

# Knox Service Outline

02/22/26

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

**Pastor:** James Prette

**Music:** Connie Dunwoody

**Elder:** Kittie Ure

**Reader:** Harold McNabb

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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.**

### ***Gathering Song: The Power of your Love***

#### **Psalm Reading: Psalm 139:1-12**

**Pastor**

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.  
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.  
You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.  
Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.  
You hem me in, behind and before,  
and lay your hand upon me.  
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?  
Or where can I flee from your presence?  
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.  
If I take the wings of the morning  
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
even there your hand shall lead me,  
and your right hand shall hold me fast.  
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,  
and night wraps itself around me,"  
even the darkness is not dark to you;

the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is as light to you.

**Call to Worship Prayer (Responsive)**

**Pastor**

O God, you are a hiding place for us;  
**you preserve us from trouble.**

Let the faithful offer prayer and praise to God,  
**for in times of distress, God is with us.**

The Lord will teach us the way we should go;  
**God's steadfast love always surrounds us.**

So let us be glad in the Lord and rejoice in worship!  
**We will sing for joy with psalms of praise.**

***First Hymn: Breathe on me, breath of God #389***

**Prayer of Confession (Responsive)**

**Pastor**

Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. You became one of us in Jesus Christ, sharing our joy and sorrow, manifesting your greatness in the child of the manger, revealing your power in the service of washing the disciples' feet, showing your glory in the shame of the cross. And so, we praise you for your love which is great enough to embrace the universe, yet close enough to enter our hearts. During our worship, surprise us with your grace that we, with the rest of the church and the whole creation, may praise and adore you, as Creator, Christ and Spirit.

In recalling all that you are and all that you have done, we remember who we are and what we have done. To begin again with you and one another we confess to you our sins:

**Merciful God, we confess our sin and the sin of this world. We have found peace in Christ, but we are a people divided against ourselves. We confess that we cling to the values of a broken world rather than the principles of your kingdom. In your mercy, heal us, forgive us and set us free to serve you in the world as agents of your reconciling love in Jesus Christ.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Pastor**

The Apostle Paul declared our hope, asking the question: "Who is in a position to condemn?" The Answer? "Only Christ – and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us." Trust this Good News. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace.

**Lent Liturgy - First Sunday of Lent**

God holds us in a covenant of grace. The promise to Noah is our promise too: God will never destroy the whole world in order to make things new.

**Rather, God will work through us to make things new.**

We need change that turns us inside out, focusing us on the needs of those around us.

**May we embrace the changes that will leave fear behind and open up a whole new world ahead.**

May the God of the rainbow assure us that the world is in good hands.

**May Christ, who shared our humanity, open our hearts to the pain of all who suffer.**

May the Holy Spirit give us courage and conviction to stand up to oppression.

**May we be faithful to the God of covenant and change.**

***Second Hymn: Jesus, life of all the world #776***

**Prayer for Understanding (Unison)**

**Reader**

**God of Life, send the Holy Spirit to guide us as we listen to stories from Scripture that may sound familiar. Speak your truth in ways that open our minds and hearts to a deeper understanding of your Living Word.**

**Old Testament Reading: Psalm 139:13-24**

**Reader**

For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.  
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works;  
that I know very well.  
My frame was not hidden from you,  
when I was being made in secret,  
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.  
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.  
In your book were written  
all the days that were formed for me,  
when none of them as yet existed.  
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!  
I try to count them—they are more than the sand;  
I come to the end—I am still with you.

O that you would kill the wicked, O God,  
and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me—  
those who speak of you maliciously  
and lift themselves up against you for evil!  
Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD?  
And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?  
I hate them with perfect hatred;  
I count them my enemies.

Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
test me and know my thoughts.  
See if there is any wicked way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.

**New Testament Reading: John 1:9-14**

**Reader**

The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

He was in the world, and the world came into being through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

**Scripture Response**

**Reader**

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made**

**Pastor**

**Third Hymn: O love that wilt not let me go #209**

**Offering and Prayer**

**Pastor**

God has given us so many gifts in Christ and in creation. We offer our gifts in gratitude for the possibilities we enjoy, trusting God to multiply what we bring for goodness' sake.

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

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

**Pastor**

**Lord God, we offer our gifts in thanksgiving for all the goodness you provide. Bless our gifts and our lives so that we become a source of goodness for others, in the name of Christ, our strength and our hope. Amen**

**Pastoral Prayers (Responsive)**

**Pastor**

God of all life and each life, we offer you thanks for all the ways we meet you in our daily lives: in a word of encouragement, (brief silence) in an insight into truth, (brief silence) in an answer to prayer. (brief silence)

We are fearfully and wonderfully made

**There is fear and wonder**

Thank you for a breath of calm in the midst of stress, and an offer of support when we need it. (brief silence) Thank you for a sense of accomplishment that our work matters and for moments of rest and relaxation to renew us. (brief silence) Thank you for all these signs that you love us, understand us and walk with us, Loving God.

We are fearfully and wonderfully made  
**There is fear and wonder**

Our gratitude for your love reminds us of the need for your mercy in the world. And so, in times of silence, we pray for:

The world and the people and places in the news this week (silence for a count of 10)

We are fearfully and wonderfully made  
**There is fear and wonder**

Leaders facing difficult decisions and balancing different needs in complex situations (silence for a count of 10)

We are fearfully and wonderfully made  
**There is fear and wonder**

Your church and congregations, facing new challenges and opportunities for mission (silence for a count of 10)

We are fearfully and wonderfully made  
**There is fear and wonder**

Our workplaces and our community, facing many needs and pressures (silence for a count of 10)

We are fearfully and wonderfully made  
**There is fear and wonder**

Our family, friends and neighbours, especially those facing hard choices these days (silence for a count of 10)

We are fearfully and wonderfully made  
**There is fear and wonder**

And for ourselves, we offer to you our own concerns (silence for a count of 10)

Thank you for your grace that embraces all for whom we pray, O God. In the week ahead, help us notice your hand at work in our lives and in this troubled world.

We are fearfully and wonderfully made  
**There is fear and wonder**

We offer our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray together:

**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: Lord Jesus you shall be my song #665*

**Blessing**

**Pastor**

As we begin our journey through the season of Lent, remember the words of the prophet Micah: What does the Lord require of us? To do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with our God. May God's loving kindness comfort you, God's justice inspire you, and Jesus walk beside you in humility and hope.

*Dispersal Song: All that I am*

**Postlude**