

Knox Service Outline

08/16/26

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: Cathy Victor

Music: Connie Dunwoody

Elder: Ursula Crockett

Reader: Fiona Gow

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: 133

How very good and pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!

It is like the precious oil on the head, running down upon the beard, the beard of Aaron, running down over the collar of his robes.

It is like the dew of Hermon, which falls on the mountains of Zion.

For there the Lord, ordained his blessing, life forevermore.

Call to Worship Prayer (Responsive)

We come from scattered lives to this sanctuary, this place of peace.

We come seeking our unity in the Spirit.

We come seeking the grace of Jesus Christ.

We come seeking the peace of God, our loving parent.

God's people have gathered!

Let us worship God, the Holy One.

Amen! Let us worship God.

First Hymn: God of Mercy, God of Grace #39

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

Prayer of Adoration

Let us immerse ourselves in the eternal and ever-present love of God, and let us pray. God, we praise you for the beauty of your creation that surrounds us. For rivers that flow, for willows that weep, for the soaring songs of birds and of the tiniest details of living things we cannot even see. Draw us close to yourself this morning. Feed our hearts and our souls and help us to grow ever more deeply in your Spirit. Renew us in the depths of your holiness. Confront us and surprise us with the joy of your presence and grace as we come to worship and praise you. Encourage what you have begun in us. Renew us, strengthen us and bless us in ways we have not imagined. Hear us now as we pray together:

Prayer of Confession (in Unison)

Gracious God, we come before you in need of your mercy and grace. You call us to trust you completely, but often we do not. We can be timid and fearful as we try to follow your lead. We struggle to understand what you imagine for us in the new life that Jesus sets before us. We so easily tend to prefer old habits, and turn from risky change. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to trust your forgiving love and leading. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Family of God, God knows your need before you ask for help. There is enough mercy to cover all your sins, and not yours only, but those of the whole world. Therefore put the past and its errors behind you. Live as forgiven people, for in Christ, such you truly are! *Thanks be to God!*

Second Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness #324

Prayer for Understanding (in Unison)

Holy God, help us to come to your Word open to being surprised. Silence our own agendas. Banish our assumptions. Cast out our casual detachment. Clear the cobwebs from our ears, and penetrate the corners of our hearts with your truth, grace and mercy. Amen.

OT Reading: Genesis 45:1-15 pg 42

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you

sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay. You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.' And now your eyes and the eyes of my brother Benjamin see that it is my own mouth that speaks to you. You must tell my father how greatly I am honored in Egypt and all that you have seen. Hurry and bring my father down here." Then he fell upon his brother Benjamin's neck and wept, while Benjamin wept upon his neck. And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them, and after that his brothers talked with him.

NT Reading: Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32 pg 160-161

I ask, then, has God rejected his people? By no means! I myself am an Israelite, a descendant of Abraham, a member of the tribe of Benjamin. God has not rejected his people whom he foreknew.

...for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. Just as you were once disobedient to God but have now received mercy because of their disobedience, so also they have now been disobedient in order that, by the mercy shown to you, they also may now receive mercy. For God has imprisoned all in disobedience so that he may be merciful to all.

NT Reading: Matthew 15:21-28 pg 17

Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon. Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon." But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us." He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me." He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs." She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table." Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

Response

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Have Mercy!

Third Hymn: Will you come and follow me? #634

Invitation to the Offering

There are some who have much and some who have little.

We are called to serve one another. In compassion we are called to share what we have, that others may know God's mercy and grace, discover new life, wholeness and joy. Let us present our offerings to God.

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

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

God of growing seeds and souls, we bring you our selves, our time, and these gifts, which we offer 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 bring new hope and to inspire an ever deepening faith in the souls they touch, in Jesus 'name. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Come, and sit with us, as we open our hearts to you. We bring you our joys, the moments we have felt deep thankfulness. In the silence we name those moments....

In the silence hear our desires for healing and wholeness; whether in our bodies or in our heart aches... When we feel bruised or broken help us to remember that you cherish us and hold us in your Divine embrace.

May your providence and love guide our paths and our thoughts.

Merciful God, within your never ending circle of love, we bring to you those we care deeply about. May your touch heal, transform and bring true wholeness to those we carry in our hearts. Hear us in the silence as we name those dear ones....

We pray for peace in our broken and hurting world.

- for those who are in the midst of war, terror and violence...
- For those living in fear or experiencing abuse or trauma...
- For those struggling with hunger or famine - whether far away, or those living on our streets... We pray for leaders who strive for peace... we pray for your people, our siblings who live in Ukraine...people throughout the Middle East...For those who live in Congo and surrounding countries facing disease and uncertainty.
- For those whose lives have been uprooted by earthquakes ... For those especially in our country who are deeply affected by wildfires. for the ones who have lost all that they had...Hear our prayers Jesus, and hear the ones too deep for us to name.

Holy God, give us hearts of love and mercy that we may go out and serve you wherever you may lead us. Hear us now as we pray together in the words that Jesus taught his friends.

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: All the way my Saviour leads me #699

Commissioning & Benediction

Beloved, go!

Go out into the world, ready to fulfill
your calling as servants of Christ.

God chooses you
for unexpected outpourings of grace and mercy!

Go in peace, filled with hope and confidence,

And may the love of our God,

Creator, Christ and Spirit

Be with you this day and always.

Amen

Dispersal Song: Go ye, go ye, into all the world #755

Postlude