

# Knox Service Outline

04/26/26

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

**Pastor:** Pastor James Prette

**Music:** Connie Dunwoody

**Elder:** Lorraine Whiting

**Reader:** Dennis Sutherland

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## **Prelude**

**Music**

## **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: And on this path (Verse 1)**

**Music**

## **Psalm: 23 A Psalm of David**

**Pastor**

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.

**Call to Worship Prayer (Responsive)**

**Pastor**

God, our Shepherd, offers us abundant life.

**God, you are with us!**

God, our Shepherd, leads us by still waters.

**God, restore our souls!**

God, our Shepherd, walks with us through every dark valley.

**God, we will not be afraid!**

**God, our Shepherd, we praise you for your goodness and mercy with us every day.**

**First Hymn: Saviour, like a shepherd lead us #485**

**Music**

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

**Pastor**

God of love, we come together into your presence trusting that your love has the power to defeat evil in the world. We come together into your presence trusting that Christ shows us that your love defeats even the power of death. We come together into your presence trusting that your Holy Spirit guides us through the darkest valleys. We worship you with glad hearts, praising you in the name of our Risen Lord, praying with the breath of your Spirit in us. Renew our strength and courage to face whatever each day holds, so our lives will bring you honour and glory now and always. Amen. Trusting your grace and mercy, we come together to your throne of grace to confess our sins

**God of love, we confess that too often we let the events around us shatter our trust in your love. When terror strikes and innocents fall, we wonder if love can defeat violence. When truth gets lost among misleading claims, we wonder if love can prevail over lies. Forgive us, God, when we lose our trust in the power of your love so soon after it raised Jesus from death's grip.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Pastor**

The Apostle Paul asked: What will separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship? Distress? Peril or sword? No! he declared. Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Let us rejoice that, no matter what is happening around us, God's gracious and forgiving love will never let us go

**Second Hymn: He leadeth me #650**

**Music**

**Prayer for Understanding (Unison)**

**Reader**

**God of green pastures and still waters, quiet our hearts and minds as we listen to the Scriptures. By your Spirit, deepen our understanding so that we come to know you more fully, and follow your Word more faithfully. Amen.**

**Reading:** Ezekiel 34:7-15

**Reader**

Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: As I live, says the Lord GOD, because my sheep have become a prey and my sheep have become food for all the wild animals, since there was no shepherd, and because my shepherds have not searched for my sheep, but the shepherds have fed themselves and have not fed my sheep, therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am against the shepherds, and I will hold them accountable for my sheep and put a stop to their feeding the sheep; no longer shall the shepherds feed themselves. I will rescue my sheep from their mouths, so that they may not be food for them.

For thus says the Lord GOD: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort them out. As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. I will feed them with good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on the mountains of Israel. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will make them lie down, says the Lord GOD.

**NT Reading:** 1 Peter 1:13-2:3 (JPV)

**Reader**

Therefore, since what I just wrote is true, your minds are ready for action; being self-controlled. Place all your hope on God's free gift that is received when Jesus is revealed. Because we are God's attentive children, we don't shape our lives according to our old, ignorant life patterns. Instead, in the same ways that the God who called us is different, we get to be different in everything we do. As the Scripture says, "Be holy, for I am holy". Since the Father you call on judges everyone's work equally, walk through life with awesome reverence. For you know full well, that nothing fleeting and disposable like money has purchased your ransom from the empty, meaningless life patterns you learned from your family traditions. It was the precious blood of the perfect sacrificial lamb, Christ. This was planned before the world was created, but revealed to you in these later days, for your sake. It is through him that you believe in God, the very one who raised Jesus from the dead, and glorified him, so that you might have faith and trust in God.

Now that your lives have been made pure through paying attention to the truth, love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been reborn, not through empty, meaningless seed, but through the full and meaningful seed of the living and lasting Word of God. For "human beings are like grass and their greatness is like wildflowers. The grass dries out and the wildflowers fade away, but the Word of God endures forever".

And this very Word was revealed to you. So, now you get to get rid of all cruelty, and lies, and falseness and jealousy and insults. Instead, like brand new babies, you get to drink up the milk of spiritual life, so

that you can be nurtured and grow up into this healing life. You have tasted the goodness of The Lord, and you know it tastes good!

**Scripture Response**

**Reader**

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon: A Living Holiness**

**Pastor**

**Third Hymn: You are holy, you are whole #828**

**Music**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Pastor**

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want”: the words of the Psalm celebrate God’s overflowing goodness and mercy in our lives. We offer God our gifts so God’s goodness and mercy will keep flowing into the world God made.

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

**Music**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

**Pastor**

**God with a tender heart, we thank you for the care you offer to us as our Shepherd. Bless the gifts we offer so they will spread your abundant love to lives in need of caring. Bless our lives so that we may care for the world as we follow Jesus day by day. Amen.**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

**Pastor**

Wise and generous God, shepherd of our lives, we are thankful this day for all you provide to sustain us. You call our weary souls to rest when the world seems busy. You bless us with the promise of new life as pastures around us turn green, announcing another spring. You gather us around tables of friendship to draw strength from one another. Thank you for signs of your goodness and mercy we can treasure each day.

Loving and listening God, shepherd of the world, we bring you our prayers for others, friends and enemies, neighbours and strangers alike. We pray for people who are struggling with illness, loneliness, grief or sadness: *Hold silence*. Walk with them through dark days and steep valleys.

We pray for people in countries and communities where it is not safe to live out their faith or express their views openly. *Hold silence*. Walk with them through dark days and steep valleys.

We pray for victims of discrimination, acts of hatred, domestic violence and physical punishment. *Hold silence*. Walk with them through dark days and steep valleys.

We pray for journalists and advocates for justice who live under threat for telling the truth. *Hold silence*. Walk with them through dark days and steep valleys.

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We pray for congregations that seek to renew and reorganize themselves to meet the needs of the communities they serve. *Hold silence.* Walk with them through dark days and steep valleys.

We pray for our families, friends and for ourselves, as well as those in the news whose situations tug at our hearts. *Hold silence.* Walk with us all through dark days and steep valleys.

We offer these prayers and our unspoken concerns to you, in the name of the Risen Lord who taught us to pray:

**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, I lift your name on high***

***Music***

**Commissioning & Benediction**

**Pastor**

Go in peace, sure that the Good Shepherd walks beside you. May God lead you to places of rest and renewal; May Christ give you courage on the journey; May the Holy Spirit fill your hearts with joy and generosity; And may the blessing of God, Creator, Christ and Spirit, dwell in your hearts this day and always.

***Dispersal Song: Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord, (Verse 4)***

***Music***

***Postlude***

***Music***