

Knox Service Outline

07/05/26

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: James Prette

Music: Connie Dunwoody

Elder: Fiona Gow

Reader: Connie Dunwoody

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: Be still, for the presence of the Lord (Verses 1 & 3)

Psalm Reading: Psalm 145:8-14

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The LORD is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,
and all your faithful shall bless you.
They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom
and tell of your power,
to make known to all people your mighty deeds
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and your dominion endures throughout all generations.

The LORD is faithful in all his words
and gracious in all his deeds.
The LORD upholds all who are falling
and raises up all who are bowed down.

Call to Worship Prayer (Responsive)

God is gracious and merciful, abounding in steadfast love.

God offers compassion to all creation.

With all God's creation, give thanks to the Lord.

With all God's creatures, great and small, we will bless the Lord.

In worship let us speak of God's glory and tell of God's wonder.

We come to praise God and seek God's peace in Jesus' name.

First Hymn: Great is thy faithfulness #324

Prayer of Adoration & Confession (Responsive)

Holy, gracious and merciful God, you are overflowing with love, infinite in kindness, and incomparable in glory. There is no other like you in all our imaginings. Your presence breaks into our lives, reflected in the beauty of creation, and refreshes and inspires us. You renew us to imagine new things, you strengthen us to meet life's changes and challenges. In response to your goodness and glory, we offer you our thanks in the words of our prayers and the praise from our hearts. We honour you with our lives, worshipping you as Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer, this day and every day, now and always. In confidence of your grace and loving kindness we confess to you our sins:

Wise and patient God, you offer us peace, yet we confess life often feels frustrating and unsettled. You offer us courage, yet we are timid and resentful when life is challenging. You offer us a mission with meaning and purpose, yet we are preoccupied with our own plans and desires. Forgive us, O God, and draw our attention back to you.

Assurance of Pardon

Jesus said, "Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest". Trust that peace and forgiveness are God's gifts to you this day. Be renewed by the power of the Spirit that moves with you into each new day.

Second Hymn: Come and find the quiet centre

Prayer for Understanding (Unison)

Spirit of wisdom, be our guide as we listen for God's word speaking in the Scriptures. When we are puzzled, grant us clarity. When we resist hearing, open our hearts. Renew our understanding through the grace of Christ, God's Living word. Amen

OT Reading: Zechariah 9:9-12

Rejoice greatly, O daughter Zion!

Shout aloud, O daughter Jerusalem!

See, your king comes to you;

triumphant and victorious is he,

humble and riding on a donkey,

on a colt, the foal of a donkey.

He will cut off the chariot from Ephraim

and the war horse from Jerusalem;

and the battle bow shall be cut off,

and he shall command peace to the nations;

his dominion shall be from sea to sea

and from the River to the ends of the earth.

As for you also, because of the blood of my covenant with you,

I will set your prisoners free from the waterless pit.

Return to your stronghold, O prisoners of hope;

today I declare that I will restore to you double.

NT Reading: Matthew 11:16-30

“But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance;
we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

“For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”

Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent. “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum,

will you be exalted to heaven?

No, you will be brought down to Hades.

“For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your

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

gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Response

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Woe is Me!

Third Hymn: I heard the voice of Jesus say #671

Invitation to the Offering

We see God’s abundance in growing gardens and fresh produce on our tables. We witness need in God’s world when disaster disrupts communities or drought threatens lives. So, we give out of gratitude for what we enjoy and compassion for those who are in need deeper than our own.

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

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Gracious God, receive our gifts as tokens of our gratitude for your goodness to us. Bless them so that they become seeds of generosity, bringing needed gifts to others in Jesus’ name.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God ever-creating, God ever-loving, God ever-leading: we turn to you in uncertain times, trusting in your steadfast love. Where people are anxious about the future, where people are overwhelmed by their responsibilities, where people fear the conflict around them or are in danger of violence in daily life,

bring peace and hope, we pray.

And let your kingdom come.

God of all compassion: where people are lonely or isolated, longing for love, where people are trapped in unhealthy or violent relationships, where people are grieving the loss of someone beloved,

bring courage and hope, we pray.

And let your kingdom come.

God of tender strength: where people feel pain in their bodies, in minds or spirits, where illness has eroded hope, and where desperation for help fills each day:

bring healing and hope, we pray.

And let your kingdom come.

God of trustworthy truth: where leaders work to guide communities to renewed life, where individuals strive to care for the earth and its vulnerable inhabitants, and where people stand up against unjust policies or practices,

bring wisdom and hope, we pray.

And let your kingdom come.

God in whom we live and move and have our being: by your Spirit, tend your promise of new life amid the current struggles in the world, and hear us as we pray together 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, forever. Amen

Fourth Hymn: The kingdom of God is justice and joy #787

Commissioning & Benediction

Go in the strength of the Lord and let Christ shoulder your burdens. And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dispersal Song: Go ye, go ye, into the world #755 (Verses 1 & 2)

Postlude