

Knox Service Outline

07/19/26

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Lay Leader: Fiona Gow

Music: Carolyn Hoekstra

Elder: Fiona Gow

Reader: Mary Dimech

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 23

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil,

for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord
my whole life long.

Call to Worship Prayer (Responsive)

Come, all who are weary from carrying burdens too heavy to bear.

We come to Jesus, who promises rest for our souls.

Come, all who are tired of striving, proving, and pretending.

We come as we are, trusting in the mercy of God.

Come, all who hunger to know the heart of God.

We come to learn from Christ, who is gentle and humble in heart.

His yoke is easy, and his burden is light.

We will walk with him and worship him together.

Let us worship God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

With grateful hearts, let us worship God.

First Hymn:

Prayer of Adoration & Confession (Responsive)

Gentle, gracious, and compassionate God, you are the giver of life, the source of mercy, and the rest of every weary soul. You do not stand far from us, waiting for us to become strong enough, wise enough, or worthy enough to approach you. In Jesus Christ, you come near and invite us: “Come to me.” You meet us in our weariness, receive us in our weakness, and carry us when the burdens of life become too heavy. Your wisdom is revealed not through pride or power, but through humility, mercy, and love. Your glory shines in the face of Christ, who is gentle and humble in heart. We praise you, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. We worship you for the grace that welcomes us, the love that holds us, and the Spirit who renews our strength. Receive the worship of our hearts and lives, this day and always. Trusting in your kindness and mercy, we confess our sins.

Patient and merciful God, you invite us to rest in you, and you offer us grace. Forgive us, O God. Draw us again to Jesus. Join us to his gentle yoke, teach us his way of humble love, and give rest to our souls. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

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:

Prayer for Understanding (Unison)

God of wisdom, your thoughts are not our thoughts, your ways are not our ways. As we listen to the Scriptures, send your Holy Spirit to grant us understanding of what you desire and fresh resolve to do your will in Jesus’ name. Amen

OT Reading: Zechariah 9:9-10

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.

NT Reading: Matthew 11:25-30

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 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: The Easy Yoke

Third Hymn:

Invitation to the Offering

We give gifts to express our love to one other and to say thanks for a kindness someone has shown. So, we give our gifts to God to show our love and gratitude for God's gifts to us, in Christ and in creation.

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

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Gift-giving God, we are so grateful for all that we enjoy in the world around us, and in the assurance that you love us all. Bless the gifts we offer today, that they may express your love for the world itself and to all who need to know you care, through Christ Jesus, your greatest gift.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession (Responsive)

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Gentle and compassionate God, You know the burdens we carried into this place today. Some are visible, spoken aloud and known by many. Others are hidden beneath smiles, polite conversations, and the quiet determination to keep going. You know the burden of grief, the weight of illness, the anxiety of uncertain days, the weariness of caring for others, and the loneliness of feeling that we must carry everything by ourselves. And still, your Son speaks to us: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Teach us to believe this invitation. Teach us to come without pretending, without performing, and without waiting until we have made ourselves worthy. Lord Jesus, gentle and humble in heart, receive those who are exhausted in body or spirit. We pray for those who are living with pain, illness, or declining strength; for those waiting for medical answers; for those entering hospitals, undergoing treatments, or caring for someone they love. Grant healing where healing is possible, endurance where the road is long, and the deep assurance that no one walks through suffering alone.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who carry grief. Be near to those who mourn someone whose absence has changed the shape of every day. Sit beside those whose homes feel empty, whose memories are tender, and whose sorrow rises unexpectedly. Hold them beneath the shelter of your love, and let the promise of resurrection become a quiet light within their darkness.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who carry the burden of responsibility. Remember parents and grandparents, caregivers and teachers, ministers and leaders, workers and volunteers. Remember those who feel that too much depends upon them and who are afraid of what may happen if they stop. Give them permission to rest. Give them companions for the journey. Remind them that the world is held together not by their strength, but by your faithful love.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for your church. Forgive us for the times we have made faith heavier than you intended. Forgive us when we have placed burdens on others, measured their worth, or spoken of grace while quietly demanding perfection. Shape us into a community where weary people may breathe again; where

questions are welcomed, wounds are treated gently, and no one must earn the right to belong. Teach us to bear one another's burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations of the world and for all who live beneath the burdens of war, poverty, displacement, injustice, and fear. Strengthen those who work for peace. Give wisdom and humility to those entrusted with public leadership. Turn the hearts of the powerful toward mercy, justice, and the common good.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for our families, our community, and all whom we carry within our hearts today. In the silence, we name before you those who need your care. Silence may be kept. Loving God, we place these people and these concerns into your hands. Where we cannot fix, teach us to trust. Where we cannot carry, teach us to release. Where we cannot see the way forward, teach us to walk beside Jesus, one faithful step at a time. Join us to Christ beneath his gentle yoke. Teach us his way of humility, compassion, courage, and love 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:

Commissioning & Benediction

Go now beneath the gentle yoke of Christ. And may the love of God surround you, the presence of Christ walk beside you, and the Holy Spirit give rest and strength to your soul. For his yoke is easy, and his burden is light. Amen.

Dispersal Song:

Postlude