

Knox Service Outline

01/11/26

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: James Prette

Music: Connie Dunwoody

Elder: Dennis Sutherland

Reader: Harold McNabb

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: As we Gather

(Sing Twice)

Psalm Reading: Psalm 29

Pastor

Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength. Ascribe to the LORD the glory of his name; worship the LORD in holy splendor. The voice of the LORD is over the waters; the God of glory thunders, the LORD, over mighty waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty. The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars; the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon. He makes Lebanon skip like a calf and Sirion like a young wild ox. The voice of the LORD flashes forth flames of fire. The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the LORD causes the oaks to whirl and strips the forest bare, and in his temple all say, "Glory!" The LORD sits enthroned over the flood; the LORD sits enthroned as king forever. May the LORD give strength to his people! May the LORD bless his people with peace!

Call to Worship Prayer (Responsive)

Pastor

We are called to serve in the name of Jesus, God's beloved Son,

God calls us by name because we are beloved.

God calls us to be a light to the nations.

We wait for God's teaching and to learn justice.

We are witnesses to God's goodness and grace who claims and loves us.

God's name be praised!

First Hymn: Stand up and bless the Lord # 411

Prayer of Confession (Responsive)

Pastor

Creator God, you formed the heavens and stretched them over us; you spread out the earth and made it fruitful. From your glory, you came to us in Jesus, your Son, to touch the earth with healing and hope. We praise you for all the gifts you have given us in Christ and in creation. In the strength of the Spirit, we come to renew our commitment to you, to serve in the name of Christ Jesus, who is one with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and always. In order to begin again with you and one another, let us confess our sins:

Merciful God, in baptism you promise us forgiveness and new life. We confess that we often prefer our old ways. We resist the new opportunities you set before us. We cling to harmful habits and nurse grudges, failing to forgive one another. Have mercy upon us, O God, and guide us to live with more grace and generosity through Christ our Lord.

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor

Friends, hear the good news of the gospel. Before the world was made, we were chosen in Christ to be part of God's family. God calls us to new life in Christ, so trust in God's forgiveness and grace. Turn and follow Jesus in repentance and joy.

Second Hymn: Come, let us to the Lord our God # 194

Prayer for Understanding (Unison)

Reader

Your Word, O God, comes to us in the translation of ancient scripture. Send your Holy Spirit to open our minds with understanding and our hearts with wisdom in the name of Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 42:1-9

Reader

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

New Testament Reading: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12

Reader

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

We must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters, as is right, because your faith is growing abundantly and the love of every one of you for one another is increasing. Therefore we ourselves boast of you among the churches of God for your steadfastness and faith during all your persecutions and the afflictions that you are enduring.

This is evidence of the righteous judgment of God and is intended to make you worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are also suffering. For it is indeed just of God to repay with affliction those who afflict you and to give relief to the afflicted as well as to us, when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in a fiery flame, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, separated from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, when he comes to be glorified by his saints and to be marveled at on that day among all who have believed, because our testimony to you was believed. To this end we always pray for you, asking that our God will make you worthy of his call and will fulfill by his power every good resolve and work of faith, so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture Response

Reader

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: "Standing Firm"

Pastor

Third Hymn: How firm a foundation #685

Offering and Prayer

Pastor

God has commissioned us to spread the Good News that God is at work in the world and that we are loved and blessed in Jesus' name. We offer our gifts to God in thanksgiving for all this Good News.

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

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Pastor

God, our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, we bring our gifts to you with grateful hearts. Use these gifts to spread your love in the world. And make us a blessing to all those whom we encounter, that the life of Christ lives in us. Amen.

Pastoral Prayers (Responsive)

Pastor

Loving God, you invite us to bring to God our doubts and fears, our joys and concerns, our petitions and our praise. We thank you that you are with us in every circumstance, and that you walk with us through times of celebration and sorrow. This day, we open our hearts to you, knowing your Spirit prays in us with sighs too deep for words. Where people are tired from work or weary with responsibility; where time and resources feel inadequate and costs overwhelming, send your Spirit with strength and renewal...

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Where people are facing danger or living under duress; where people are persecuted for who they are or what they believe, send your Spirit with courage and comfort...

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Where people have suffered the loss of love or purpose; and where love seems complicated and challenging, send your Spirit to bind up the brokenhearted...

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Where people are ill and worry for their future; where people suffer pain or disability and long for healing; and where people face the limits to life and options have run out, send your Spirit with healing and hope...

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Where people seek a reliable friend, a true comforter or wise adviser; where the lonely long for company to cheer them, and where isolation makes people doubt their value to others, send your Spirit of wisdom and companionship...

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Where new life is beginning and hope dawns; where there is laughter and joy, healing and positive change, where there is good news to celebrate and opportunities open up for the year ahead, send your Spirit with rejoicing and gratitude...

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

These things we pray in Jesus' name, gathering our prayers into one voice in the words he 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: In Christ alone

Blessing

Pastor

You are God's beloved. Go in the assurance of this love, to engage the challenges God sets before us with confidence. And may God who is the Creator, Christ and Spirit, go with you, and give you joy and peace, now and always.

Dispersal Song: Draw the Circle Wide (verse 2)

(Sing Once)

Postlude