

Knox Service Outline

01/25/26

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: James Prette

Music: Connie Dunwoody

Elder: Dennis Sutherland

Reader: Anne Krauss

Prelude

Connie

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)

Connie

Psalm Reading: Psalm 27:1, 4-9

Pastor

The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

One thing I asked of the LORD; this I seek: to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple. For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock. Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the LORD. Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me! "Come," my heart says, "seek his face!" Your face, LORD, do I seek. Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

Call to Worship Prayer (Responsive)

Pastor

The Lord is our light and salvation.

We will not be afraid.

Behold the beauty of the Lord!

God will shelter us on any day of trouble and set us high upon a rock.

Let God's people shout for joy!

For Christ calls us and claims us as his own.

Come and worship in unity and love; let us rejoice together!

First Hymn: Here I am to worship (PDF)

Connie

Prayer of Confession (Responsive)

Pastor

You are our light and our salvation, you are peace and you are grace, you are healing and you are love. You send comfort and courage to relieve our tears and fears in the shadows of fear and doubt. And you call us to lives of meaning and to follow you in your ways of justice, truth and goodness. We offer our praise in love and loyalty for you are always with us.

Merciful God, you call us to follow your way of compassion but too often we criticize each other. You call us to follow your way of peace but too often we remain divided. You call us to trust you but too often our fears and doubts overwhelm us. Forgive us, O God, and strengthen our commitment to follow your ways. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor

God calls to us in love and forgiveness, and welcomes us in with a warm embrace. Hear the good news of the Gospel. Rejoice that in Christ we are forgiven, and be at peace with God, yourself and with each other.

Second Hymn: All the way my Saviour leads me # 699

Connie

Prayer for Understanding (Unison)

Reader

O God, we seek your wisdom and truth in the Scriptures. Send your Holy Spirit upon us to open our minds and hearts to receive the gift of your Word. Challenge and comfort us in what we hear, and strengthen us to follow Jesus, your Living Word.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4 (NRSV)

Reader

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

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.

New Testament Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 (JPV)

Reader

Now, we are asking you friends, considering the coming of Jesus Christ the Master and considering our communion with him, that you don't get shaken in your thinking or troubled in your hearts by any teaching or letter supposedly from us saying that the day of Christ has already come.

Don't let anyone deceive you in any way. For a great falling away will come first, and the deceitful one will come and be revealed as "The Son of Destruction". He will attack and set himself up over all that is called "God" and all that is worshipped so that he is established in God's place in the Temple proclaiming himself to be God.

Don't you remember that when I was with you, I told you about these things? You know what is holding him back for now until the proper time for him to be exposed. For the secret work of evil is already operating until God takes it out of the way. And then the evil one will be exposed. The Master will overcome him with the breath from his mouth and destroy him with the light of his coming.

This evil one will operate with Satanic deceit and formidable power using flashy signs and false distractions. This is how evil always disturbs and deceives those who are floundering because they can't see the invitation to wholeness. That's why they don't get in on God's offer - because of the lies they believe instead. So, they suffer in their pursuit of escapist pleasures and delusional distractions.

Scripture Response

Reader

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Standing Against

Pastor

Third Hymn: A mighty fortress is our God # 315

Connie

Offering and Prayer

Pastor

Jesus called the first disciples who followed, not knowing that we would follow their example so many centuries later. We bring our gifts in Jesus' name, not knowing whose lives will be touched, but trusting that something good will come of everything we offer to God.

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

Connie

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Pastor

God of the fishers who first followed Jesus, you have called us to follow and here we are. We offer what we have and ask you to bless our gifts. Give us the courage we need to invite others to join us in following Jesus, our friend and saviour. Amen.

Pastoral Prayers (Responsive)

Pastor

God in whom we live and move and have our being, we pray for peace and unity, and for justice and mercy in your fragile creation. We remember before you today people living face to face with war and violence, especially those places where ancient hatreds burn.

God, speak to us a word of peace

Embrace us with your love.

We remember before you today people living face to face with economic uncertainty, those struggling with rising costs of daily necessities, and those who have lost their jobs, their savings, their homes or businesses.

God, speak to us a word of reassurance.

Embrace us with your love.

We remember before you today people living face to face with discrimination and social prejudice, those who are bullied at school, at work or at home, and all those who have been made ashamed of who they are...

God, speak to us a word of dignity.

Embrace us with your love.

We remember before you today people living face to face with illness and suffering, those waiting for a diagnosis or treatment, those struggling with disability or delay in medical attention, and those who know grief or fear...

God, speak to us a word of healing.

Embrace us with your love.

We remember before you today people of different creeds and faiths, those who seek understanding and co-operation among different religious traditions, and those who show love to their neighbours, whatever their creed or conviction...

God, speak to us a word of reconciliation.

Embrace us with your love.

We remember before you today your whole creation and its many vulnerable facets and faces. Teach us how to care for the rips and tears in the fabric of the world you love so we may live together wisely and protect the future in our attitudes and actions ...

God, speak to us a word of wisdom.

Embrace us with your love.

And so, in unity with your Church around the world you love, we pray 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: In Christ there is no east or west # 480

Connie

Blessing

Pastor

Go into the world to live out the gift of unity in Christ, eager to serve and open to learn from the Christ who calls us and sets us free. May the love of God, the peace of Christ and unity in the Holy Spirit be yours now and always. Amen

Dispersal Song: Draw the Circle Wide (verse 2 - Sing Once)

Connie

Postlude

Connie