

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: James Prette

Music: Connie Dunwoody

Elder: Ursula Crockett

Reader: Dennis Sutherland

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: **Gathering Song: Be Still for the Presence of The LORD (Verse 1 & 3)**

Psalm Reading: **Psalm 105:1-6, 26**

O give thanks to the LORD, call on his name, make known his deeds among the peoples.

Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works.

Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he uttered, O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones...

He sent his servant Moses, and Aaron whom he had chosen. They performed his signs among them, and miracles in the land of Ham.

Call to Worship Prayer (Responsive)

Give thanks to God and tell of God's gifts.

We will sing praises for all that God has done.

Let your hearts be joyful!

We will seek God's presence continually.

Call to mind God's wonderful works.

We will always remember the blessings of God and glorify God forever!

First Hymn: #321 Praise to the LORD

Prayer of Adoration

Holy, Mysterious, Eternal and Ever-loving God,
in you we live and move and have our being.
You are the beginning and end of all things.
In your depth, we find mystery.
In your breadth, we know your tender embrace.
We can only wonder at your love for us,
so small a part of your whole creation are we.
Yet in Jesus Christ we meet your generous grace.
In the Holy Spirit, you move with us to inspire our action
and fill us with hope.
Our thoughts cannot exhaust your wisdom,
nor can our hearts fathom your mercy.
And so, we worship you in humble praise,
Holy God, ever Three and ever One, now and always.

Out of a desire to begin again with you and each other,
we confess to you our sins:

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**Faithful and forgiving God,
we confess we do not live out your love and mercy.
We cling to old hurts and familiar habits.
We nurse anger and envy.
We are often so self-absorbed that we turn our backs on those in need.
Forgive what we have been, amend who we are,
and guide us toward who we may become
according to your generous grace.**

Assurance of Pardon

The Apostle Paul declared that from now on, we regard no one from a human point of view.
If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Thanks be to God that we can all make a new start through
God's embracing grace.

Second Hymn: #211 Take Up Your Cross

Prayer for Understanding (Unison)

**God of wisdom, you teach us with love, you touch us with mercy, and you challenge us with truth.
Send your Holy Spirit to help us grasp your love, mercy and truth in the Scriptures as we encounter
your living Word today. Amen**

OT Reading: Exodus 3:1-15

Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. Then Moses said, "I must turn aside and look at this great sight and see why the bush is not burned up." When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." Then he said, "Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." He said further, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, "I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt." But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?" He said, "I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain."

But Moses said to God, "If I come to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you': This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations."

NT Reading: Matthew 16:21-28

From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? "For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

Response

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Get Behind Me Satan

Third Hymn: #569 O Jesus, I Have Promised

Invitation to the Offering

The Apostle Paul encourages us to let our love be genuine as we contribute to those in need in the world around us. Know that God will use our gifts for good things, both those we undertake in Jesus' name and in ways we cannot yet imagine.

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

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

O God, we offer these gifts to you in hope and thanksgiving. Use them to transform the world you love with the mercy and compassion we celebrate in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession (Responsive)

O God in whom we live and move and have our being,
we come to you in prayer as the summer season draws nearer to its close.
We give you thanks for the occasions we have enjoyed this summer.
savouring the beauty of your creation right outside our doors,
catching up with family and friends,
and enjoying times for recreation & restoration.

We recognize how blessed we are
with many opportunities to find rest and relaxation in the summer.

Thank you for every good thing that has refreshed us.

Yet we remember those for whom this summer has been difficult:
those whose homes and communities have been ravaged by fire, storm or flood;
those who go hungry or face violence in forgotten corners of our own community
and around the world;
those who face economic struggles at home or at work;
those whose crops have withered in heat or drought;
(Keep silence)

Oh God of every season

May they know your strength and assurance day by day.

O God, Jesus walked with so many people in their pain and grief.

We remember those who have faced crises this summer -

through tragic death or unexpected loss,

through critical illness or injury,

through pain or problems that seem to have no end....

(Keep silence)

Oh God of every season

May they know your strength and assurance day by day.

O God, Jesus often faced many demands and pressure from his critics.

We pray for all those who have not found rest this summer:

for leaders trying to figure out ways forward for their communities when resources are tight;

for those whose jobs and responsibilities present new challenges;

and for all who seek secure and affordable housing when supply is low;

(Keep silence)

Oh God of every season

May they know your strength and assurance day by day.

O God, we need the embrace of your presence, each in our own way.

Bring healing and peace to our lives and to this world you love.

Open our eyes and our hearts so that we may offer healing and peace to those we encounter,

in the name of Christ Jesus who taught us to pray together:

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: #472 We Are God's People

Commissioning & Benediction

Moses met God unexpectedly, as a bush burst into flame.

Peter, James, and John met God on a mountain top.

Consider that you may meet God in unexpected places, for God can make any place holy ground.

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So may the God of mystery embrace you;
the Christ of mercy renew you;
and the Spirit of life move with you through each new day.

Dispersal Song: #755 Go ye, go ye, Into All the World (vs. 1 & 2)

Postlude