

Knox Service Outline - Communion 09/13/26

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Service Leader: Fiona Gow

Music: Connie Dunwoody

Elder: Fiona Gow

Reader: Marianne Mortimer

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: There is room for all

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul, and do not forget all his benefits—

who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases,

who redeems your life from the Pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

who satisfies you with good as long as you live so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

As far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins.

So let us rejoice in God's gracious presence.

Let us praise the God of mercy together.

First Hymn: All Hail the Power of Jesus Name

#363

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

God of might and mercy, the heavens and the earth are full of your glory. Your love transforms our lives. You enter our confusion and give insight. You bear our grief and bring healing. You see our fatigue and renew strength. You sense our fear and spark courage. You know death and raise up new life. So, we come before you in worship, handing over to you all that weighs us down. Renew us in this time of worship, we pray, so that we may serve you with joy in Jesus' name. Amen.

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

Merciful God, our lives do not always reflect your transforming power. You are gracious, but we cling to judgment. You are kind, but we can be cruel. You are forgiving, but we nurse grudges and old wounds. Forgive us, O God. Fill us with your Holy Spirit.

Assurance of Pardon

The proof of God's amazing love is this: that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Know that you are forgiven by his grace and be at peace with God, with yourselves and with each other. Amen.

Second Hymn: Forgive our Sins as We Forgive

#751

Prayer of Understanding (Unison)

God of wisdom, prepare our hearts and minds to receive your Word. Where it challenges us, lead us by your Spirit to respond in faithfulness for the sake of Christ who gives us both courage and compassion. Amen.

First Scripture Reading: Matthew 18:21-35

Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if my brother or sister sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.

"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him, and, as he could not pay, the lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions and payment to be made. So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him by the throat he said, 'Pay what you owe.' Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

Scripture Response

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: "Forgiveness from the Heart"

Third Hymn: O Master Let Me Walk with Thee

#642

Offering invitation

From generation to generation, God calls us to share God's redeeming love in the world. Let us offer God our gifts this day as tokens of that love, needed so much in our generation.

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

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

We give thanks to you, O God, because you have blessed us with so much. Yet we know that others have too little. Bless our gifts so they touch lives in need and become roots of justice in the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who sends us out in love. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of grace and new life, we come before you today, glad to know you give us the chance to change our lives when we have wandered away from your purposes. We give you thanks for the encouragement and support we receive from friends in Christ, here in your church and wherever we meet them. We thank you for relationships that have grown stronger through the courage to forgive which you inspire in us. Use us as signs and servants of the new possibilities you create. God of changed hearts,

Renew the future for us all.

Christ our Companion, make our community one that lives out your grace and mercy. Today we pray for those among us and around us who are struggling to live wisely and well, who seek a way of integrity for the future.

We pray for those who are confronting addictions or trying to change old habits that are harmful to health: give them persistence and support We pray for those who want to end violence and anger in their lives: give them courage and wisdom to walk a new way God of changed hearts,

Renew the future for us all.

We pray for those who are seeking new work, learning new skills, or changing employment: open new opportunities for them. We pray for those facing the pain of war in the world, protect the innocent, the children and give compassion and understanding to world leaders to end violence. God of Hope, heal your world.

Renew the future for us all.

We pray for all of us who seek new ways to live out our faith in this church and in this community: help us communicate God's love in fresh ways so others catch the vision of your love. God of changed hearts,
Renew the future for us all.

We pray in silence for all those for whom the week ahead will hold deep challenges in their health, their relationships, their word and their lives. Merciful Father, and who need your support and ours to face what the days will bring... *Keep silence for 15 seconds*

Spirit of transforming power, work in us and in all for whom we pray, as we sum up our prayers in the words Jesus taught us:

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father in Heaven

Fourth Hymn: Now Thank we All our God

#457

Commission & Benediction

Jesus set the challenging goal before us: to forgive someone not just seven times, but seventy times seven. So, take up the challenge as you go, and allow forgiveness to change your life.

Dispersal Song: Siyahamba

Postlude