

Knox Service Outline

05/17/26

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: James Prette

Music: Connie Dunwoody

Elder: Martha Anderson

Reader: Mary Dimech

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 (Verses 1-2)

Music

Psalm: 47

Pastor

Clap your hands, all you peoples; shout to God with loud songs of joy. For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome, a great king over all the earth. He subdued peoples under us and nations under our feet. He chose our heritage for us, the pride of Jacob whom he loves. *Selah*

God has gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet. Sing praises to God, sing praises; sing praises to our King, sing praises. For God is the king of all the earth; sing praises with a psalm.

God is king over the nations; God sits on his holy throne. The princes of the peoples gather as the people of the God of Abraham. For the shields of the earth belong to God; he is highly exalted.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Pastor

Let us be joyful before God!

We will sing praises to God's holy name.

Let us lift up a song to the One who rides upon the clouds,

who protects orphans and widows and gives the desolate a home.

Sing to God, all nations of the earth.

We will sing praises to the Lord, our God!

First Hymn: Joyful, joyful, we adore you #410

Music

Prayer of Adoration & Confession (Responsive)

Pastor

God of life, we praise you for your love which fills creation from the beginning and which calls all life into being. We worship you for Christ who reveals your loving purpose for all people. We bless you for your Spirit who guides and inspires us and who draws us into the circle of your tender love. In recalling all that you have done and who you are, we confess what we have done and who we are:

God of mercy, we confess the times when we forget you and are divided from one another, and how often our thoughts, words, and actions betray your goodness and our calling. Forgive us, merciful God. Mend what is broken, heal our wounded relationships and convert our hearts and minds, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Assurance of Pardon

Pastor

While it is true that we have all fallen short in our call to follow Jesus, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through his grace. Remember the Good News! In Jesus Christ our sin is forgiven. Be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another. Amen.

Second Hymn: Those who wait on the Lord #662

Music

Prayer for Understanding (Unison)

Reader

God of Wisdom, send your Holy Spirit to give us fresh understanding of your Word in Scripture. Inspire us to respond with renewed commitment to follow Christ Jesus, your Living Word. Amen.

Scripture 1: Isaiah 45:1-7

Reader

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip kings of their robes, to open doors before him— and the gates shall not be closed: I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; I will give you the treasures of darkness and riches hidden in secret places, so that you may know that it is I, the LORD, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a title, though you do not know me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

Scripture 2: 1 Peter 3:1-12 (JPV)

Reader

In the very same way (as discussed above), wives voluntarily submit to your husbands, so that, even if they do not believe the Word, they might be won over without words by the way you behave, recognizing your pure and reverent lives. Your beauty should not be focused on outward decorations like hairstyle, or jewelry or fashionable clothes. Rather, let your beauty come from your inner self, that is where true, unfading beauty comes from, the lasting beauty of a gentle and peaceful spirit, which is of much greater worth in God's sight than any outward appearance. This is how it was for the holy women of the past, who put their hope in God, made themselves truly beautiful. For instance, Sarah voluntarily submitted herself to Abraham, calling him "lord". And you are her true daughters, if you keep doing what is right and do not give up because of fear.

Likewise, (in the same way that wives voluntarily submit to their husbands), husbands (voluntarily submit to your wives as you) consider your wives' needs as you live together. Treat them with honor as vulnerable partners and equal participants in God's grace filled life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with each other; with deep sympathy, family love, real tenderness and true humility, not repaying evil with evil or insult with insult, but giving blessings to each other. For this is what you were called to, and this is how you experience blessings.

For, whoever wants to enjoy life and experience good days must keep from speaking evil or deceitful words. That person must turn away from evil, do good, and seek out peace and practice it. God sees those who do what is right and hears their prayers, but turns from those who do evil.

Response

Reader

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: A Living Hierarchy

Pastor

Third Hymn: Brother, sister, let me serve you #635

Music

Invitation to the Offering

Pastor

This Sunday brings the season of Easter to a close. Yet we will continue to receive the blessings God pours out for us in Christ and in creation, for God is so good to us. We offer to God our thanks for such goodness in our tithes and offering.

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

Music

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Pastor

Eternal and ever-present God, we offer you these gifts in thanksgiving for the work of Christ in our lives. Bless them and us with the power of the Spirit, enlisting all our gifts for the work of reconciliation Christ has given us to do in the world you love. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession (Responsive)

Pastor

God of the generations in time and eternity, we turn to you in these quiet moments to offer you our thanks and our hopes for our lives. Today we give you thanks for all those people who have shown us your face and taught us to follow you through the loving example of their living faith. We are grateful for their wisdom and courage which continue to inspire us. Thank you for our life together in your church and the saints we have known here. May the light of Christ shine through our lives, too, so that we offer light for the world you love as witnesses to your purposes.

Christ of Compassion in action, in you, we receive our call to live with purpose. From you, we learn how to love those around us. With you, we find strength to face each new day. So today, we offer our prayers for those facing challenges, and seek your guidance to respond to their cries.

We pray for those brought to mind by news headlines this week for situations of violence, corruption and deprivation, danger and devastation ...*Keep a brief silence.*

Lord, in Your mercy
Hear our prayer

We pray for families going through difficult times, for all who are sick or in sorrow, for all who are lonely or despairing ... *Keep a brief silence.*

Lord, in Your mercy
Hear our prayer

We pray for those agonizing over important decisions and responsibilities, for those in leadership roles and for those who care for the most vulnerable ... *Keep a brief silence.*

Lord, in Your mercy
Hear our prayer

Creator, Christ and Spirit, move with us into the week ahead, remind us each day to live according to your will and purposes in all our relationships and to live lives of meaning so that we bear witness to the love we meet in Jesus 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: I know not why such wondrous grace #683

Music

Commissioning & Benediction

Pastor

Go as witnesses to our Lord Jesus, risen and ascended, and bear his love and mercy wherever you go. Trust that the Holy Spirit is your companion. And may the God of our Lord Jesus Christ give you a spirit of wisdom and fill you with the hope to which you are called as God's beloved. Amen.

Dispersal Song: Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord, (Verse 1)

Music

Postlude

Music