

Knox Service Outline

12/28/25

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: James Prette

Music: Connie Dunwoody

Elder: Anne Krauss

Reader: Jim Jeatt

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

(All)

Psalm Reading: Psalm 148

Pastor

Praise the LORD!

Praise the LORD from the heavens;
praise him in the heights!

Praise him, all his angels;
praise him, all his host!

Praise him, sun and moon;
praise him, all you shining stars!

Praise him, you highest heavens
and you waters above the heavens!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for he commanded and they were created.
He established them forever and ever;
he fixed their bounds, which cannot be passed.

Praise the LORD from the earth,
you sea monsters and all deeps,
fire and hail, snow and frost,
stormy wind fulfilling his command!

Mountains and all hills,
fruit trees and all cedars!

Wild animals and all cattle,
creeping things and flying birds!

Kings of the earth and all peoples,
princes and all rulers of the earth!
Young men and women alike,
old and young together!

Let them praise the name of the LORD,
for his name alone is exalted;
his glory is above earth and heaven.
He has raised up a horn for his people,
praise for all his faithful,
for the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the LORD!

Call to Worship Prayer (Responsive)

Pastor

Praise the name of the Lord.

Blessed be the name of the Lord!

From the rising of the sun to its setting, praise God.

We will bless God's holy name now and evermore.

The glory of the Lord is high above the heavens,
but God raises up the poor and needy on the earth.

So we will sing God's praise.

Let us worship God.

First Hymn : 332 How Great Thou Art

Gathering Prayer

Pastor

Faithful God, we gather in your presence this final Sunday of 2025, to centre in your loving presence to reflect on your loving guidance throughout the past year and to encourage one another to trust you for this coming year. You are the source of wisdom we seek, Your mercy eases the troubles that stir our hearts. Draw near to us as we draw near to you this day. Remind us of your faithful, loving presence yesterday, today, and forever, through the grace of Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Second Hymn: 682 Just as I Am

Prayer for Understanding (Unison)

Reader

Holy God, send us your Spirit to give us a fresh understanding of the Scriptures this day. Challenge us and change our lives as we encounter your wisdom and truth, through Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 63:7-9

Reader

I will recount the gracious deeds of the LORD, the praiseworthy acts of the LORD, because of all that the LORD has done for us and the great favor to the house of Israel that he has shown them according to his mercy, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, "Surely they are my people, children who will not act deceitfully," and he became their savior in all their distress. It was no messenger or angel but his presence that saved them; in his love and pity it was he who redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 2:10-18

Reader

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

"I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you."

And again, "I will put my trust in him."

And again, "Here am I and the children whom God has given me."

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Scripture Response

Reader

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Reflecting on 2025

Pastor

Third Hymn: 640 Softly and Tenderly

Offering and Prayer

Pastor

In every generation, God calls us to participate in the world's healing and renewal. The gifts we offer will help touch lives with God's renewing grace. Be generous as God is generous.

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

Prayer of Dedication

Pastor

We bring our gifts to you, O God, in gratitude for all you give us. Bless them and make them a source of healing for a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who sends us out in love. Amen.

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Pastor

Generous God, You have enriched us with life worth living, but we confess we often squander your good gifts. We have wasted our time and energy, but held tightly to things we think we need. Forgive our foolish priorities and those times we overlooked the needs of others. Inspire us to live more generously, trusting your goodness to sustain us always. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor

Friends in Christ, while it is true that we have squandered God's good gifts, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. Trust the mercy of God, and be at peace with God, with yourself, and with one another.

Pastoral Prayers (Responsive)

Pastor

God in whom we live and move and have our being, each week our prayers join with those of Christians around the world to seek your healing grace for those in need and to pray for justice and mercy in your fragile creation. We thank you for the ways in which your Spirit has surprised us in 2025, bringing healing and hope in situations which cause us to despair. Encourage us throughout this coming year when we feel overwhelmed.

God, speak to us a word of hope
Embrace us with your love.

We remember before you today people living face to face with war and violence, for the peoples of ... and all those places where ancient hatreds burn.

(Moment of silence.)

God, speak to us a word of peace
Embrace us with your love.

We remember before you today people living with illness and suffering, for those struggling with disability or waiting for treatment, and for those who know grief or fear or loneliness...

(Moment of silence.)

God, speak to us a word of joy
Embrace us with your love.

We remember before you today people facing discrimination and social prejudice, for those who are bullied at school, at work, or at home, and for those who are made ashamed of who they are...

(Moment of silence.)

God, speak to us a word of love
Embrace us with your love.

We remember before you people caught up in economic uncertainty, those worried for the future, or struggling to make ends meet...

(Moment of silence.)

God, speak to us a word of reassurance
Embrace us with your love.

We remember before you today your whole creation in its increasing vulnerability. Teach us how to care for the rips and tears in the fabric of the world you love so that all your creatures may live together in health and wholeness...

(Moment of silence.)

God, speak to us a word of wisdom
Embrace us with your love.

Receive all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, as we offer together 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: 153 Joy to the World

Blessing

Pastor

Go with confidence and commitment, to serve God in ways large and small for the sake of Christ, our friend and Saviour. And may God bless you and keep you; may God's face shine upon you, and bring you joy and peace, now and evermore. Amen.

Dispersal Song: PCU 314 Longing for Light

(Verse 5 only)

Postlude