

# Knox Service Outline

02/01/26

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

**Pastor:** Cathy Victor

**Music:** Connie Dunwoody

**Elder:** Kittie Ure

**Reader:** Mary Dimech

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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: As we Gather***

***(Sing Twice)***

### **Call to Worship Prayer (Responsive)**

**Pastor**

The Divine Creator, the One who flung the shimmering stars through the cosmos,

**Invites us to ponder God's vastness.**

The Spirit Of Christ, who is alive in us,

**Invites us to seek the path of compassion and redemption.**

The God of love, who flings open the doors of transformation,

**Invites us to open our hearts to the Holy One's grace and challenge.**

Let us worship the God of un fathomable Love.

### **Prayer of Approach & Confession**

**Pastor**

Steadfast God, you are our refuge in times of trouble, our shelter when we are afraid, and our dwelling place forever. In you alone we place our trust for you, set the way before us in Christ Jesus. Your Spirit gives us the courage to follow him. And so we offer you our worship and love as the Source of life for the world, as the Son who preached the truth of grace and mercy, and the Spirit who guides us this day and always.

Steadfast God, we confess Jesus as the way, the truth and the life for us, yet we often fail to truly follow him. Too often we go our own way, and fall short of your loving purpose for us. Forgive us when we have been too quick to criticize and too slow to offer a helping hand. We pray for your forgiveness and

transforming power in our lives. Forgive us for falling short of your purpose for our lives, and give us courage to follow Jesus, who continues to show us the way, and grant us your peace. Amen

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Pastor**

Listen to the words of the apostle Paul: “Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.” Today, let us trust that no matter what is happening in the world around us, no matter what we may have done, or not done - God’s deep love will never let us go. In Jesus Christ, God’s love and forgiveness has been lavishly poured out - for each one of us. Friends - believe the Good News! In Jesus Christ we are forgiven people.

**First Hymn: # 20 The Steadfast Love of the Lord**

**Prayer for Understanding (Unison)**

**Reader**

**God of grace, as we come to hear Your Word, calm any thoughts that distract us. Open our hearts to receive the challenges as well as the comfort You offer us, in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Living Word. Amen.**

**First Reading: Micah 6:1-8**

**Reader**

Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

“O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!  
For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.  
O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

“With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?

Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,

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with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"  
He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

**Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17**

**Reader**

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

**Third Reading: John 13: 34-35**

**Reader**

I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

**Scripture Response**

**Reader**

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon**

**Pastor**

**Second Hymn: # 740 Make me a channel of your peace**

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

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

**Pastor**

**God of life and love, receive the gifts of our love that we in turn offer to you. May what we bring to you answer the voices who cry out in need. May our gifts sustain your body the church. And may they bring healing and wholeness to feed the bodies, minds and souls of those who cry out for your help. Bless our money, our time, our talents that the world will know your renewing and transforming love through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Please remain standing as we proclaim our faith in the words of:

**The Apostles' Creed 539**

**Pastor**

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**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**

**Third Hymn: # 546 Here is bread, here is wine**

**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.

**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.**

Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three! Before all that is, You were God. Outside all we know, You are God. After all is finished, You will be God. You beyond the galaxies, You under the oceans, You inside the leaves, You pouring down rain, You opening the flowers, You feeding the insects, You giving us your image, You carrying us through the waters, You holding us in the night, Your smile on Sarah and Abraham, Your hand with Moses and Miriam, Your words through Deborah and Isaiah, Your hope through Hannah and Mary

**Therefore, with apostles and prophets, and the great cloud of witnesses who live for you beyond all time and space, we join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise:**

*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 God, Holy One, Holy Three! You being truly and eternal God, lived as Jesus among us, took flesh and became human for us and for our salvation. Holy God, we remember your Son, His life with the humble, His welcome of the outcast, His death among the wretched, His resurrection for us all: Your wisdom our guide, Your justice our strength, Your grace our path to rebirth. You, loving Jesus, healing, teaching, dying, rising, sharing our joys and our sorrows, inviting us all to your feast.

**And so we proclaim together the mystery of our faith, singing:**

*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, we beg for your Spirit. Enliven this bread, awaken this body, pour us out for each other. Transfigure our minds, ignite your church, nourish the life of the earth. Make us, while many, one body, make us, though broken, whole, make us, despite death, alive.

By these signs of bread and wine, we recognize the longings of all our hearts for a time when all humanity will be one family— Holy Spirit, hover over our lives, uniting us in these signs and strengthening us to live the resurrected life of Christ in the world.

You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three, Our Life, our Mercy, our Might, Our Rainbow, our Ark, our Dove, Our Light, our Treasure, Our Way, our Truth, our Life. You, Holy God, Holy One, Holy Three! All honour and glory is yours forever.

**And so we sing:**

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

**Words of Institution**

**Pastor**

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**

God of grace, you renew us at your table with the bread of life. We thank you for Jesus who is our peace. May this food strengthen us in love and help us to serve you, each other and those we encounter from day to day. You bring your healing to mend our broken hearts, our broken bodies and to strengthen us with your Spirit. Send us out empowered by your transforming love. Create in us hopeful hearts as we face our broken and divided world.

And so we pray for others - for those facing discrimination because of their ethnicity, their religion, their gender or orientation. Open our eyes to see each other, to see everyone, as your precious children. God of mercy, we pray for peace in our world; marked by so much violence, anger and conflict. We pray for those living in fear south of our border, for those living in Ukraine, Iran, Syria and Palestine to name but a few. Send your peace. Jesus Christ - light in our darkness, lighten the burdens of those we bring to you in the silence of our hearts ....for those who are lonely or grieving....those who are afraid...those who are sick and suffering. And those we name in our heart before you.

Send us out as your faithful people, filled with your joy and love and strengthened to serve you in the places you call us to. Hear us as we sing together the prayer that Jesus taught his friends:

***The Lord's Prayer (Sung) : # 469 Our Father in Heaven***

***Fourth Hymn: # 722 Lord, whose love in humble service***

**Blessing**

**Pastor**

In the darkness may there be a blessing. In the shadows, may there be a welcome . In the night, may you be encompassed by the love that knows your name. For you are God's own people, called out of darkness into God's marvellous light. Dare to live fully your calling as servants of Christ. And now may the compassing of the angels be upon you. The blessing of God be upon you, the peace of the Holy Spirit be upon you, and the joy of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon you, this day and always. Amen.

***Dispersal Song: Draw the Circle Wide (verse 2)***

***(Sing Once)***

**Postlude**