

Knox Service Outline

07/26/26

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: James Prette

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: Dance With The Spirit (Verse 1 x 2)

Psalm Reading: Psalm 119:129-136

Your decrees are wonderful;
therefore my soul keeps them.
The unfolding of your words gives light;
it imparts understanding to the simple.
With open mouth I pant,
because I long for your commandments.
Turn to me and be gracious to me,
as is your custom toward those who love your name.
Keep my steps steady according to your promise,
and never let iniquity have dominion over me.
Redeem me from human oppression,
that I may keep your precepts.
Make your face shine upon your servant,
and teach me your statutes.
My eyes shed streams of tears
because your law is not kept.

Call to Worship Prayer (Responsive)

Give thanks to God and call on God's holy name.

We will tell of God's wonderful works!

Let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.

We will sing God's praises!

Give glory to God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

We will remember God's mercy in all our words and actions.

First Hymn: He Leadeth Me – 650

Prayer of Adoration & Confession (Responsive)

God of the past, present and future, we marvel at the wonder of your creation. We praise you for gardens growing, birds singing, stars twinkling, for shouts of playful joy and restful evening sunsets. Such delights around us remind us of your goodness. God with us, day by day, you also surprise us with moments we will treasure for ever, and with confidence that turns small beginnings into projects that make a huge difference. You promise us a life beyond anything we can imagine, a kingdom marked by grace, love and justice for all. In Jesus' name, by the power of the Spirit breathing within us, we praise you for your loving kindness, and the hope it brings to us day by day. We will live to serve you, and offer you our love and loyalty now and always. With humble confidence in your loving kindness and grace, we confess to you our sins:

Merciful God, We confess we are not always merciful people. We turn away in anger rather than seeking peace and solutions. We criticize those who differ from us in culture or conviction, rather than seeking understanding. We hold grudges and hurt for a lifetime, rather than forgiving as you have forgiven us. In your mercy, give us peace, amend who we are and direct who we shall be.

Assurance of Pardon

Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ – and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. This is good news for us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. So be at peace and make peace with one another for Christ's sake.

Second Hymn: For The Beauty of the Earth – 434

Prayer for Understanding (Unison)

God of the seeking heart, we search for truth in a world filled with hidden agendas. Send us your Holy Spirit to guide us to the treasures hidden in your Word, for the sake of Christ who is the Way, the Truth and the Life for us. Amen

OT Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, “Ask what I should give you.” And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?”

It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. God said to him, “Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you.

NT Reading: Matthew 13:31-35

He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”

He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.”

Jesus told the crowds all these things in parables; without a parable he told them nothing. This was to fulfill what had been spoken through the prophet:

“I will open my mouth to speak in parables;

I will proclaim what has been hidden since the foundation.”

Response

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: That's How it Works

Third Hymn: Now Thank we All our God – 457

Invitation to the Offering

God surprises us with treasure hidden in familiar places, and pearls of great price, found through faithful searching. Let us offer back to God some of our treasure in gratitude for all we have discovered through our faith in Christ.

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

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Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

God of all true treasure, we offer our gifts with thankful hearts, knowing you keep providing what makes life truly rich. Bless these gifts so that your goodness is multiplied to touch the lives of those in need, for Christ's sake. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession (Responsive)

Holy God, we offer you our thanks this day, for you are the true source of peace and healing for us in a world that feels out of joint so often. Today we pray for those who face choices and decisions about their health: for those trying to follow good diets and exercise enough; for any waiting for appointments or wondering if they should make another call; for those who find caring for their health frustrating; and for those feeling pain or anxiety as they wait for healing and peace.

God, in your mercy,

Guide us in our choices and challenges.

We offer you our thanks this day, for you are the true source of wisdom and generosity in a world struggling to make ends meet. Today we pray for all who face choices and decisions about their finances: for those struggling with bills and budgets; for those torn between covering necessities and enjoying a treat; for those who have few choices because resources are limited; and for those who have many choices and want to make them wisely.

God, in your mercy,

Guide us in our choices and challenges.

We offer you our thanks this day, for you are the true source of love and forgiveness in a world full of criticism and self-doubt. Today we pray for those facing choices and decisions about relationships: for people we ought to call but just haven't; for those with whom we feel a grievance but haven't worked it through; for those we'd like to invite into closer relationship but haven't yet found the courage; and for those we miss dearly and need to tell how much we cherish them.

God, in your mercy,

Guide us in our choices and challenges.

Lord Jesus Christ: We offer you thanks this day, for you are the source of rest and right relationship for God's whole creation. Today we pray for the earth and its well-being. Encourage us to care for the earth in our everyday lives so its resources last for coming generations. Inspire us to live out our good intentions for the earth in our choices big and small so that your kingdom may come on earth, not by disaster but through discipleship. For it is as your disciples we pray:

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

This week think of the Holy Spirit breathing with you, in every deep breath before exertion, and in every long sigh of frustration or satisfaction. Let your breath remind you that God is with you. And may the deep love of God never let you go, the friendship of Christ hold you steady, and the company of the Spirit fill you with strength and courage to face each new day.

Dispersal Song: Go ye, Go ye, Into All the World (verses 1 & 2) – 755

Postlude