

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRATFORD
8th Sunday after Pentecost July 23rd, 2023

Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. David Thompson

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

142 Ontario Street, Stratford, Ontario. N5A 3H2

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CCLI #2405391

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Responsive Call to Worship:

Leader: We gather in the presence of God;

People: We have come to worship and praise God's name.

Leader: We gather in joy and expectancy;

People: We have come to encounter God in beauty and truth.

Leader: Speak, Lord, for your servants are listening;

People: Speak your Word of life to us, O God.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (Together)

Creator God, in You we live and move and have our being:

You have been with us through good times and hard ones.

You give us strength to face the challenges around us.

when life seems too demanding,

You offer us rest for our bodies and souls.

We turn to You for wisdom this day,

trusting we will find the peace and comfort we long for

in Your presence.

Fill us with your Spirit in this time of worship.

Open our minds and hearts, so that we may

see as You see, love as You love, and follow Your ways

for the sake of Christ, our Lord. Amen

HYMN: #411 Stand up and bless the Lord Verses 1, 3 and 4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Together)

Ever present God, You know our inmost thoughts and see our thoughtless actions.

We confess our impulsive reactions, when we spoke

before we thought, and we ask forgiveness if we have hurt

others. We confess our stubborn attitudes,

and ask forgiveness for refusing others mercy.

In your kindness, O God, forgive who we have been, amend who we are, and direct who we shall be through the grace of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Minister): Remember that God is slow to be angry and quick to forgive; kind and gracious to all. Know that your sins are forgiven through the grace of Jesus Christ, and forgive those who have sinned against you, as Christ teaches us.

PASSING OF THE PEACE:

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you

Congregation: And also, with you

* Please turn and greet one another

MUSIC

STORY

HYMN: #654 O God of Bethel Verses 1, 3 and 5.

SCRIPTURE READING

St. Mark 2: 1-12

(Page 708 in the Pew Bible)

SERMON: "Unleash your creativity!"

OFFERING AND DOXOLOGY #830 The offering can be placed in the offering plates at the back of the church in the narthex prior to it being brought forward.

Your gifts and prayers for the mission and outreach of Knox Stratford are greatly appreciated.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Together): Gift-giving God, we are so grateful for all that we enjoy in the world around us, and in the assurance You love us all. Bless the gifts we offer today, that they may express Your love for the world itself and to all who need to know You care, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

We sing for world peace and for peace in Ukraine.

Let there be peace on earth (*Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller, 1955*)

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me;
Let there be peace on earth,
The peace that was meant to be.
With God, our creator,
We are family.
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me,
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
Let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and live each moment
In peace eternally,
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me. CCLI #2405391

PRAYER: Ever present God, we thank You that you hear us in every situation of life, for we all find ourselves in difficult situations sooner or later. Help us to support each other as we unleash our creativity to solve problems, standing together in gladness and challenge. Strengthen our life together as Your people. Give us the generosity we meet in Jesus to respond wisely and creatively to those whose lives touch ours – inside and outside Your church. **Hear our prayer. Amen.**

HYMN: #769 Lord of light whose name and splendor
Verses 1, 3 and 4.

BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE

NOTE: Gradually pews will be replaced with chairs. Anyone wishing to purchase a pew, please contact the church office, or BMI Operations Manager, Leonard Stannard at leonard@thebmgroupp.ca or 519 215 1465