

# KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRATFORD

11th Sunday after Pentecost

August 13, 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

\*The offering can be placed in the offering plates at the back of the church in the narthex prior to it being brought forward.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Responsive Call to Worship:

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord!

**People: We will honour God's name with hearts of joy!**

Leader: Let us be mindful of all that God provides for us.

**People: Let us give thanks for all the wonders God has made!**

### PRAYER OF APPROACH (Together):

**Surprising and mysterious God,**

**You come to us when we least expect it, calling us out of our routines and plans,**

**inviting us to follow You into new opportunities.**

**We praise You for the many ways You come to us.**

**In moments of fear, You speak with words of reassurance.**

**In moments of doubt, You hold our hearts close.**

**In moments of turmoil, you bring calm to the storm.**

**You are faithful to us through everything life can bring.**

**And so, we place our trust in You this day and every day, and honour You, in the name of Christ, our Lord and friend. Amen.**

**HYMN: #434 For the beauty of the earth Verses 1,3, and 5.**

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Together)

**Merciful and patient God, we confess that we still experience fear and doubt, even though You reach out to us. You call us to live with courage and perseverance, yet we can give up too easily and opt for the safer route. You encourage us to be bold in our struggles for justice, yet we remain silent in the face of unfairness.**

**Forgive us all the times we let You down.**

**Renew our lives through Your mercy and grace. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon (Minister):** Rest assured, God offers forgiveness and saving grace to everyone who turns to God for the renewal of their life. Accept this gift of gracious forgiveness for yourself personally, and then offer forgiveness to others in the name of The One who taught us to forgive ourselves, those who have sinned against us, and those who we consider to be enemies, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### 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: #371 Love Divine, all loves excelling Verses 1,2, and 4.**

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

**Psalms 103: V: 1-14** (Page 428 in the Pew Bible)

**St. Luke 10: 25-28** (Page 735 in the Pew Bible)

**SERMON: "Be careful with your heart"**

## OFFERTORY

\***OFFERING** brought forward **DOXOLOGY #830**

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

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (Together):

**Faithful God, bless the gifts we bring to you today. Use them and us to plant seeds of faith, hope and love in the world so that Your goodness will flourish and Your name be honoured in all the earth. 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

**CLOSING PRAYER:**

God of hope, You challenge us. You come to us in the midst of the world’s troubles and invite us to stand for truth and work for justice. We pray for all those people crying out for fair treatment, working against racism and discrimination, telling painful stories of their lives. Open our hearts with understanding and motivate us to act for change. We pray for those who resist the stories of injustice and defend inequality.

Open their minds to the truths they deny, and show them new possibilities for relationships that bridge divides. Send Your Spirit to work in our communities to create mutual respect and new ways to live as neighbours. Amen.

**HYMN: #651** Guide me, O thou Great Redeemer - All verses

**BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE**

**Join us for refreshments following the service.**  
If you would like to host or co-host the refreshment time,  
please contact Shirley Weitzel.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Casavant Organ Concert** featuring Suzanne Strahan  
at Knox Stratford (Copperlight)  
**Friday Sept. 1st @ 11:30a.m.**  
Donations at the door.

**SAVE the DATES: Kirk in the Cedars at CAMP KINTAL**  
Sunday, August 27, September 24, October 22, and  
November 19. Worship service at 4:00pm in the outdoor  
chapel - followed by a dinner at 5pm. No registration  
required. Donations are accepted at the door for dinner.

**NOTE:** You will notice a change at the front of the sanctuary. 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@thebmggroup.ca or 519 215 1465