

Knox Service Outline - Advent 1

11/30/25

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: Kathleen Busch

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: 119 Hope is a star (verse 1)

Lighting the Advent Candle: Hope (Responsive)

Pastor

Today we light the first candle of Advent — the Candle of Hope. Advent begins not in brightness and celebration, but in longing and darkness. Before the manger, there is midnight. Before angels sing, shepherds keep watch. Before *joy to the world*, there is *the people walking in darkness*. “The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness, a light has dawned.” That’s where Advent begins — not with certainty, but with hope daring to flicker in the dark.

(The candle of hope is lit.)

Let us pray together:

Living God, make us more aware of your presence. We trust your promises and wait with hopeful hearts. Come, Lord Jesus.

First Hymn: 687 Blessed Assurance

Gathering Prayer

Pastor

Almighty and everlasting God, You hold all our days in your hands, and embrace us in your everlasting arms. In a tired and violent world, you are hope. In a hectic and busy world, you are peace. In a hurting world, you are comfort. In Jesus Christ, you bring love into this world, and call us to embody his love in all we do and say. In our worship this day, we offer you our love and loyalty, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit. Make us one in worship and service, so that the world will see your hope at work in us and through us, making all things new. Amen

Second Hymn: 114 Emmanuel

Solo: Valerie

Prayer for Understanding (Unison)

Reader

God of hope and healing, we turn to your Word to hear your will and your wisdom for our times. Open our hearts and minds by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit so that we might hear what you are saying to the church through Christ, your Living Word.

Scripture Reading 1: Isaiah 9:2-7

Reader

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Great will be his authority, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

Scripture Reading 2: John 1:1-5

Reader

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

Scripture Response

Reader

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon

Pastor

Third Hymn: 773 Jesus bids us to Shine

Offering and Prayer

Pastor

This Sunday we celebrate the Advent of Hope, coming to us in Jesus Christ. Think of your gifts as seeds of that hope that we can plant in the world God loves for Christ's sake.

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

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor

God, our hope and our help, receive our gifts as seeds of gratitude for your gift to us in Christ Jesus. Bless these seeds with growth so that hope will sprout in people who struggle with despair, and places trying to rebuild after devastating loss. Be their hope and their help, through Christ our Lord.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Pastor

God of hope, we confess that we often prefer to accept half-truths and pleasing ideas, rather than your challenging word. We praise our own cleverness rather than your wisdom. We have exploited others for our benefit and used the earth without a thought for its wellbeing. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct who we shall be through the mercy of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor

Receive the Good News in hope. With great mercy, God forgives what we have confessed and offers us new life in Christ. Trust in the hope that you are forgiven and that, with God, new things are possible.

Pastoral Prayers

Pastor

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: O Come, O Come Emmanuel

Blessing

Pastor

Go in hope this day, and keep awake! Watch for signs of God at work around you and within you. Look for opportunities to serve others in Jesus' name. 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. Amen.

Dispersal Song: Longing for Light (verse 1)

Postlude