

Knox Service Outline

11/23/25

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: James Prette

Music: Carolyn Hoekstra

Elder: Ursula Crockett

Reader: Fiona Gow

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: 119 Hope is a Star

Psalm Reading: Psalm 46

Pastor

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change, though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble with its tumult. *Selah*

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High. God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved; God will help it when the morning dawns. The nations are in an uproar; the kingdoms totter; he utters his voice; the earth melts. The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

Come, behold the works of the LORD; see what desolations he has brought on the earth. He makes wars cease to the end of the earth; he breaks the bow and shatters the spear; he burns the shields with fire. "Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations; I am exalted in the earth." The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge. *Selah*

Call to Worship Prayer (Responsive)

Pastor

Say among the nations, The Lord reigns.

Let the heavens be glad and the earth rejoice!

God comes to judge the earth.

God will judge the world with righteousness and the people with truth.

Come, let us worship God in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Blessing and honour, glory and power be to our God now and always.

First Hymn: 299 Holy Holy Holy

Gathering Prayer

Pastor

God of majesty and mercy, Three in One and One in Three, we give you thanks and praise for your commitment to your creation. In Christ, you have turned the world upside down, revealing your strength through weakness, and your power through compassion. In the cross of Christ you taught us that no hopeless situation or frightening possibility is beyond your reach. We praise you for your love at work around us and within us, always able to do more than we can ask or even imagine. Receive our love and our loyalty this day, our Sovereign and our Saviour. Amen.

Second Hymn: 389 Breath on Me Breath of God

Prayer for Understanding (Unison)

Reader

God of truth and justice, send us your Holy Spirit as we hear the Scriptures read and interpreted. Through your Word, grant that we might see your truth and justice unfolding in the world you love. Amen

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 23:5-6

Reader

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

New Testament Reading: Colossians 1:11-20

Reader

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

Scripture Response

Reader

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Luke 1:68-79 “Preparing for Advent”

Pastor

“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for he has looked favorably on his people and redeemed them. He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of his child David, as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old, that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us. Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors and has remembered his holy covenant, the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham, to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness in his presence all our days. And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins. Because of the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Third Hymn: 794 Abide with Me

Offering and Prayer

Pastor

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

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor

Merciful God, you envision a world where the hungry are fed and strangers are welcomed. We bring you our gifts to share in that vision. With your blessing, may our gifts bear fruit in Christ’s name, and offer his blessing to those we serve for his sake. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Pastor

God of wisdom and warning, we confess that we often prefer our own plans to your purposes. We shrink from acts of service that seem too demanding. Forgive us when our commitment wavers and we think someone else will take up the challenges we face. Inspire us with the example of Jesus, and energize us with your Spirit to follow him as our Shepherd, wherever he leads. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor

Christ embodied God’s love and mercy so powerfully that he offered forgiveness to his tormentors from the cross. In grace he reaches out to us, too. Receive his forgiveness this day, and offer it to others for his sake.

Pastoral Prayers (Responsive)

Pastor

Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks that you reign through love as the power that embraces the world with mercy and hope. Thank you for revealing that to trust is wisdom, to forgive is the best way to deal with enemies, and to serve is the best way to lead. We pray that, through the grace of your kingdom, each beloved creature and citizen will know safety and satisfaction in their homes. Let the vision of your peaceable kingdom take root in our hearts, bringing healing to families and communities, and in every place wounded by violence or destruction.

*Jesus, Prince of Peace,
reign in us and among us.*

Lord Jesus Christ, We give you thanks for reaching out to those on the margins and those others shunned, so that each one knew they belonged in your kingdom. We pray for those who face discrimination or insecurity in our communities, longing for respect and a chance to thrive. Teach us how to live differently as neighbours, to acknowledge and work with others we've never worked with before. Lead us by your Spirit to share in your work of mending the world.

*Jesus, Prince of Peace,
reign in us and among us.*

Lord Jesus Christ, Thank you for enduring the pain of the cross and the darkness of the tomb to show us there is life beyond death through your resurrecting love. We pray for those who are grieving a loss this day, the loss of someone beloved, the loss of love or hope or trust, the loss of opportunity or security or future plans.

(Keep silence)

Be present with all who experience the sadness and disruption of a loss, and bring each one comfort and courage.

*Jesus, Prince of Peace,
reign in us and among us.*

Lord Jesus Christ, This day we pray for your church at work in the world, confronting the challenges and changes of these times. Unite us in witness and service, and encourage us when difficulties arise, for we are your people, committed to the unfolding of your reign among us, as we pray the words you taught us

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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: 662 Those Who Wait on the Lord

Blessing

Pastor

Dispersal Song: PCU 314 Longing for the Light

Postlude