

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRATFORD

9th Sunday after Pentecost

July 30th, 2023

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Responsive Call to Worship:

Leader: Give thanks to God and call on God's holy name.

People: We will tell of God's wonderful works!

Leader: Let the hearts of those who seek God rejoice.

People: We will sing God's praises!

Give glory to God, our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer.

Leader: We will remember God's mercy in all our words and actions.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (Together):

Dear God: You surprise us with moments we will treasure for ever, and with confidence that turns difficult beginnings into projects that make a huge difference. You promise us a life beyond anything we can imagine, a kingdom marked by grace, love and justice for all. We praise You for Your loving kindness, and the hope it brings to us day by day. We will live to serve You, and offer You our love and loyalty, now and always. Amen

HYMN: #386 Come down O love divine Verses 1, 3, and 4

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Together)

**Merciful God,
we confess we are not always merciful people. We turn away in anger rather than seek solutions.
We criticize those who differ from us in culture or conviction, rather than seeking understanding.
We can hold grudges for a lifetime.
Forgive us our failures to live out the mercy we claim from You week by week.
Open our hearts with Your great love. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (Minister): 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. This is good news for us. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. So let's be at peace and make peace with one another for the sake of the preservation of the world. In Christ's name we pray. 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: "How Beautiful" - Twila Paris, arr. Lloyd Larson
Trio: Mary Rothwell Bijman, Nancy & Allan Rothwell

STORY

HYMN:#290 Immortal, invisible, God only wise Verses 1,3 & 4.

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 13: 1-5 (Page 853 in the Pew Bible)

Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters.

² Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.³ Continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.⁴ Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral.⁵ Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

SERMON: "Embrace where you are!"

OFFERTORY: "You Are My All in All"

- Dennis L. Jernigan, arr. Lloyd Larson

DOXOLOGY #830

Your gifts and prayers for the mission and outreach of Knox Stratford are greatly appreciated. The offering can be placed in the offering plates at the back of the church in the narthex prior to it being brought forward.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Together): **God of all true treasures, we offer our gifts with thankful hearts, knowing with the stewardship you taught us that You keep providing what makes life so truly rich. Bless these gifts so that your goodness is multiplied to touch the lives of those in need, for Christ's sake. 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: Lord Jesus Christ:
We offer you thanks this day for You are the source of rest and right relationship for God's whole creation.
Today we pray for the earth and its well-being.

Encourage us to care for the earth in our everyday lives so that it remains a home for all creatures and our coming generations. Inspire us to live out our good intentions for the earth in our choices big and small so that Your kingdom may come on earth, not by disaster fires and floods, but through stewardship of all creatures great and small that You have made. Amen

HYMN: #461 Be thou my vision Verses 1, 3, and 5

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

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

Kirk in the Cedars at CAMP KINTAL: Worship service at 4:00pm in the outdoor chapel Sunday, July 30. Followed by a dinner. No registration required. Donations are accepted at the door for dinner. Save the dates for future Kirk in the Cedar services: Sunday, August 27, September 24, October 22, and November 19.

Interim Minister: Rev. Dr. David Thompson
Music Director: Suzanne Strahan **Treasurer:** Shannon Archer
142 Ontario Street, Stratford, Ontario. N5A 3H2
519-271-0373 knoxs@wightman.ca
CCLI #2405391