

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRATFORD

May 7, 2023

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



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Responsive Call to Worship

Leader: Our Loving God, we come to You to experience a Love which lasts forever, but also here on earth in our time which is short.

People: Teach us, we pray, how to love well. It is a common saying that relationships are hard. We would not have our relationship with You to be hard...but authentic, truth filled and open to You. Heal our hearts and cleanse our souls so that we might have a wonderful relationship with You as our Friend, for all the seasons of our lives.

Leader and People: Let us worship God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (Together)

Dear God, You are our steadfast Friend.

You are our refuge in times of trouble
our shelter when we are afraid, and
our dwelling place forever.

In You alone we place our trust for

You set the way that Jesus lived before us.

May Your Spirit give us the courage to follow him. Amen.

HYMN: #482 Christ is made the sure foundation

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Together)

We confess Jesus as the way, the truth and the life for us,
yet we often fail to follow him,
too often going our own way,
distorting the truth and
living quiet lives of desperation.

Forgive us for falling short of Your purpose for our lives.

Give us courage to follow Jesus,
who continues to show us the way. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE: (Minister)

Do not let your hearts be troubled. Know that, in Christ, you are forgiven. Accept God's grace and forgiveness this day, and extend it to others for Jesus' sake. 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: "The Story of How God Helps"

HYMN: #357 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds Verses 1,2 and 4.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament:	Genesis 45: 1-8 (page 35)
Responsive Psalm:	Psalm 37:1-10 (page 398)
Gospel:	John 15:12-17 (page 764)

SERMON: "Friends for a reason"

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):

Generous God, we bless you for life renewed through Christ's love and through springtime growth in fields and gardens. Use the gifts we offer to bring hope and renewal to the world You love in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen

PRAYER HYMN: #442 Speak Lord in the stillness *(Please stay seated)*

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

UNISON Prayer for King Charles III and Queen Camilla:

On this Coronation weekend, we give thanks for King Charles III and his dedication to the wellbeing of your people throughout the world and his care for the environment. Bless him and Queen Camilla with faithfulness and wisdom, that their reign may advance unity and peace among all peoples and justice and equity for the most vulnerable.

HYMN: #490 God of Grace and God of Glory Verses 1,3 and 5

**BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE**

Join us for refreshments following the service.
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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. The good news is that they are nearing that goal. 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!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Supply Minister: Rev. Dr. David Thompson
Music Director: Suzanne Strahan **Treasurer:** Shannon Archer
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