offering Song: 306 - Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Prayer of Dedication - Unison

Pastor

God, you have found us, and welcomed us, and you celebrate our engagement in your mission. Receive these gifts as signs of our gratitude. Use them—and us—for your work of love in the world. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Pastoral Prayers - Responsive

Pastor

Ever seeking God, we come before you in prayer, for you have sought us out and claimed us as your own. Thank you for showing us how we are precious to you through the life and love of Jesus Christ. In our prayers we name before you other precious souls and situations. With your Spirit, seek them out.

God of mercy,

Draw near to all who need you.

We pray for those who feel lost in life: those who are frightened or anxious, those who are struggling with addiction or mental illness, and those who are lonely or despairing:

(Moment of silence.)

May your reassurance and comfort find them.

God of mercy,

Draw near to all who need you.

We pray for those who are lost: for those separated from their families by conflict or distance, for those whose relationship with the church is broken or forgotten, and for those who have given up on the future in despair.

(Moment of silence.)

May your healing and mercy find them.

God of mercy,

Draw near to all who need you.

We pray for those who feel forgotten: for those who think that they are worthless or unloved, for those who believe that their sins are too great to forgive, and for those who are convinced that not even God can love them.

(Moment of silence.)

May your love and grace find them.

God of mercy,

Draw near to all who need you.

Ever seeking God, you keep searching for wandering sheep and lost coins, lives of all who are precious to you. Thank you for your attentive love and your patient compassion for us all. May we rejoice with you when any lost soul is embraced, and never substitute our judgment of them for yours. Make us servants of the mercy we meet in Jesus Christ

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor

There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. Let the sound of our confession cause celebration in heaven. Create in us clean hearts, O God, cast out any transgression you find there — ransack, renovate, redecorate! Deep in our hearts, remove fearful features and restore your original design. The old lamps are dim; bring new light into the darkness. Make your dwelling place deep in our hearts, and teach us wisdom, so the hearts you transform may rejoice.

The Lord's Prayer - Unison

Pastor

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

Fourth Hymn: 304 - Great is Thy Faithfulness

Blessing

Pastor

Go in joy, knowing God rejoices over you; and care for others, knowing God rejoices over them, too! And may the blessing of the God who made us, the Christ who mends us, and the Spirit who gives us life be with you now and always. Amen

Dispersal Song: 622 - Go now in peace

Postlude