

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRATFORD

12th Sunday after Pentecost

August 20, 2023

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: Let all the peoples of the earth praise God;

People: Let the nations be glad and sing with joy,

For God guides us all with justice and equity.

Leader: Let us be thankful to God for how we have been blessed;

People: Come let us worship and offer all our honour, all our gratitude and all our thanksgivings, so be it!

PRAYER OF APPROACH (Together):

Welcoming God, You make all things new.

You invite all peoples to receive your blessing.

Justice and right relations have their source in You.

We are filled with joy to be counted among Your children.

As we gather, make us one in witness and worship.

Together, we lift our voices to proclaim Your all-encompassing love. May our praise join with the praise of all Your people, and reach the ends of the earth, for You are our Maker and the hope of the world You love. Amen

HYMN: #65 All people that on earth do dwell Verses 1-3.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Together)

Merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as You have taught us. Forgive us those times we have not welcomed others into our community; and those times we have avoided others because something about them made us uncomfortable. Forgive us the ways we have judged people unfairly. Reveal to us our own prejudices, and show us how to see Your goodness in those who seem different from us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Minister): While it is true that we have all sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. To all who humbly seek the mercy of God: be at peace with God, with yourself and with one another. 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: #495 The heavens declare your glory Lord Verses 1&2

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 91: 1-12 (Page 424 in the Pew Bible)

Romans 11: 33-36 (Page 803 in the Pew Bible)

SERMON: "Suffering, Chance and Destiny"

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

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

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Together):

O God, we place our hope and trust in Your loving kindness. Because we want to praise You with more than just words, we offer our gifts to support Christ's mission in the world. Bless these gifts and use our energy for Your good purposes, so that the world, through us, will know Your loving kindness. 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)*
(words shared on the screen)

CLOSING PRAYER: Living God, people of all places and times have reached out to You in times of desperation. We pray for all that we are and all that we do, all we wish we could do and all we long for. We pray for everything we work for in our church and community, and everything we hope for in the face of so much change. We pray for the choices we face in our country and community, in our homes and workplaces, We pray for the troubles that weary us, the situations that puzzle us and the uncertainty that surrounds us...

We remember before You each situation that worries us and each person we care about....

Living Christ, You are the Source of peace and new possibility for us all. Help us trust in Your grace for today and tomorrow. Fill us with the strength and hope we need to walk with You, united in Your love. Amen.

HYMN: #451 Dear Father, Lord of humankind Verses 1, 5 & 6.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Join us for refreshments following the service.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Kirk in the Cedars at CAMP KINTAL Sunday, August 27,
Worship service at 4:00pm in the outdoor chapel - followed
by a dinner at 5pm by donation. No registration required.

NOTE: You will notice a change with pews being replaced with chairs. Anyone wishing to purchase a pew, please contact the church office 519-271-0373, or BMI Operations Manager, Leonard Stannard at leonard@thebmigroup.ca or 519 215 1465

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