

Knox Service Outline

10/25/2026

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez

Pastor: James Prette

Music: Connie Dunwoody

Elder: Lillian Sutherland

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: The steadfast love of the Lord (Chorus)

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Psalm Reading: Psalm 1

Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the LORD, and on the law, they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.

The wicked are not so but are like chaff that the wind drives away. Therefore, the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous; for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked will perish.

Call to Worship (Responsive)

The Lord has been our dwelling place in all generations.

From everlasting to everlasting, God is God; and so, we come to worship.

God satisfies us every morning with steadfast love;

Let us rejoice and be glad all our days.

Tell of God's glorious power and praise God's holy name.

We will offer God the work of our hands and praise from the depths of our hearts.

First Hymn: Lord, I lift Your name on high

Screen

Prayer of Approach

God, our God, you are gracious and loving, holy and eternal; your love is steadfast, your presence ever near. Your wisdom is older than time and as fresh as the morning dew. Your name has come to us through the centuries, yet you can always do a new thing to draw us back to you. Holy God: Creator, Christ and Spirit, Three and One we offer you our prayers and praise this day in humble expectation; refresh our understanding and nurture our readiness to serve you.

In recalling all that you have done and who you are, we recall who we have been and what we have done. Out of a desire to begin again with you and one another, we confess to you our sins:

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Merciful God, you know our hearts, the times we truly loved one another and the times we merely tolerated each other. You know our minds; the times we focused on you and the times we pursued our own purposes. You know our bodies, the times we have served you and the times we have served only ourselves. Forgive us those times we went our own way and renew our commitment to live lives marked by your grace.

Assurance of Pardon

Friends in Christ, we are forgiven people, set free from past failures, to make a fresh start this day and every day. The Holy Spirit empowers us to love God and to love others. Thanks be to God for such everlasting grace!

Second Hymn: Come and find the quiet centre

Screen

Prayer of Understanding (Unison)

Lord God, as we listen to the Scriptures this day, send your Holy Spirit so we encounter the words as your Living Word. Open our hearts to respond in love and service for Christ's sake. Amen.

Old Testament Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

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The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy...

You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not profit by the blood of your neighbor: I am the LORD. You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.

New Testament Reading: Matthew 22:34-46

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When the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, and one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?" He said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets. Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: "What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son, is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." He said to them, "How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet" ' ? If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

Scripture Response

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon: The Greatest Commandment

Third Hymn: A new commandment (sing twice)

Screen

Offering invitation

As members of Christ's body, the Church, we draw on the gifts of many other followers of Jesus, offered to him over centuries of service. Our gifts join theirs so that God will be praised and Jesus' love spread in this generation and those still to come.

Offering Song: Praise God from whom all blessings flow

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Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Generous God, you are both faithful and fruitful as you embrace each new generation. Bless our gifts and make them fruitful beyond our imagining. Keep us faithful in this generation so that the inheritance we have received in Christ will continue in generations yet to come. Amen

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Faithful God, we do not have enough words to thank you for all you have given us and the love you share with us in Christ Jesus.

In the silence of this time, help us review the week just past, remembering the ways we encountered you – in the beauty of creation, the support of friends, the wisdom of books, the joy of music, the energy of exercise, through study and prayer.

silence

God of comfort and challenge, we are grateful for your presence in these uncertain times at home, at work and at school. We give thanks for your attention to the small details and the large responsibilities we face. Make us attentive to the needs of those around us. In silence we name before you those finding these days especially difficult.

silence

God of persistence and inspiration, we remember before you the many who struggle to recognize your presence or fail to hear your voice amid all the competing voices in our world. We pray for those feeling depressed or anxious, those facing grief and loneliness, and those who are worried about their health or their future.

silence

God of justice and leadership, we pray for our country and nations of the world facing immense challenges. Guide decision makers in these complex times and keep the hearts of those with resources open to those who do not have enough. We pray for places where justice is lacking, where violence threatens, or leaders are untrustworthy.

silence

God of the Church, we pray for your church: where the church is divided, heal it; where we are in error, correct us; where we are tired, give us hope and expectation; where we are serving your purposes, nurture and protect us.

silence

God of grace and guidance, you call us to be your hands and feet, your voice and comfort in the world, following the example of Jesus. Equip us to respond to the needs around us in his name and make us bold to get started right here and right now. For we dare to pray the words Jesus taught us:

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

Forth Hymn: Love divine, all loves excelling

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Commission & Benediction

Go with love for God filling your hearts; to show love to each neighbour or stranger you meet in the week ahead. And may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and communion of the Holy Spirit be with you now and always. Amen.

Dispersal Song: Go make a difference (vs 3)

Postlude

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