

**KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

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

\* We continue to be mask friendly, but it is now a personal decision. Thank you.  
\*\* 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:**

Praise the Lord.

**Let us praise God together.**

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love;  
**as far as the east is from the west, so far God removes our sins.**

So let us rejoice in God's gracious presence.

**Let us praise the God of mercy together.**

**PRAYER OF APPROACH** (*together*)

**God of might and mercy,**

**the heavens and the earth are full of your glory.**

**Your love transforms our lives.**

**You enter our confusion and give insight.**

**You bear our grief and bring healing.**

**You see our fatigue and renew strength.**

**You sense our fear and spark courage.**

**You know death and raise up new life.**

**We come before you in worship,**

**handing over to You all that weighs us down.**

**Renew us in this time of worship, we pray, so that we may serve you with joy in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Amen**

**Hymn # 314 God is Love: V:1 and 3.**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(together)***

**Holy, Mysterious, Eternal and Ever-Living -God,**

**our lives do not always reflect your transforming power.**

**You are gracious, but we cling to condemning others**

**You are kind, but we can be cruel.**

**You are forgiving, but we often nurse grudges and old wounds.**

**Forgive us, O God.**

**Fill us with The Holiness of Your Spirit,**

**and make us new through Christ, your Son, who rescues us. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon (Minister)**

The proof of God's amazing love is this: that while we were self absorbed and uncaring of others, Christ loved us enough to die for us.

So, when we seek to turn from the dark and seek the light and Peace of God's Presence, we know that we are forgiven by God's grace and can be at peace with God, with ourselves and with each other. May that be our truth today! Amen.

**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: #645 Follow me the Master said: v: 1 and 3.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**Psalm 46: 1-11**

**Matthew 7: 24-27**

**SERMON: Cool under fire**

**OFFERTORY:**

**DOXOLOGY #830 Praise God...(Offering brought forward)**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION ((together)**

**We give thanks to you, O God, because you have blessed us with so much. Yet we know that others have too little. Bless our gifts so they touch lives in need and become roots of justice in the world, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who sends us out in love. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH**

**PRAYER ( Minister)**

Dear God,

Please make our community one that lives out Your grace and mercy.

Today we pray for those among us and around us who are struggling to live wisely and well,

who seek a way of integrity for the future.

We pray for those who are confronting addictions

or trying to change old habits that are harmful to health:

give them persistence and support

We pray for those who want to end violence and anger in their lives:

Please give them courage and wisdom to walk a new way. Amen.

**Hymn # 587 Called as partners in Christ's service v: 1 and 4.**

**Benediction**

**POSTLUDE:**