

Knox Service Outline

07/12/26

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: Grant Wilson

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)

Call to Worship Prayer (Responsive)

God's Word is a lamp to our feet;

and a light to our path.

God's Word is made visible in Christ;

in him we are rooted in truth.

God's Word is revealed through the Holy Spirit;

and lived out in faithful service.

Come and listen for God's Word in this time of worship.

We wait to receive the Word of Life.

First Hymn: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet #496

Prayer of Adoration & Confession (Responsive)

God of wisdom, You are the light of the minds that know you, the strength of those who serve you, and rest for those who seek you. God of growth, you sow and you gather, you tend and you prune, you judge and you save. God who gives us life, we come to you in worship, to rest from our responsibilities, to turn from our distractions, and worship you as Creator, Christ and Spirit, this day and always. To begin again with you and one another, we confess to you our sins:

Faithful God, you have planted the seeds of faith in us, but we confess we have too often not trusted you. We fail to keep studying the wisdom of your word, satisfied instead with what we

think is true. We consider that we already know enough, rather than pursuing deeper encounters with you. Forgive us, God, when we think you have nothing more to offer us.

Assurance of Pardon

The Apostle Paul reminds us that there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. God's Spirit sets us free from the powers of sin and death. Know that you are forgiven and forgive one another in Jesus' name.

Second Hymn: Sing them over again to me #498

Prayer for Understanding (Unison)

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, so that we may see clearly the way to follow you and have the courage to live by your truth revealed in Jesus Christ. Amen.

OT Reading: Psalm 139

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.
You know when I sit down and when I rise up;
you discern my thoughts from far away.
You search out my path and my lying down
and are acquainted with all my ways.
Even before a word is on my tongue,
O LORD, you know it completely.
You hem me in, behind and before,
and lay your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;
it is so high that I cannot attain it.

Where can I go from your spirit?
Or where can I flee from your presence?
If I ascend to heaven, you are there;
if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.
If I take the wings of the morning
and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,
even there your hand shall lead me,
and your right hand shall hold me fast.
If I say, "Surely the darkness shall cover me,
and night wraps itself around me,"
even the darkness is not dark to you;
the night is as bright as the day,
for darkness is as light to you.

For it was you who formed my inward parts;
you knit me together in my mother's womb.
I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.
Wonderful are your works;
that I know very well.
My frame was not hidden from you,
when I was being made in secret,
intricately woven in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes beheld my unformed substance.
In your book were written
all the days that were formed for me,
when none of them as yet existed.
How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!
How vast is the sum of them!
I try to count them—they are more than the sand;
I come to the end—I am still with you.

O that you would kill the wicked, O God,
and that the bloodthirsty would depart from me—
those who speak of you maliciously
and lift themselves up against you for evil!
Do I not hate those who hate you, O LORD?
And do I not loathe those who rise up against you?
I hate them with perfect hatred;
I count them my enemies.
Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

NT Reading: Philemon 1-25

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. I have indeed received much joy and

encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

One thing more: prepare a guest room for me, for I am hoping through your prayers to be restored to you.

Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my coworkers.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.

Response

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Active Understanding

Third Hymn: I know not why such wondrous grace #683

Invitation to the Offering

We see growth in the gardens around us and remember that the seed of God's word bears fruit in each life it touches. The gifts we offer today help to sow the seeds of God's word throughout the world God loves.

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

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Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

God of growing seeds and souls, we offer our gifts in thanksgiving for your kindness to us. Bless and multiply them to add to the abundance of your love at work in the world. Make them seeds of new life to inspire faith in souls they touch in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

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: I sing the almighty power of God #333

Commissioning & Benediction

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

Postlude