

Knox Service Outline

03/08/26

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: James Prette

Music: Connie Dunwoody & Cloud Iris

Elder: April Watt

Reader: Dennis Sutherland

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 (first verse)

Psalm Reading: 95

O come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
For the LORD is a great God
and a great King above all gods.
In his hand are the depths of the earth;
the heights of the mountains are his also.
The sea is his, for he made it,
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.

O come, let us worship and bow down;
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!

Pastor

For he is our God,
and we are the people of his pasture
and the sheep of his hand.

O that today you would listen to his voice!
Do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah,
as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,
when your ancestors tested me
and put me to the proof, though they had seen my work.
For forty years I loathed that generation
and said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray,
and they do not regard my ways."
Therefore in my anger I swore,
"They shall not enter my rest."

Call to Worship Prayer (Responsive)

Pastor

God's Truth opens our eyes on the world.

God's Spirit shatters our prejudice.

God's Truth nourishes our hearts.

God's Spirit encourages us in the face of fear.

God's Truth frees us from past mistakes and misunderstanding.

God's Spirit moves us to find new purpose in life.

So let us worship God in Spirit and in Truth.

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

Prayer of Confession (Responsive)

Pastor

Creator, Christ and Spirit you provide what we need to live, from the bounty of creation. God of mercy, you know us through and through and you love us. God of hope, you have an everlasting purpose for us. God of wisdom, you open our minds and teach and guide us. So we come to worship you, Source of Wisdom, Son of Mercy, Spirit of Hope, offering you our prayers and our praise, trusting you to offer us the gifts we need to thrive and to serve you in the world you love this day and always.

God, our Redeemer, We are not proud of all you hear in our thoughts and prayers. We complain when we want things to change but don't know what to do. We justify ourselves when you call us to change but we don't want to. We blame others when things change and upset our expectations. Forgive us, God, when we are not listening for you.

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor

While it is true that we have sinned and gone our own way, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. All who humbly seek the mercy of God may trust that in Jesus Christ our sin is forgiven. Be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another.

Second Hymn: The old rugged cross

Prayer for Understanding (Unison)

Reader

Jesus Christ, we turn to you this day to be refreshed by God's living Word in the Scriptures. Let the Holy Spirit open our eyes to your truth and shine truth on the way you set before us. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Malachi 3:1-5

Reader

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD, as in the days of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgment; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

New Testament Reading: Luke 7:36-50

Reader

One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

Scripture Response

Reader

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Disgust

Pastor

Third Hymn: There is a balm in Gilead #747

Offering and Prayer

Pastor

Having tasted the living water in Christ's love and forgiveness, we bring our gifts to God in gratitude for such refreshment and renewal.

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

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Pastor

Loving God, with our gifts we offer you our very selves, knowing you receive us as we are. Bless all that we have to offer, so that we may become gifts to those who encounter us through the grace of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastoral Prayers (Responsive)

Pastor

Revealing God, we seek to offer you our prayers in spirit and in truth. We thank you for the truth of your love which welcomes us as we are, not as the world tells us we should be. Thank you for the truth of your mercy which embraces us even when you recognize our mistakes and failures. Thank you for the truth of your purpose which gives us meaning and direction for our lives. And thank you for the truth of your vision which gives us hope for our future even in challenging times.

Revealing God,
Guide us in spirit and in truth.

Revealing God, we seek from you truth for our times. We are surrounded by claims of truth and much that misleads. We pray for those who feel overwhelmed by so much information: Grant us all the ability to discern fact from fabrication, And to recognize self-interest disguised as sincerity.

Revealing God,
Guide us in spirit and in truth.

Revealing God, we seek from you truth in our history. We know that most history has been written by the winners, so give us the willingness to hear the stories that have been silenced. We pray for those who have stories that are difficult to tell. Grant us both the courage to speak and to listen, and the wisdom to recognize truth even when it makes us uncomfortable.

Revealing God,
Guide us in spirit and in truth.

Revealing God, we seek from you truth in our characters and shared humanity. We hear voices that are fearful, critical and cynical, so help us listen for voices of respect, generosity and filled with hope. Show us the potential we have to work together, to find common cause even among those with different

perspectives, and accomplish more than we can imagine right now, because, together, we have been created in your image. Awaken in us and among us the potential to serve you in serving one another, for this is the way you revealed to us in Jesus Christ, both Friend and Saviour, 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: Guide me, O thou great Redeemer #651

Blessing

Pastor

As we continue our Lenten journey, remember the words of St Paul: that “suffering produces endurance, endurance produces character, character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit.” And so may God's love strengthen your endurance, Christ's mercy refine your character, and the Spirit's power enliven your hope this day and in every day to come.

Dispersal Song: All that I am

Postlude