

Knox Service Outline - 10/04/26

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: Dr. James Prette

Music: Carolyn Hoekstra

Elder: Lilian Sutherland

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.

Celebrations, Joys & Concerns

Sung Response: God's Blessing on You

Gathering Song: We are One in the Spirit

#471

Psalm Reading: Psalm 80:7-15

Restore us, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that we may be saved. You brought a vine out of Egypt; you drove out the nations and planted it. You cleared the ground for it; it took deep root and filled the land. The mountains were covered with its shade, the mighty cedars with its branches; it sent out its branches to the sea, and its shoots to the River. Why then have you broken down its walls, so that all who pass along the way pluck its fruit? The boar from the forest ravages it, and all that move in the field feed on it. Turn again, O God of hosts; look down from heaven, and see; have regard for this vine, the stock that your right hand planted.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

The banqueting table is prepared and God calls us to the feast.

We have come from east and west, from north and south, to sit at Christ's table.

Here compassion, love, and grace pour out like fine wine.

Here we taste the bread of life, bread for our journey.

There are gifts of God for all the people of God.

Let us taste and see that the Lord is good!

First Hymn: In Christ there is no East or West

#480

Prayer of Approach

Steadfast God, as the seasons change, we know you to be ever-constant and 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 touch desperate lives. We praise you for your love that works for reconciliation among neighbours and nations in this divided world. May we see the face of Jesus as we break bread at his table. Renew our hope by the gift of your Spirit at work among us, so that we can live to praise you as one God now and always with the whole Church that bears Jesus' name.

Confident of your grace and forgiveness, we confess to you our sins:

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbours in needs, wrapped in our own concerns. We fail to condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, forgive who we have been, amend who we are and direct who we shall be through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn? Only Christ – and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven by God's renewing grace.

Second Hymn: Seek Ye First

#625

Prayer of Understanding (Unison)

Send us your Spirit of wisdom, O God, so that we may hear your Word speaking through the Scriptures with ears that understand and hearts that respond in love. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7

Let me sing for my beloved my love-song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. He dug it and cleared it of stones and planted it with choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; he expected it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. And now, inhabitants of Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. What more was there to do for my vineyard that I have not done in it? When I expected it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and it shall be overgrown with briars and thorns; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his pleasant planting; he expected justice, but saw bloodshed; righteousness, but heard a cry!

New Testament Reading: Matthew 21:33-46

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard, put a fence around it, dug a wine press in it, and built a watchtower. Then he leased it to tenants and went to another country. When the harvest time had come, he sent his slaves to the tenants to collect his produce. But the tenants seized his slaves and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. Again he sent other slaves, more than the first; and they treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir; come, let us kill him and get his inheritance.’ So they seized him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him. Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death, and lease the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the produce at the harvest time.”

Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes’? Therefore, I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that produces the fruits of the kingdom. The one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and it will crush anyone on whom it falls.” When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they realized that he was speaking about them. They wanted to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, because they regarded him as a prophet.

Scripture Response

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: The Forgotten Vineyard

Third Hymn: One Bread, One Body

#540

Offering invitation

World Communion Sunday celebrates the relationship we share with Jesus’ followers around the world. Let us share our gifts with God, so there can be an outpouring of generosity in Jesus’ name around the globe.

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. May our gifts touch the need around us in the name of Christ who makes us one.

Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving & Intercession

Revealing God,
we seek to offer you our prayers in spirit and in truth.
We thank you for the truth of your love
which welcomes us as we are, not as the world tells us we should be.
Thank you for the truth of your mercy
which embraces us even when you recognize our mistakes and failures.
Thank you for the truth of your purpose
which gives us meaning and direction for our lives.
And thank you for the truth of your vision
which gives us hope for our future even in challenging times.
Revealing God,
Guide us in spirit and in truth.

Revealing God,
we seek from you truth for our times.
We are surrounded by claims of truth and much that misleads.
We pray for those who feel overwhelmed by so much information:
Grant us all the ability to discern fact from fabrication,
And to recognize self-interest disguised as sincerity.
Revealing God,
Guide us in spirit and in truth.

Revealing God,
we seek from you truth in our history.
We know that most history has been written by the winners,
so give us the willingness to hear the stories that have been silenced.
We pray for those who have stories that are difficult to tell.
Grant us both the courage to speak and to listen,
and the wisdom to recognize truth even when it makes us uncomfortable.
Revealing God,
Guide us in spirit and in truth.

Revealing God,
we seek from you truth in our characters and shared humanity.
We hear voices that are fearful, critical and cynical,
so help us listen for voices of respect, generosity and filled with hope.
Show us the potential we have to work together,
to find common cause even among those with different perspectives,
and accomplish more than we can imagine right now,

because, together, we have been created in your image.
Awaken in us and among us the potential to serve you
in serving one another,
for this is the way you revealed to us in Jesus Christ, both Friend and Saviour,
who taught us to pray together:

The Lord's Prayer:

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: Let us Talents and Tongues Employ

#563

Commission & Benediction

This week, think of yourself as an ambassador for Christ, seeking reconciliation where people are divided, carrying the peace of Christ into each encounter.

And so may the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding,
guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus and go with you into each new day. Amen.

Dispersal Song: Shalom Chaverim

#730

Postlude