

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRATFORD

3rd Sunday after Pentecost

June 18, 2023.

National Indigenous Peoples Sunday and Father's Day!

Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. David Thompson

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

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CCLI #2405391

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Introduction for worship on Father's Day

- **Exodus 20:12** Honour thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the earth
- **Ephesians 6:4:** "Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."
- **Proverbs 1:8:** "Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching."
- **2 Corinthians 6:18:** "And I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty."
- **Psalms 103:13:** "As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him."
- **Proverbs 22:6:** "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it."

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: Holy and generous is God, the Creator of all things.

People: **Loving and gracious is Christ, the Bearer of healing and hope.**

Leader: Gentle and wise is the Holy Spirit, the Breath of new life.

People: **We call on You today.**

Leader: Come and worship the God who made us and loves us all!

People: **We come with joyful praise and hopeful hearts!**

PRAYER OF APPROACH (Together):

Creator God,

You have made a world of such amazing diversity –

with unique living beings we cannot number!

You have created such amazing diversity in humankind –

through culture and language, custom and community,

expressed in so much creativity and compassion.

We praise You for such wonders.

In Jesus Christ, You show us how we can live by Your love.

By the power of Your Spirit, give us new eyes to behold all peoples on the planet, and teach us how to love each other and all creation with humble, grateful hearts.

Amen.

HYMN: #65 All people that on earth do dwell Verses 1,3, & 4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together):

Creator God,

**The diversity in Your creation amazes us,
but we confess we often prefer what seems familiar.**

We'd like everyone to speak our language.

We wish others held our values and shared our customs.

Forgive all our destructive actions against native peoples. We confess that the church was wrong to try to assimilate native peoples in residential school systems. If native peoples are unable to forgive us, we understand that their deep hurt is our fault and we deeply apologize.

**God, when we fail to see how our actions hurt others and the earth our mother, forgive our easy assumptions,
and teach us to listen to the stories others tell
with open minds and hearts. Amen**

Assurance of Pardon (Minister): The prophet Micah declared that God requires three things of us: to do justice, to love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. To all who seek reconciliation with God and neighbour in kindness and humility, God offers forgiveness and peace. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

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: # 740 Make me a channel

SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 18: 21-35 (Page 695)

SERMON: "Forgiveness and your future"
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OFFERING AND DOXOLOGY #306 - 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 of grace and goodness, Your world is full of gifts that sustain our lives. We offer our gifts in gratitude. Bless them and make them signs of Your presence at work in the world, touching lives in need with Your love and strength in Jesus' name. Amen

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

HYMN: #307 God of the sparrow, God of the whale

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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

INTERIM MINISTRY: Rev. Dr. David Thompson began Interim Ministry for our congregation on June 1. He is connecting with our membership roll and available for Pastoral Care visits and phone calls. He will be in Stratford most weeks on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

The next **Sacrament of Communion** will take place next **Sunday, June 25** at the 10:30am service.

Search Committee Update: We continue to offer prayers in the process of searching for a full-time minister.



There is a monthly outdoor worship service at Camp Kintail called "Kirk in the Cedars." Worship is at 4pm; dinner at 5:30pm by donation. **The Knox congregation is planning on attending this afternoon - June 18.** We are suggesting arriving around 3:00pm to share some fellowship prior to the service or maybe just a walk on the beach. There is no need to sign up for this event. If you would like to share a ride, please leave a message on the church phone and we will make the arrangements.

OUTREACH AT KNOX Our focus for June will be the local Connection Centre. While we think that the winter months are hardest for those needing shelter, the summer brings special needs. We will be collecting the following to help with their summer needs.

- Insect Repellant and Sunscreen
- Reusable bags
- Shorts for men and women -Size medium

(These do not need to be new but in good clean condition.)