

Knox Service Outline

02/08/26

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: Kathleen Busch

Music: Connie Dunwoody

Elder: Kitti Ure

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: As we Gather

(Sing Twice)

Psalm Reading: Psalm 27: 1-6

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?

When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

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.

Call to Worship Prayer (Responsive)

Pastor

Just as sunrise breaks through the darkness each day,

So God's grace, mercy and justice shine forth.

We gather, with devotion and doubt, with weariness and wonder;

trusting that God's peace and love are present here.

Come and worship as you are, knowing you are loved.

We come, rejoicing, to praise God's holy name.

First Hymn: With the Lord as my Guide #574

Prayer of Confession (Responsive)

Pastor

Holy One, Light of the world, Almighty God, in whom we live, and trust and hope, at the beginning of creation, you called order out of chaos and formed the sun and moon and stars to shine in the darkness and to lighten the way. And you call us and give us a purpose and vocation and you strengthen us to follow you. So turn us now from our ways of chaos and discontent to follow your ways of justice, wisdom and grace through Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, we pray. You are kind and gracious, slow to be angry and quick to forgive and so, we confess to you our sins:

Holy One, we confess we have taken your creation for granted, we squander its resources and we consume selfishly and carelessly. In your mercy, forgive us, we pray, and make us more and more a people of your purposes.

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor

Christ is the first born of creation, shining a redeeming light into the darkness of human sin. In him we are forgiven, restored and made new. Thanks be to God we can make a fresh start today.

Second Hymn: Give Thanks — sing twice

Prayer for Understanding (Unison)

Reader

Holy God, your mysteries surround and astound us each day. Send your Holy Spirit to open the mysteries of Scripture for us so that our understanding is refreshed and courage to follow Christ renewed. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Psalm 27: 7-12

Reader

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!
If my father and mother forsake me,
the LORD will take me up.

Teach me your way, O LORD,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.
Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.

New Testament Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:1-5

Reader

Finally, brothers and sisters, pray for us, so that the word of the Lord may spread rapidly and be glorified everywhere, just as it is among you, and that we may be rescued from wicked and evil people, for not all have faith. But the Lord is faithful; he will strengthen you and guard you from the evil one. And we have confidence in the Lord concerning you, that you are doing and will go on doing the things that we command. May the Lord direct your hearts to the love of God and to the steadfastness of Christ.

Scripture Response

Reader

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Standing for Christ: a group discussion on 2 Thessalonians

Pastor

Third Hymn: I'm gonna live so God can use me #648

Offering and Prayer

Pastor

The prophet Isaiah issued a call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and house the homeless. We give in response to this call, praying that every gift accomplishes more than we can ask or imagine through the power of God at work in us and through us.

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

Music selections not in public domain are covered by CCLI License #1234587 & 20667541. All rights reserved.

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Pastor

In glad thanksgiving for your goodness and all the blessings we know in this life, we pray your blessing on us and these gifts that we and them may use for the building up of your reign in the world. In the strong name of Jesus, we pray, amen.

Pastoral Prayers

Pastor

God of justice and righteousness, thank you for the gift of your son Jesus Christ who came to live out your love in this world. Thank you for his words and deeds that challenge and guide us today. We pray for those who need your justice, Lord: For those who sleep on the cold streets, those who do not have enough to eat, and those who worry about how to make ends meet for their families.

(Keep silent for ten seconds...)

We pray for all those facing violence, in their homes or communities, for nations engulfed in conflict and for places struggling to recover after flooding, drought, storm or unrest.

(Keep silent for ten seconds...)

We pray for refugees and political prisoners, for children who must work instead of going to school and for parents who long to give their children a better life.

(Keep silent for ten seconds...)

Sustain each of these people with your hope that their needs can be fulfilled and rights restored. Empower us to use our resources to do what we can for them, and give strength and courage to advocates and aid workers who bring hope to birth in many places. We pray for all who need your healing touch, Lord: for people who are confused or afraid, for those in hospitals and nursing homes and those who care for them, for all who are dealing with long-term disability, mental illness, long Covid and the many illnesses circulating this winter, and for those who have encountered loss through the death of a beloved, change in circumstance or disappointed hopes.

(Keep silent for ten seconds...)

Surround each one with your peace and comfort so that hope for healing will be renewed each day. Compassionate God, make us salt and light for the world, not by presuming we know best how to fix others but as compassionate and caring neighbours, unafraid to reach out. Encourage us with your grace and inspire us by your Holy Spirit, for you are always with us. We gather all our prayers into one voice, praying as 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: God of grace and God of glory #490

Blessing

Pastor

Go in faith to be salt of the earth and light for the world in Jesus' name. May God's love restore you. May Christ's teaching inspire you. May the Holy Spirit equip you to serve in a world that is ready to receive you, blessed by God, holy One and holy Three. Amen.

Dispersal Song: Draw the Circle Wide (verse 2)

(Sing Once)

Postlude