

Knox Service Outline - 09/20/26

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: Dr. James Prette

Music: Cloud Iris

Elder: Fiona Gow

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: Dance With the Spirit

Psalm Reading – Psalm 145

I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.
Every day I will praise you and extol your name for ever and ever.
Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom.
One generation commends your works to another; they tell of your mighty acts.
They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty— and I will meditate on your wonderful works.^d
They tell of the power of your awesome works— and I will proclaim your great deeds.
They celebrate your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.
The LORD is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and rich in love.
The LORD is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made.
All your works praise you, LORD; your faithful people extol you.
They tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your might,
so that all people may know of your mighty acts and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.
Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations
The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises and faithful in all he does.
The LORD upholds all who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.
The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time.
You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.
The LORD is righteous in all his ways and faithful in all he does.
The LORD is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth.
He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.
The LORD watches over all who love him, but all the wicked he will destroy.
My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD. Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

Give thanks to God who is good.

We will call on God's name and make known God's wonderful works.

Seek the Lord continually.

We will watch and listen for signs of God's grace.

Together let us worship God.

We will rejoice in God's presence and praise God's holy name.

First Hymn: Will You Come and Follow Me

#634

Prayer of Approach

God of all creation, you open the world around us and fill it with creatures of your love and purpose.

The wonder of each creature declares your praise – the mountains state your majesty;

the ripened field, your generosity; the oceans your power and the skies your grandeur.

Birds sing of your freedom; the ant works with your persistence.

We pray that our work will honour your justice and mercy, and our relationships speak of your love and compassion. So may we praise you, O God, not just in this hour of worship, but in all our waking and our working. May we live your praise and promise through Christ, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and always.

In confidence of your grace, we confess to you our sins:

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

**God, you are the giver of all good gifts,
yet our generosity is often limited.**

We complain about our circumstance.

**We compare ourselves to others
and see what they have that we do not.**

**We share some of what we have,
but we worry about running short.**

**Forgive us our jealousy and greed
and give us generous hearts that trust in you day by day.**

Assurance of Pardon

God's mercy is from everlasting to everlasting. Believe the Good News! In Jesus Christ, God's generous love reaches out to embrace us. In Christ, we are forgiven and set free to begin again. Thanks be to God!

Second Hymn: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

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Prayer of Understanding (Unison)

Holy God, your thoughts are not our thoughts, and your ways are not our ways. As we hear your Word read and proclaimed, guide us by your Spirit, so that our thoughts and our ways are transformed by your grace, through Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 16: 2-11

In the desert the whole community grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The Israelites said to them, "If only we had died by the LORD's hand in Egypt! There we sat around pots of meat and ate all the food we wanted, but you have brought us out into this desert to starve this entire assembly to death." Then the LORD said to Moses, "I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions. On the sixth day they are to prepare what they bring in, and that is to be twice as much as they gather on the other days."

So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, "In the evening you will know that it was the LORD who brought you out of Egypt, and in the morning you will see the glory of the LORD, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we, that you should grumble against us?" Moses also said, "You will know that it was the LORD when he gives you meat to eat in the evening and all the bread you want in the morning, because he has heard your grumbling against him. Who are we? You are not grumbling against us, but against the LORD."

Then Moses told Aaron, "Say to the entire Israelite community, 'Come before the LORD, for he has heard your grumbling.'"

While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.

The LORD said to Moses, "I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them, 'At twilight you will eat meat, and in the morning you will be filled with bread. Then you will know that I am the LORD your God.'"

New Testament Reading: Matthew 20: 1-16

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last

the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

Scripture Response

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Unfair Grace

Third Hymn: As Water to the Thirsty

#688

Offering invitation

In glad thanksgiving for God's graciousness and blessings, we return to God a portion of what we have received.

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

Prayer of Dedication

Generous God, you are the source of all good things, of life itself and all that sustains it. Bless the gifts we offer and the gifts of fellow Presbyterians this day. By your Spirit, multiply their impact to support your purposes in the world you love in the name of Christ, our Saviour and Friend. Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession (Responsive)

God of mystery and wonder, we look around at the beauty of the world and sense that you have given each precious thing its place and a way of sustaining itself. Thank you for your attention to the details of creation.

Yet we also see an aching world and sense that many precious things are under threat. Bless the work of faithful people everywhere to care for the climate and environment. Show us how we can protect what is at risk for the health of your whole creation.

God our Maker,

make us a sharing people.

God of energy and life, We look around at the peoples of this world and see your imagination and dignity in every variety of face and culture. Thank you for the gifts you plant at the heart of humanity.

Yet we also see the aching of the hungry and hurting, and hear the groans of parents whose children die in their arms and the cries of children who fear tomorrow. Bless the ministries of your church across this country and around the world that bring healing and hope to lives at risk.

God our Maker,
make us a sharing people.

God of promise and possibility, We look around at the places where people collide with each other and hear the grumbling of nations locked into old rivalries and new grievances. We watch the jousting of leaders impressed more by polls than effective policies. We worry about the future of our communities and our children. Thank you for the ministries of advocacy your church undertakes and the witness for justice and peace we make together in Jesus' name.

God our Maker,
make us a sharing people.

God of faithfulness and surprise, We look at ourselves and sometimes doubt we can make a difference or have an impact. Challenge us to recognise the kinds of power we do have: The love and compassion, The courage and commitment, The laughter and friendship, The generosity and mercy. In all of these gifts we know your power is at work within us and among us. Call us to keep serving together, trusting you can do more than we can ask or imagine through your church, our congregation, and our own lives, blessed by the grace of Jesus Christ who taught us to 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: Lord Jesus, you shall be my song

#665

Commission & Benediction

Go, remembering God's generosity to us in Christ and in creation. Be generous in kindness to all who reach out to you. May the power of the Spirit strengthen you, and the love of Christ that surpasses all knowledge fill you with the fullness of God this day and evermore.

Dispersal Song: Go Now in Peace, Never Be Afraid

Postlude