

# Knox Service Outline - Palm Sunday 03/29/26

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

**Pastor:** Pastor James Prette

**Music:** Connie Dunwoody

**Elder:** April Watt

**Reader:** Fiona Gow

---

## *Prelude*

### **Welcome/Announcements/Land Acknowledgement (Unison) Elder**

Knox Church recognizes that the land where we gather for worship belongs to God, as does all of creation. We also acknowledge the Coast Salish Peoples on whose territories we meet, worship, and engage in ministry. We recognize that this is the unceded territory of the Lkwungen and WSÁNEĆ people. As we pray, reflect, and celebrate in this place, we do so as guests lamenting historic and current injustices. We are grateful to be here, and we honour the Nations who have cared for these lands, waters and air and continue to do so today. We ask that God lead us along the path of reconciliation, bringing accountability and healing.

### *Gathering Song: Broken for me (Verse 1) #550*

**Psalm:** 31:9-16

Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am in distress;  
my eye wastes away from grief,  
my soul and body also.

For my life is spent with sorrow  
and my years with sighing;  
my strength fails because of my misery,  
and my bones waste away.

I am the scorn of all my adversaries,  
a horror to my neighbors,  
an object of dread to my acquaintances;  
those who see me in the street flee from me.  
I have passed out of mind like one who is dead;

**Pastor**

I have become like a broken vessel.  
For I hear the whispering of many—  
terror all around!—  
as they scheme together against me,  
as they plot to take my life.

But I trust in you, O LORD;  
I say, "You are my God."  
My times are in your hand;  
deliver me from the hand of my enemies and  
persecutors.  
Let your face shine upon your servant;  
save me in your steadfast love.

**Call to Worship Prayer (Responsive)**

**Pastor**

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Jesus humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross.

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Therefore, God has exalted him and given him the name above every name.

**Hosanna! Hosanna! Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Let us worship God in the name of Jesus Christ, our Servant Lord.

**First Hymn: Ride on, ride on in majesty #217**

**Prayer of Adoration & Confession (Responsive)**

**Pastor**

God of majesty and mercy, we worship today, as the Cross looms larger on the horizon. We praise you for Jesus, the Ruler who came in humility to free us from captivity. He came in mercy to free us from the sins we recognize in ourselves, and the sins we easily overlook. He came to show us the full extent of your mercy, love and justice. So we praise you for your kindness and the strength you show to lift our burdens and shoulder them for us in Christ Jesus. We come in humility, knowing you have given us your all, to worship you as Creator, Christ and Spirit. Amen.

**God of mystery and mercy, your mercy and forgiveness are a mystery to us. We fail to show mercy to others when they fall short of our expectations. We keep silent rather than speak up when others are in trouble. We prefer what is easy to what is right, even though your Spirit draws our attention. We seek your forgiveness, O God, and ask that you make us more forgiving. Inspire us with the costly choices Jesus made as he moved toward the Cross, and give us the courage to follow him.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Pastor**

Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ – and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace.

**Second Hymn: Take up your cross #211**

**Prayer for Understanding (Unison)**

**Reader**

**God of courage and comfort, as we follow the stories of Christ's journey to the Cross, inspire us with the courage to follow him even when others turn against him. And comfort us, knowing that you will walk with us through every challenge, just as you walked with Jesus who is your Living Word.**

**OT Reading:** Isaiah 50:4-9

The Lord GOD has given me  
a trained tongue,  
that I may know how to sustain  
the weary with a word.  
Morning by morning he wakens,  
wakens my ear  
to listen as those who are taught.  
The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I did not turn backward.  
I gave my back to those who struck me  
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the  
beard;  
I did not hide my face  
from insult and spitting.

**Reader**

The Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;  
he who vindicates me is near.  
Who will contend with me?  
Let us stand in court together.  
Who are my adversaries?  
Let them confront me.  
It is the Lord GOD who helps me;  
who will declare me guilty?  
All of them will wear out like a garment;  
the moth will eat them up.

**NT Reading:** John 11:17-37

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

**Reader**

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

**Scripture Response**

**Reader**

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

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon: Sadness**

**Pastor**

**Third Hymn: What a friend we have in Jesus #746**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Pastor**

Today we are reminded that Christ offered his life on the Cross for our sakes. Now it's our turn to offer God our gifts in gratitude, trusting God to use them to create new life in Jesus' name.

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

**Prayer of Dedication**

**Pastor**

Gracious God, when we remember Jesus gave his life for us, our offering seems so small. Yet Jesus shows us that five loaves and two fish can feed a multitude; a man dying on a cross becomes Living Bread for a hungry world. Bless these small gifts with your goodness so that the miracle of Jesus' love continues to amaze the world. Amen.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession (Responsive)**

**Pastor**

God of courage and compassion, as we follow Jesus toward the Cross this holy week, we give you thanks that he faced his enemies with courage, not violence. We are grateful he loved us enough to die for us, bearing every pain and sorrow others inflicted. In Christ we trust that your love has power in every situation, even the most troubling or tragic. Hear us as we bring to you the people and places facing trouble and tragedy this day: We pray for all struggling with poverty, sickness, or grief, and any feeling overwhelmed by things beyond their control. (Silence) Stay with them day by day and restore their hope and health:

Lord, in your mercy;

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for people and places facing violence, war and corruption, and all who fear for what this day may bring. (Silence) Grant them courage and protection, and restore their hope and peace:

Lord, in your mercy;

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who challenge tyranny, brutality and injustice, and all who raise their voices for the vulnerable and victimized. (Silence) Give them strength and restore their hope and freedom:

Lord, in your mercy;

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

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who face persecution because of racism, belief or identity, and for each one who has been shamed or humiliated by someone more powerful. (Silence) Assure them of their value as your children and restore their hope and dignity:

Lord, in your mercy;  
**Hear our prayer.**

Hear us as we pray to you in silence for those situations close to our hearts this day. (Silence) Bring your grace to restore hope and healing wherever they are needed.

Lord in your mercy;  
**Hear our prayer.**

God of courage and compassion, thank you for your love that never lets us go and hear us as we pray 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: Lead on, O King eternal #742***

**Commissioning & Benediction**

**Pastor**

Go with courage to face the days ahead. May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you on the road. May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out your hands to serve. May the Christ who lives with a wounded heart open your hearts to love. May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet, and may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you.

***Dispersal Song: 665 - Lord Jesus you shall be my song (Verse 1 Sing Twice)***

***Postlude***