

# Knox Service Outline - Advent 2

12/07/25

**Interim Moderator:** The Rev. Daniel Martinez

**Pastor:** Cathy Victor

**Music:** Connie Dunwoody

**Elder:** Anne Krauss

**Reader:** Connie Dunwoody

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## *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.

### **Celebrations, Joys & Concerns**

**Elder**

*Sung Response: God's Blessing on You*

*Gathering Song: 119 Hope is a star*

*(Verse 2)*

### **Lighting the Advent Candle: Peace (Responsive)**

**Pastor**

The psalmist dreamed of a world where leaders govern with righteousness, and the poor are treated with dignity and justice.

**In this new creation, the oppressed are set free, the vulnerable are protected and peace flows like a river.**

Today, too many experience violence, poverty and persecution. Yet, they yearn to know peace.

**We long to live in that new creation, where God's glory is revealed on earth, through justice and peace. Today, on this second Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of peace as a prayer of longing.**

*(The candle of peace is lit.)*

Let us pray together:

**Living God, help us to recognize your presence wherever people work for peace. Teach us to be instruments of your peace in the world. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**First Hymn (Advent Song): 112 Prepare the way of the Lord**

**Gathering Prayer**

**Pastor**

God of all times and places; you are holy and loving. You create pathways where there is no path, you prepare us to receive wonders beyond imagining. In every time and every place, you have raised up leaders who point to your glory and show us how to experience your nearness, perceive your greatness, and live in your hope. You have called us by name, baptized us with water and with the Holy Spirit, blessed us for abundant living, and set us in the world to serve you. We are your people, and you are our God and so we worship you as the Creating God, Loving Son, and life-giving Holy Spirit, one God, now and always. John the Baptizer called people to repent and so we come before you in repentance and seeking your grace.

We confess that we are resistant to having our hearts and minds changed by your transforming power and that we are more comfortable remaining as we are, than becoming who you would have us be. You have called us into relationship with you and into communion with all people; forgive us for the walls we build that prevent us from seeing you and each other. Forgive us for our reluctance to embrace your promise of wholeness and for not forgiving each other as we have been forgiven. Open our eyes to see what needs to change in our hearts and habits. Call us again to come to you, to be transformed by your great love and mercy. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**Words of Assurance**

Hear the Good News! Jesus Christ was sent by God into the world, not to condemn it, but in order that all people would know that there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ – not our own stubbornness, not the sins of others, not our fear of change. God comes to us with love and gives us wholeness and peace. We are forgiven! We are free! So be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

**Second Hymn: 128 There's a Voice in Wilderness crying**

**Prayer for Understanding (Unison)**

**Reader**

**God of peace and possibility, we turn to your Word to hear your will and your wisdom for our times. Open our hearts and still our minds by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit so that we might hear what you are saying to the church through Christ, our Prince of Peace.**

**Scripture Reading 1: Isaiah 11:1-10**

**Reader**

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,  
and a branch shall grow out of his roots.  
The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,  
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,  
the spirit of counsel and might,

the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.  
His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see  
or decide by what his ears hear,  
but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor  
and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;  
he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,  
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.  
Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist  
and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

The wolf shall live with the lamb;  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid;  
the calf and the lion will feed together,  
and a little child shall lead them.  
The cow and the bear shall graze;  
their young shall lie down together;  
and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.  
The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,  
and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.  
They will not hurt or destroy  
on all my holy mountain,  
for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD  
as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

**Scripture Reading 2:** Romans 15:4-13

**Reader**

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

“Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles  
and sing praises to your name”;

and again he says,

“Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people”;

and again,

“Praise the Lord, all you gentiles,  
and let all the peoples praise him”;

and again Isaiah says,

“The root of Jesse shall come,  
the one who rises to rule the gentiles;  
in him the gentiles shall hope.”

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Scripture Reading 3: Matthew 3:1-12 Unison)**

**Reader**

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”

Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

“I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

**Scripture Response**

**Reader**

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon:** What did you expect?

**Pastor**

**Third Hymn: 727 Let there be light**

**Offering and Prayer**

**Pastor**

This Sunday, we celebrate the Advent of Peace, born for us in Jesus Christ. Think of your gifts as seeds of that peace which 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 Peace and our Promise, receive our gifts as seeds of gratitude for your gift to us in Christ Jesus. Bless these seeds with growth so that peace will take root in people who face conflict and danger, and in places seeking to establish peace in the face of violence. Be their peace and their promise, through Christ our Lord.

**Apostles Creed # 539 (Unison)**

**Pastor**

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

**Fourth Hymn: 113 Comfort, comfort you my people**

**Invitation to the Table**

**Pastor**

When it is time to share in Holy Communion, you are invited to please come forward. Please hold your hand out to receive the bread. And remember that all are welcome at this table. If you are unable to come to the front, please signal an elder who will come and serve you. The bread is gluten and dairy-free. Both juice and wine are available.

God's Spirit is approaching through time, across continents, soaring over creation. God's Spirit is speaking, whispering and comforting, roaring and challenging. God's Spirit surrounds us beyond touch, warmly embracing. God's Spirit transforms us making our horizons wider, our faith stronger, our hopes possible. Here, now, God's Spirit is working. Through bread and wine, through our hands and our lips, all things are made new. And all are welcome. Come to the table, and be transformed.

That we may fulfill our Lord's intention for us, we take these natural elements of bread and wine, setting them apart from all common use, to the Holy Mystery. And as Christ gave thanks, we present to God our prayers and thanksgivings.

**Prayer of Thanksgiving (Responsive)**

**Pastor**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

Blessings be to you, Creator God, Who in the beginning brought light and life to the world and continues to bring us love and light everlasting. Your river of life carries us along. Your song of wisdom echoes through the ages. Your ancient promises still bring us hope and joy. Over the ages you have called your people to embrace your hope and share your love, but even when they have closed their ears to your song, you did not stop singing. You sent prophets and messengers to your people, reminding them of the promised time of peace and justice that would surround the world. They came in the midst of our despair and filled us with hope. And then you came to a young woman named Mary and laid out your promise in a new way; Promising her a son, who would be called Jesus; Promising her that in her son the world would be changed. And now as we prepare for that child to be born, we echo the ancient cry singing together:

*O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.*

*All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.*

*Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.*

*And blessed is the one who comes and bears your name always!*

Holy One, even now as we prepare to celebrate his birth, we remember the life that this vulnerable and fragile baby will live, beginning life in a lowly stable and pouring out his love upon all he meets. We remember how Jesus broke the bonds of human tradition to show all what the Banquet of Hope could be, as he ate openly with the despised and outcast of the world. And we remember one special meal, a foretaste of the banquet yet to come, that he ate with his closest friends, Gathering them together in an upper room to share the story of liberation and preparing them for what was to come. And so we look forward to his return and the coming reign of peace, love and justice as we sing together

*Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!*

*Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!*

Holy God, you poured out your Spirit on Mary and she sang words of defiance and hope. Pour out your Spirit upon us gathered here, that we too may respond to your labour of love. As we eat and drink, may

we know your presence. As we eat and drink, may we be open to the possibilities of your hope and power. Create new life in and among us! May we be strengthened in this time as we wait for your peace and justice. Rain your love down upon us so that we may have the courage to follow where ever you lead us. And so we sing together:

*Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and amen!*

*Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and amen!*

### **The Words of Institution**

On the night that Jesus was betrayed and arrested, he took bread, and after giving thanks to God, He broke it, and said, "This is my body broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way, he took the cup after supper and said, 'This is the new covenant in my blood. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.' This is the bread of life and the cup of joy! Come - for the table is ready! The gifts of God, for the people of God.

### **Sharing the Cup & Bread**

**Pastor**

*(When it is time to share in Holy Communion, you are invited to please come forward. Please hold your hand out to receive the bread. And remember that all are welcome at this table. If you are unable to come to the front, please signal an elder who will come and serve you. The bread is gluten and dairy-free. Both juice and wine are available.)*

### **Prayer after Communion**

Calm us O Lord, as you stilled the storm. Still us, O Lord, keep us from harm. Let all the tumult within us cease. Enfold us, Lord, in your peace. Loving God, shepherd of our souls, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, uniting us with Christ and giving us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Send us out in the power of your Spirit, to live and to work to your praise and glory. We pray for your church in all places throughout the world. We remember our families and friends and ask you to enfold them with your love. We remember those who are sick and suffering, lonely or afraid. We pray for those who are grieving and missing loved ones who are now with you. We pray for all who are experiencing homelessness, poverty, and hunger. For those running from violence and war - we remember those in Ukraine, and in Palestine. We remember those in Sudan, Syria and so many other places, may your unending peace fall upon them all. And we ask that you will especially bless those we name in our hearts before you. We thank you for the peace, the hope and the joy you have graced us with. May all those we pray for know these gifts and know your shalom. And so we pray together in the words that Jesus taught his friends:

### **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**

***Fifth Hymn: 560 Put peace into each other's hands***

**Commission and Benediction**

**Pastor**

Let us go now and prepare the way of the Lord. May the compassing of the angels be upon you. 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. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Amen.

***Dispersal Song: Longing for light***

***Postlude***