

# Knox Service Outline

05/03/26

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

**Pastor:** Pastor Kathleen Busch

**Speaker:** Becky Lubbers

**Music:** Connie Dunwoody

**Elder:** Martha Anderson

**Reader:** Connie Dunwoody

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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 x 2)**

**Music**

**Psalm:** Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16

**Pastor**

In you, O LORD, I seek refuge;  
do not let me ever be put to shame;  
in your righteousness deliver me.

Incline your ear to me;  
rescue me speedily.

Be a rock of refuge for me,  
a strong fortress to save me.

You are indeed my rock and my fortress;  
for your name's sake lead me and guide me;  
take me out of the net that is hidden for me,  
for you are my refuge.

Into your hand I commit my spirit;  
you have redeemed me, O LORD, faithful 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**

God is our Rock and our Fortress.

**In God, we find refuge and strength.**

God's house has many dwelling places.

**will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Christ himself has gone to prepare a place for us.

**For us, Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.**

So let us worship God in Spirit and in Truth.

**First Hymn: A mighty fortress is our God #315**

**Music**

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

**Pastor**

Steadfast God, you are our refuge in times of trouble, our shelter when we are afraid, and our dwelling place forever. In you alone we place our trust for you set the way before in Christ Jesus and your Spirit gives us courage to follow him. And so, we offer you our worship and love as the Source of life for the world, as the Son who preached the truth of grace and mercy, and the Spirit who guides us this day and always. Trusting in who you are, knowing who we are and what we have done, we confess to you our sins:

**Steadfast God, we confess Jesus as the way, the truth and the life for us, yet we often fail to follow him, too often gone our own way, distorted the truth and led hollow lives. Forgive us for falling short of your purpose for our lives. Give us courage to follow Jesus, who continues to show us the way.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

**Pastor**

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Know that, in Christ, you are forgiven. Accept God's grace and forgiveness this day and extend it to others for Jesus' sake. Amen.

**Second Hymn: The power of your love**

**Music**

**Prayer for Understanding (Unison)**

**Reader**

**Gracious God, send us your Spirit to guide our understanding as we listen to the Scriptures so that we may follow you more closely, know your truth more fully, and share in your gift of life more abundantly, through Christ, your Living Word. Amen**

**Scripture 2:** Acts 7:55-60

But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. "Look," he said, "I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!" But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. Then

they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him, and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

**Scripture 3:** 1 Peter 2: 2-10

**Reader**

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.

Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God’s sight, and like living stones let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture:

“See, I am laying in Zion a stone,  
a cornerstone chosen and precious,  
and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.”

This honor, then, is for you who believe, but for those who do not believe,

“The stone that the builders rejected  
has become the very head of the corner,”

and

“A stone that makes them stumble  
and a rock that makes them fall.”

They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do.

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the excellence of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Once you were not a people,  
but now you are God’s people;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

**Response**

**Reader**

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Sermon:** With Becky Lubbers

**Speaker**

**Third Hymn: The church's one foundation #479 (Verses 1, 2, 4, & 5)**

**Music**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Pastor**

While the season of Easter unfolds, the gifts of spring also remind us of God's generosity in Christ and in creation. May our gifts reflect our gratitude to God, and our generosity share with others the abundance we know in Christ Jesus.

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

**Music**

**Prayer of Dedication (Unison)**

**Pastor**

**Generous God, we bless you for life renewed through Christ's love and through springtime growth in fields and gardens. Use the gifts we offer to bring hope and renewal to the world you love in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

**Pastor**

Holy One, God with us, We give you thanks for the promises Jesus gave to all his followers, that in him we see your face. He has shown us the face of your mercy and compassion, so we thank you for understanding us better than we know ourselves. He has shown us the face of your peace and justice, so we thank you for calling us to make a difference in the world for his sake.

Holy One, in Christ, you show us the Way that leads through paths of service. We pray for those who feel lost or alone, those who live with anxiety or doubt their own value, and all who cannot imagine a purpose for themselves.

*(Silence for 5-10 seconds)*

God of the Way, lead those who are struggling to find the hope you offer through the assurance of your love.

Holy One, in Christ, you show us the Truth that is revealed through costly love. In these days when lies are easily disguised, we pray for those who have put their faith in false hope and flimsy promises, those deceived by empty promises from the power hungry, and any misled by conspiracy theories that circulate each day:

*(Silence for 5-10 seconds)*

God of the Truth, reveal the shallowness of things that distract or mislead us and give us courage to stand for truth, even when it is unpopular.

Holy One, in Christ, you show us the Life that overcomes death through your resurrecting power. We pray for those facing illness or grief, any who live with deep sadness, depression or despair, and those whose lives are diminished by discrimination in action or attitude.

*(Silence for 5-10 seconds)*

God of Life, support all those who are suffering and make your justice known in our land.

Holy One, challenge us to find renewed purpose in following in the footsteps of Christ so that in our living and loving, your kingdom of justice and love is revealed; for we pray the words he taught us, saying:

**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: We are God's people #472**

**Music**

**Commissioning & Benediction**

**Pastor**

We are God's own people, who have received mercy. So do not let your hearts be troubled. Jesus waits for you in each new day. May the Spirit guide you in the Way; May Christ reveal the Truth in you; And may God grant you Life abundant now and evermore.

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

**Music**

**Postlude**

**Music**