

Knox Service Outline - 9/27/26

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: Dr. James Prette

Music: Carolyn Hoekstra

Elder: Fiona Gow

Reader: Harold McNabb

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

Psalm Reading: Psalm 25: 1-9

To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul. O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me. Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous. Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old. Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O LORD! Good and upright is the LORD; therefore, he instructs sinners in the way. He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

We come to worship because we love God.

All creation praises God's goodness and love.

We come to worship seeking healing and wholeness.

Through God's son, compassion, love, and grace flow in abundance.

We come to worship, yearning to be transformed:

Guided by the Spirit of God, we work to build a more peaceful and just world.

Let us worship God together!

First Hymn: Praise the Lord, ye heavens, adore him (Tune – Hyfrdol #371)

#323

Prayer of Approach

Steadfast God, as the seasons change, we see that you are still at work in the world, transforming hearts and situations. You have shown us the true face of love in Jesus Christ, reaching out with healing and hope to those who are hurting, lost or alone. We praise you for your love that works for respect, connection and peace among neighbours and nations in this divided world. May we see the face of Jesus in each person we meet. Renew our hope by the gift of your Spirit at work among us, so that we can live to praise you with the whole Church that bears Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayer of Confession

All-embracing God, In recalling all that you are and all that you have done, we recall then who we are and what we have done or failed to do. We confess that we have failed to comfort those in pain, ignored the needs of others failed to stand with our neighbours in their struggle for dignity and respect. We confess the sins of your church in running residential schools that separated children from their families. We repent of our past sins and pray for the wisdom to walk in a new way with you and with one another.

Assurance of Pardon

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. By God's grace we have been saved and this is not our own doing; it is a gift of God. Thanks be to God.

Second Hymn: Rock of ages, cleft for me

#240

Prayer of Understanding (Unison)

Send us your Spirit of wisdom, O God, that we may hear your Word speaking through the Scriptures and understand what you are saying to the church today. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

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The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, "The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge"? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, "The way of the Lord is unfair." Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, "The way of the Lord is unfair." O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the

transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

New Testament Reading: Matthew 21:23-32

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When he entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

Scripture Response

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: Words Versus Actions

Third Hymn: Take My Life, and let it be consecrated

#637

Offering invitation

Let us return to God the offerings of our life and the gifts of the earth, that they may be shared for the healing and wholeness of God's world.

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

Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Generous God, we have received so much from you in Christ and in creation. Bless the gifts we offer so that they will speak of your love for the world in all its detail and diversity. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

We bring you our prayers for the world, for people and communities harmed by conflict and war, discrimination and hate, poverty and injustice. We pray for our loved ones, and for our neighbours, both friend and stranger.

Creator God, you created us in your image and set us in the world to live in peace with you and one another. We pray for those facing hunger or housing insecurity. We pray for those who are hurt and hurting because of discrimination related to race, class, or gender. We pray for those facing conflict and war, and those who love and are afraid for their sake.

Bring your comfort and justice.

Comforting God, we pray for strength and healing for Survivors, intergenerational Survivors, their families and communities, and all people who were impacted by residential schools. May your loving care bring strength and courage for healing.

God of transforming love, the wounds of injustice continue to this day, imbedded in the fabric of our institutions and governments. Let your compassion and wisdom flow through all public policies and practices. Where power is hoarded, bring your equity and justice. Where racism is resisted, bring your courage and strength to acknowledge and address it. We pray that our communities, churches and country will be places where there is justice and where people protect the dignity of all creation.

We pray:

...for people whose bodies, minds and souls are in pain and those struggling with physical or mental illness;

...for people who experience violence in their relationships, in their home, workplace, community or country, and for those who have been displaced by war, unjust economic systems, the climate crisis, and ongoing impacts of colonization around the world;

...for people living with housing insecurity: where home is inadequate for the needs of the people it must shelter, is unsafe, unaffordable, or inaccessible;

...for people who are struggling with economic insecurity, barriers to education or employment, unfairness in policies or practices, for those struggling with the cost of food;

...for people at the frontlines of social support systems who daily face the evidence of systemic injustice and continue to strive for the safety and dignity of people and creation.

...for human rights advocates, land defenders and peacebuilders; strengthen and empower them.

Hear us now as we pray in silence...

And now we join our voices into one prayer and pray as Jesus taught,

The Lord's Prayer: Our Father in Heaven

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

Forth Hymn: The church's one foundation (vs1-4)

#479

Commission & Benediction

Go into God's good creation praying that the Spirit will open our minds to receive truth, open our hearts to seek peace, and strengthen our bodies to work for justice. Let the Spirit guide you in ways of love and justice, to walk lightly and humbly and seek truth, reconciliation, healing, and wholeness. And may the blessing of Creator, Christ and Spirit rest upon you this day and everyday.

Dispersal Song: We are marching/Siyahamba

#639

Postlude