

# KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRATFORD

7th Sunday of Easter - May 21, 2023

We continue to be mask friendly: it is a personal decision. Thank you.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:**

**Leader:** As Adam and Eve walked in the garden in the evening in order to be with You, we too would regain that intimacy in all the dimensions that we can understand. We desire to know You and in that knowing we ask that You would dispel our loneliness which at its root is a longing for You.

**Congregation:** Come into our lives in this service where we pause to evaluate what really matters in our lives and join us in the evening for a walk among the trees in the garden of the world that You have created. Amen.

**Leader and People:** Let us worship God.

### **PRAYER OF APPROACH** (Together):

**God of all living things, we are enjoying the coming of spring with all things that are alive, that You have made so perfectly. Come into this service and heal our souls. Dispel our lonely thoughts with the comfort of Your Great Presence. Amen.**

**HYMN:** #394 Holy Spirit, Truth Divine Verses 1, 5 and 6.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (Together):

**Loving God we come to You for renewal. Sometimes only You can knit together the raveled sleeves of our cares. We are thankful for Jesus who made You more accessible to us because of his humanity and the Divinity that He shares with You. Help us also to become sons and daughters of You, The Living God, so that that we can impact the world where it needs Your healing, Your forgiveness and Your Grace. Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon** (Minister):

Hear the good news! No matter what we have said or done we can be forgiven and set on our feet again. Thank-You God, for Your forgiving Grace, which You give to all who seek You in honesty and truth. Leave this church after service today and be free! Amen.

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE:**

**Leader:** The Peace of Christ be with you

**Congregation:** And also, with you

\* Please turn and greet one another

## ANTHEM

## STORY

**HYMN:** #327 Sing Praise to God who reigns above  
Verses 1, 3 and 4.

## **SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**Old Testament:** Genesis 23: 1-20 (page 15)  
**Epistle:** Hebrews 11: 8-12 (page 851-852)  
**Gospel:** St. Luke 5: 15-16 (page 728)

**SERMON: "Is there a cure for loneliness?"**

### **MOMENT OF MUSIC**

**OFFERING AND DOXOLOGY #79** - Offering brought forward.  
Your offering can be left on the plates upon entering the service.

**Thank you for your gifts and prayers  
for the mission and outreach of Knox Stratford.**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Together): **God our Creator and Redeemer, you made us in love to share that love with neighbour and stranger as Jesus commanded. Take our gifts and make them tokens of your love we can share throughout our community and in the world You love, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**PRAYER HYMN: #87** When God restored our common life.  
Verse 3 only (Please stay seated)

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER** (debts)

**HYMN: #63** O sing a new song to the Lord Verses 1, 4 and 5.

### **BENEDICTION**

### **POSTLUDE**

**Join us for refreshments following the service.**

**Change Her World - Underwear Challenge:** When Change Her World began 13 years ago; one of their goals was to collect 20,000 pairs of underwear for girls in Malawi. Only 1000 more pairs are needed for this achievement to be realized. Our Knox Outreach project for the month of May will be to collect underwear as our contribution to achieving the goal. The underwear must be 100% cotton and a brief style. They need ladies' sizes Small and Medium and girls' sizes Small, Medium and Large. Donations can be put in the basket on the table in the Narthex. Thank you for your support!



All are invited and welcome to a new monthly worship service at Camp Kintail called "Kirk in the Cedars." Kirk is simply a Scottish word for church, and we will gather in the cedars of the outdoor chapel. Theresa (Trillium) and Jen (Maranta), along with the staff, will provide leadership in worship, but we will all be creating the Kirk together!

Worship is at 4PM, dinner to follow.

Dates: June 18<sup>th</sup>  
July 30<sup>th</sup>  
August 27<sup>th</sup>

September 24<sup>th</sup>  
October 22<sup>nd</sup>  
November 19<sup>th</sup>

#### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Supply Minister:** Rev. Dr. David Thompson

**Music Director:** Suzanne Strahan **Treasurer:** Shannon Archer  
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