

# KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRATFORD

13th Sunday after Pentecost

August 27, 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: We give thanks to the Lord with all our hearts,

**People: for God's faithful love endures forever.**

Leader: We sing praises to the Lord, with all our strength,

**People: for God's promises declare God's goodness to all the earth.**

Leader: We place our trust in in God with full confidence,

**People: and so we come to worship with hearts full of praise.**

### PRAYER OF APPROACH (Together):

**Eternal God, You are the same yesterday, today and tomorrow, and yet You come to us afresh each new day. You breathe new life into what has grown tired and discouraged. You offer healing for what is worn or broken. You restore hope when things seem impossible. You are the source of life and love for all Your creatures, and You renew us to put our love for You into action for the wellbeing of Your creation. And so we worship You, Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit, offering our prayers and praise to You, eternal and ever-present God, now and always. Amen.**

HYMN: #321 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty Verses 1,2 & 3

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Together)

**Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from Your purposes. You set a path for us to follow, but we conform to the ways of this world. You give each of us gifts to use for the work of Your kingdom, but we wait for others to do what needs doing. Forgive us for taking the easy way out, and renew in us the eagerness and energy to serve. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (Minister): Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ – and Christ died for us. Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace.

### 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: #633 Who would true valour see Verses 1 and 2

### SCRIPTURE READINGS

**St. Matthew 5; 38-48** (Page 684 in the Pew Bible)

**St. John 8: 3-11** (Page 757 in the Pew Bible)

## SERMON: "Beyond polarized thinking"

\***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, bless what we offer today as well as the time, talent, and concern we will offer You this week. We trust that, with Your blessing, Your Holy Spirit is able to accomplish more than we can ask or imagine in Christ's name. 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)*

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Through the examples of prophets and apostles, O God, You give the gift of leadership. Call up leaders within the Church to build up Your ministries and model respectful ways of living and loving together. Teach us Jesus' take on polarization and help us to follow His gift of Third Way Thinking. Call up leaders in our nation and neighbourhood who go beyond polarization and who model respect and attend to the common good and the needs of the earth itself. Gift-giving God, we are grateful for all the people in whom we meet Your gifts at work. Inspire us to add our energy and experience to the care of Your great creation, as the loyal followers of Jesus who embodied all Your gifts. Amen

**HYMN:** #757 Come sing, O Church, in joy Verses 2 and 3.

**BENEDICTION  
POSTLUDE**

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

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

**KNOX CHURCH CHOIR-** practices begin Wednesday,  
September 6 at 7pm in the sanctuary. New members welcome!

**Kirk in the Cedars at CAMP KINTAL is TODAY**  
Worship service at 4:00pm in the outdoor chapel - followed  
by a dinner at 5pm by donation. No registration required.

**NOTE:** Pews are being replaced with chairs. Anyone wishing to purchase a pew, please contact the church office, or BMI Operations Manager, Leonard Stannard at [leonard@thebmigroup.ca](mailto:leonard@thebmigroup.ca) or 519 215 1465. They can be resized to various lengths.

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