Knox Service Outline 11/15/26

Interim Moderator: The Rev. Daniel Martinez
Pastor: James Prette
Music: Connie Dunwoody
Elder: Lorraine Whiting
Reader: Jim Jeatt

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 Lekwungen and W̱SÁNEĆ 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: #20. The Steadfast Love of The Lord (Chorus) #20

Psalm Reading: Psalm 90:1-8 pg 547
Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn us back to dust, and say, “Turn back, you mortals.” For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

Call to Worship (Responsive)
Let us praise the God of Truth!
Hallelujah! We seek God’s truth.
Let us praise the God of Peace!
Hallelujah! We seek God’s peace.
Let us praise the God of Love!
Hallelujah! In Christ we know God’s love and so we offer our praise!

First Hymn: Immortal, invisible, God only wise #290

Prayer of Approach
Transforming God, you take the night and give us day. You take our strife and give us peace.
You take our sadness and give us joy. You take our fear and give us courage. You take death and give us new life. O God, you give and you give and you give. So we come to praise you and offer our love and

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loyalty as your willing servants: in the name of Christ who enriches our lives with grace and in the power of the Spirit who prays within us when we cannot find the right words to honour you, God most kind and generous. Amen.
God of loving kindness, hear us as we confess to you our sins:

Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Trusting God, you placed your mission in our hands and gave us gifts to accomplish amazing things in Jesus' name. We confess sometimes we've taken credit for what your love has done. Sometimes we've called our own desires your will. Sometimes we've stepped back and let others carry responsibilities. Forgive us when we've failed to honour your trust in us.

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. So trust God's promise.
In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and given a new start by God's generous grace.

Second Hymn: Spirit of the living God #400

Prayer of Understanding (Unison)

God of the generations, the Scriptures are a legacy to us from your faithful people over many centuries. Just as your Spirit inspired poets and prophets, evangelists and epistle writers, and guided their translators again and again, send your same Spirit to inspire our understanding of your Word and our response to live by its wisdom, for the sake of Christ, your Living Word.

Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 pg 874

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

At that time, I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD'S wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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New Testament Reading: Matthew 25:14-30 **pg 28**

"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time, the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so, I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return, I would have received what was my own with interest. So, take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

Scripture Response

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God!

Sermon: The Joy of The Master

Third Hymn: Let us talents and tongues employ **#563**

Offering invitation

In the Church that bears Christ's name, we receive the legacy of faithfulness offered to us across many generations. Our gifts continue to build up the inheritance we share in for generations we will never meet, so that they will meet Jesus and reach out to others in his name.

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

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Prayer of Dedication (Unison)

Faithful God, we offer humble thanks today for your generosity to us through the Church that bears Christ's name. Receive our gifts as tokens of our love and loyalty. Use them to sustain the mission of the Church in ways we cannot yet imagine, in a future that you are creating through Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

God of all life and each life: we thank you that you are with us every day, in each challenge and opportunity. In our weakness, you are strength. In our confusion, you light the path ahead. In our questions, you offer wisdom for our choices. Stay with us in these days when so much seems uncertain, and help us to serve you faithfully, when and as we are able.

God of loving kindness: Thank you for each moment of joy and celebration in our lives: for love given and received, for friendships that bring meaning and happiness, and for family members who show us glimpses of unconditional love. In all our relationships and interactions, keep us mindful of your call to see you in one another.

God of the nations: we worry for the world filled with conflict and division, when the earth itself is put at risk by destructive human actions. Guide diplomats and politicians to look beyond short-term interests, and keep the well-being of vulnerable people and the planet in focus. Open our leaders' minds and hearts with wisdom to develop more equitable ways of ordering our common life.

God of healing: we pray for those who are suffering in these days when winter is closing in. Draw close to all who fear the future. Comfort those who experience pain or problems that seem overwhelming. Shine the light of your love into our sadness and sorrows and show us how to comfort and support each other.

God of life: We thank you for your saints of every age who continue to inspire us, and for all who have meant the world to us and now live with you. Keep us in communion with them and, at the last, bring us all to dwell together in your light. And now we pray with them in the words that Jesus taught us, saying:

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: Praise him, praise him, Jesus our blessed Redeemer **#372**

Commission & Benediction

Dispersal Song: Go Make a Difference **Screen**

Postlude

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