

Knox Service Outline

10/26/25

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: James Prette

Music: Connie Dunwoody

Elder: Martha Anderson

Reader: Dennis Sutherland

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 84

Pastor

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God. Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow, a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise. *Selah*. Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools. They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion. O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob! *Selah*. Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed. For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness. For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Call to Worship Prayer (Responsive)

Pastor

From the routines of work and school, home and play,

we have come to worship God.

With the weight of the world heavy on our hearts,

we have come to worship God.

In the midst of our fears and our hopes,

we offer our prayer and praise in Jesus' name.

For we trust in God's power and presence,

so let us worship God with heart, mind, soul and strength.

First Hymn: 384 Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken

Gathering Prayer

Pastor

Creating God, the mountains you raised reflect your strength and majesty. Sunrise and sunset frame the day with your light and joy. Fields bursting with grain and trees coloured with autumn glory sing of your steadfast love. Pictures from the depth of space give a glimpse of your infinity, yet in Christ you have walked the humble earth. You alone are worthy of our praise. You alone give us hope. Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of Life, we praise you, and join our voices to those of every precious thing to wonder at your mystery and majesty.

Second Hymn: 400 Spirit of the Living God

Prayer for Understanding (Unison)

Reader

God of all truth, when we think that we have life all figured out, hold up the mirror of your Word so that we can see our own foolishness. If we think we are beyond forgiveness, reflect to us your Word of mercy and love, offered to us through Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 14:17-20 (OT 716)

Reader

You shall say to them this word: Let my eyes run down with tears night and day, and let them not cease, for the virgin daughter of my people is struck down with a crushing blow, with a very grievous wound. If I go out into the field, look—those killed by the sword! And if I enter the city, look—those sick with famine! For both prophet and priest ply their trade throughout the land and have no knowledge. Have you completely rejected Judah? Does your heart loathe Zion? Why have you struck us down so that there is no healing for us?

We look for peace but find no good, for a time of healing, but there is terror instead. We acknowledge our wickedness, O LORD, the iniquity of our ancestors, for we have sinned against you.

New Testament Reading: 2 Timothy 4:18 (NT 213)

Reader

The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Response

Reader

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Luke 18:9-14: Who is “right”?

Pastor

He also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other, for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

Third Hymn: 670 Amazing Grace

Offering and Prayer

Pastor

Sometimes we think what we have to offer doesn't matter. Somebody else has more to share. But God knows the value of a few loaves and fishes shared, a lost coin claimed, one tiny seed planted from which a tree grows. Trust God with what you have to offer and see what God can do.

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

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor

Good and generous God, receive our humble gifts, offered in hope and gratitude. Make something of them, and of us, so that the world will be surprised by your love and what we can offer them in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Pastor

Merciful God, You created human beings with gifts of intelligence and imagination. Yet we confess we often use these gifts to exploit your creation and put others in their place. So often we think that we are great when we are small. Or we claim smallness when you set a challenge before us. We convince ourselves that our sin is not nearly as great as others, yet, every sin offends your purpose for us. Forgive us, we pray, and grant us a truer picture of ourselves. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor

Friends in Christ, God is gracious. Christ has promised that those who humble themselves will be exalted. Having confessed our sin, let us trust the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

Pastoral Prayers (Responsive)

Pastor

Just and merciful God, we lift our eyes to you in hope and gratitude. When the world around us seems troubling, we are grateful for your steadfast love. Thank you for your Spirit at work in all times and places, calling out the best in your people, showing us when we must repent, opening paths to reconciliation where we have offended. With the humility of the tax collector in Jesus' story, may we seek your justice and know your mercy.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for justice for the earth: Protect those creatures and habitats that our way of life is threatening. Protect those communities and island nations most at risk from climate change. Open our eyes to see how we can live more responsibly and change our hearts to know we must. *(Hold a few seconds of silence.)*

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for justice among the nations: Create more generous sharing of resources between countries with good harvests and those depleted by famine. Where resources are extracted for export, protect brave advocates for fair wages and environmental protection. And where there is aggression and intimidation between nations, raise up the willingness to make peace and settle differences fairly. *(Hold a few seconds of silence.)*

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for justice in our court systems: Guide those who judge and defend to serve with integrity, that those who are accused may receive fair trials, and that those who have been wronged or harmed are restored to fullness of life. Grant those who are convicted humane treatment so that your Spirit may lead them to rehabilitated potential. *(Hold a few seconds of silence.)*

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

We pray for justice in the work place: May those who work for others be treated with dignity and earn a fair wage. May all who create that work earn a fair return. Create equity and respect between those of different backgrounds and identities and guide young people to opportunities to develop their gifts. *(Hold a few seconds of silence.)*

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

God, we all need some kind of healing in our lives: We remember before you those struggling with illness of body, mind or spirit, those waiting for diagnosis or treatment, and all whose health challenges are invisible to others. *(Keep silence for 15 – 20 seconds)*

Your Spirit prays within us, O God, even when we cannot find the right words, so hear us this day, and answer us in ways that encourage our faith and change the world for the good, for the sake of Jesus Christ who taught us this prayer ...

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: 352 And Can it Be

Blessing

Pastor

Go in humble confidence, trusting in God's love for you, yet sure you have still more to learn and to give. And may grace, mercy and peace from God who creates, redeems and saves us be with you all, now and always. Amen.

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

Repeat Twice

Postlude