

Knox Service Outline

10/19/25

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: James Prette

Music: Carolyn Hoekstra

Elder: Martha Anderson

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: Lord, Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary

Repeat Twice

Psalm Reading: Psalm 121

Pastor

I lift up my eyes to the hills - from where will my help come? My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Call to Worship Prayer (Responsive)

Pastor

God promises us justice,

and teaches us persistence.

God promises us compassion,

and teaches us not to lose heart.

God promises to be with us

and teaches us to tend to each other.

So let us worship our God of comfort and challenge,

We will offer prayers and praise to our God of hope and healing.

First Hymn: How Firm A Foundation #685

Gathering Prayer

Pastor

Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit, you breathe life into all things and nourish your whole creation. You are a rock and refuge for your people, for you are trustworthy in all things. Your desire for peace with justice can never be defeated. You alone can bring life out of death, and restore wholeness to broken lives, so we praise you and rejoice in the hope you offer. For your love is the power at work in every situation, seeking goodness and revealing truth, a love that will never let us go. In our time of worship, we offer you our love and loyalty through Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

Second Hymn: Thy Word is a Light Unto My Path #496

Prayer for Understanding (Unison)

Reader

Inspiring God, by your Spirit, open our minds and hearts to receive your Word for today, whether it challenges or comforts us, so that we may live more faithfully as we follow Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34 (OT 731)

Reader

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

New Testament Reading: 2 Timothy 3:14-17 (NT 208)

Reader

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

Scripture Response

Reader

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Luke 18:1-8 “Persistence”

Pastor

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’ For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’” And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Third Hymn: Be Still My Soul #749

Offering and Prayer

Pastor

Like the widow at the judge’s bench, God persists in asking for our response to needs we might think are beyond us. Trust that God will bless what we offer and do surprising things with us, for us and through us, through Christ, our Living Lord.

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

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Pastor

God of the great and the small, we bring what we have to share, the fruit of our lives. Bless our gifts and our lives so that generosity and justice will join hands to surprise the world with your goodness in Jesus' name.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Pastor

God of our hopes and our hearts, You provide the gift of faith but we lose heart quickly. Troubles weaken our trust and disappointments eat away at our commitment. Forgive us and create in us clean hearts and in your love, give us peace and perseverance. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor

Remember, the promise of the Apostle Paul declares: What will separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship? Distress? Peril or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through the God who loves us. Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Let us rejoice that, no matter what is happening around us, no matter what we have done, God's deep love will never let us go.

Pastoral Prayers (Responsive)

Pastor

God of life, You open our eyes on the world you love and show us your presence and your purpose. We see the beauty and wonder throughout creation and feel the love and compassion you offer through friend and stranger. For all these gifts we give you thanks. We pray for those who cannot recognize these gifts in their lives. Open their eyes to your presence and our companionship so that they may know your steadfast love.

God who listens, hear our prayer,
and in your mercy, answer.

God of justice, You open our eyes on the world and its anxiety and show us struggle and conflict. We see the burdens many carry in these stressful times. Today we pray for those whose businesses are struggling; for producers unsure they will receive a fair return; for workers uncertain about their job prospects; and for families weighed down by rising costs. Open their eyes to new possibilities and open our eyes to ways we can support them.

God who listens, hear our prayer,
and in your mercy, answer.

God of compassion, You open our eyes on the world in pain and show us suffering and despair. We pray for communities struggling with chronic hunger, and for all who face difficult diagnoses or painful illness. *(Keep silent for 15 seconds.)* Open their eyes to your mercy and open our eyes to ways we can offer support.

God who listens, hear our prayer,
and in your mercy, answer.

God of wisdom, You open our eyes on the world out of balance and show us its many complexities. We see old animosities and fresh upheavals that put innocent lives at risk. We pray for the millions displaced by current conflicts and natural disasters, and pray that leaders in every country and community will attend to the suffering of their people with mercy and justice. Equip all those who prepare for ministry in our Colleges with the knowledge and commitment needed to serve in complicated times. Open all our eyes to creative solutions for situations that break your heart and ours.

God who listens, hear our prayer,
and in your mercy, answer.

And so, we pray that your kingdom will come among us, in the words Jesus taught us ...

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: Blessed Assurance #687

Blessing

Pastor

In these complicated days, do not lose heart. Persevere with purpose and patience, sure that God honours your faithfulness. And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Dispersal Song: May the God of hope go with us every day Repeat Once

Postlude