

Knox Service Outline

06/21/26

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: Pastor James Prette

Music: Connie Dunwoody

Elder: Anne Krauss

Reader: Harold McNabb

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements/Land Acknowledgement (Unison)

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: Dance With The Spirit (Verse 1 x 2)

Psalm Reading: Psalm 69:1-10

Save me, O God,
for the waters have come up to my neck.
I sink in deep mire,
where there is no foothold;
I have come into deep waters,
and the flood sweeps over me.
I am weary with my crying;
my throat is parched.
My eyes grow dim
with waiting for my God.

More in number than the hairs of my head
are those who hate me without cause;
many are those who would destroy me,
my enemies who accuse me falsely.
What I did not steal,
must I now restore?
O God, you know my folly;
the wrongs I have done are not hidden from
you.

Do not let those who hope in you be put to
shame because of me,
O Lord GOD of hosts;
do not let those who seek you be dishonored
because of me,
O God of Israel.
It is for your sake that I have borne reproach,
that shame has covered my face.
I have become a stranger to my kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.

It is zeal for your house that has consumed me;
the insults of those who insult you have fallen
on me.
When I humbled my soul with fasting,
they insulted me for doing so.

Call to Worship Prayer (Responsive)

To you, O God, we lift our hearts.

Listen to our voices and answer.

The Lord is good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love.

God does wondrous things with grace and mercy.

So let us glorify God's holy name together!

We come to worship God in love and faithfulness.

First Hymn: Come, thou fount of every blessing

Prayer of Adoration & Confession (Responsive)

God of grace, you created our minds to grow in wisdom. You created our hearts to expand with love for you and your world. You created our voices to sing your praises forever. Fill us to overflowing with your Holy Spirit, so we may worship you in spirit and in love, faithfully seeking to follow Jesus, even when challenges confront us. In this time of worship, assure us of your presence with us and reveal to us the path you open before us, for we live to serve as your people wherever you lead. Amen.

God who knows all people and all possibilities, you call us to follow you, yet we prefer familiar paths. You offer us new understanding, yet change makes us uncomfortable. You invite us into the fullness of life, yet we often resist when the invitation comes with challenge or disruption. Forgive us, O God, and make of us loving disciples ready to follow Jesus' example.

Assurance of Pardon

In Christ, we can work to transform relationships and envision a new future, guided by the Spirit of God. We can become a new creation! Trust that God loves you and forgives you. Do not be afraid to try a new way forward.

Second Hymn: Open my eyes that I may see #500

Prayer for Understanding (Unison)

God of wisdom, open our minds to your will, our hearts to your love, and our hands to serve you in the world, as we listen to the Scriptures. With your Holy Spirit, equip us to follow Jesus, who is your Living Word, and our example for showing love for you and for each other. Amen.

OT Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-13

O LORD, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;
everyone mocks me.
For whenever I speak, I must cry out;
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the LORD has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.
If I say, "I will not mention him
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning
fire
shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.
For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"
All my close friends

are watching for me to stumble.
"Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him
and take our revenge on him."
But the LORD is with me like a terrifying warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.
O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous;
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

Sing to the LORD;
praise the LORD!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

NT Reading: Matthew 10:24-39

"A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!"

"So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

"Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

"Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword. For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law, and one's foes will be members of one's own household.

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.

Response

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Fear Not

Third Hymn: I have decided to follow Jesus #570

Invitation to the Offering

Around us the gifts of God’s good earth appear in fields and gardens, speaking of God’s goodness to us. Our gifts also speak of God’s goodness as we offer our gratitude for all we have received in Christ and in creation.

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

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

O God, we offer you our gifts in thanksgiving. Pour out your Spirit upon them and upon us. May the gifts we offer bear the fruit of your Spirit in every life we touch in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession (Responsive)

God of compassion and courage, In our weakness you are strength. In our sorrows you are comfort and peace. We thank you for your embracing presence in our lives. Embrace each situation we lay before you today with your steadfast love. We thank you for moments of joy that break into our lives, for love given and received, for friends who furnish our life with meaning and happiness, and for family who embrace us with love and understanding. We pray for those who cannot feel joy today, for any estranged from family or friends, for those feeling stress as the costs of living rise, and for those who face any kind of loss.

Embrace us all with your mercy, O God,

And give us grace to respond to the needs around us.

God of the world, We pray for people in our communities, both friend and stranger: draw us towards and deeper into relationships that open doors of connection, respect and understanding among neighbours. We give thanks for your abundant gifts, and for resources to support those facing difficulties in our communities, and in other parts of the world. Challenge those who govern to listen to, and respond to, the needs of those they serve. Challenge us to commit to international efforts to preserve the earth, work

against the inhumanity of war, and work for peace with justice. Guide leaders to set fair policies that protect vulnerable people and respect every person's dignity.

Embrace us all with your mercy, O God,
And give us grace to respond to the needs around us.

Creator God, During Indigenous History Month, We give thanks for the opportunities we have to learn about the rich and diverse histories, languages and cultures of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We give thanks for Indigenous Elders, Knowledge Keepers and leaders who work for the wellbeing of Indigenous nations and communities and pray for their health and strength in this essential work.

Embrace us all with your mercy, O God,
And give us grace to respond to the needs around us.

Eternal God, We thank you for your people in every age who have entered into your heavenly presence, especially those dear to our own hearts. Thank you for memories that inspire us, for love and laughter shared and lessons learned. Hear us now as we offer prayers in silence for the concerns on our hearts this day... (*Silence*).

Embrace us all with your mercy, O God,
And give us grace to respond to the needs around us.

We sum up our prayers, spoken and unspoken, in the words that Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

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

Go in faithfulness, ready to serve God, trusting that God counts your life as precious. And may God bless you and keep you, may God's face shine upon you, and may God grant you grace and peace now and evermore.

Dispersal Song: #726 May the God of Hope Go with Us (x2)

Postlude