

**KNOX PRESBYTERIAN
CHURCH STRATFORD**
15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 10, 2023



PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Responsive Call to Worship:

Leader: Sing to the Lord a new song.

People: We will worship God, our Maker!

Leader: Let us praise God in song and spoken words

People: For God is gracious and loving!

Leader: Let us bring God glory and honour,

People: For God deserves our praise.

PRAYER OF APPROACH *(together)*

God of grace and glory, Your creative power is beyond imagining. Your love is wider than the whole universe; Your mercy reached beyond the highest heavens; Your wisdom lies deeper than the fathoms of the sea. Maker of all things, You are present with us in every time and place, to comfort and challenge us. We worship You, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, and we live to bring You glory, now and always, Amen.

HYMM: #324 Great is Thy Faithfulness Verses 1 and 3.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(together)*

God of majesty and mercy, although Christ offers us peace, we confess we are a people divided.

We harbour fears and jealousy, which set neighbour against neighbour, nation against nation.

We pursue profit and pleasures, which harm creation and the wellbeing of less privileged peoples.

Have mercy upon us, O God.

Set us free from our old ways to serve You as agents of Your Future. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Minister)

The Apostle Paul challenges us to lay aside actions and deeds that distance us from God and one another and to put on the armour of light. Know that you are forgiven by God's grace. Walk in God's mercy. Be at peace with God, with yourself and with each other. **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: #747 There is a balm in Gilead Verses 1 and 2.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

2 Kings 5: 8-14 (Page 263 in the pew bible)

Matthew 6: 27-34 (Page 685 in the pew bible)

Romans 8: 35-39 (Page 801 in the pew bible)

SERMON: "How to be really happy!"

DOXOLOGY #830 Praise God (Offering brought forward)

** 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)

Gracious God, receive these gifts, offered in a spirit of generosity and humility. Bless and use them for the work that You long to do in the world You love for Jesus' sake. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and 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 of Intercession (Minister)

We pray for the church in this place and around the world, facing so many new challenges to respond to so many enduring needs. We pray for this beautiful planet, the fragile home we share with all living things. For children and youth who worry about the future of the planet and their place in that future. For those who govern in the cities, towns and municipalities and the nations of the world, that they may find the wisdom and courage to do justice for all in the decisions they make. For the homeless and the hungry, for the unemployed and the uncertain, and for all who struggle with daily decisions for their families and their future; for all those who mourn, for those who face illness or isolation, and for all whose situations we carry on our hearts this day. God with us, we thank You for Your all-embracing love that touches all life and each life, and keeps us in communion with those dear to us who now live in Your immediate Presence. Amen

Hymn #712 Arise, your light is come Verses 3 and 4.

BENEDICTION and POSTLUDE

Join us for refreshments

Cake and coffee in the west transept following the service. We celebrate our 3 years of ministry January 2020 to March 2023 with Rev. Linda Robinson. **Thank you Rev. Linda!**

**KNOX CHURCH CHOIR practices Wednesdays
at 7pm in the sanctuary. New members welcome!**

<p>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</p>

DAILY PRAYERS from the Presbyterian Church of Canada

Sunday, September 10 We give thanks for the professors and staff at our three theological colleges. May they teach with wisdom, enthusiasm and love for the students.

Monday, September 11 We pray for musicians as they help lead the church in praise.

Tuesday, September 12 We pray for all those who are struggling with addiction and related mental health issues, and for their families and loved ones. May they find the support, care and resources they need to heal and recover.

Wednesday, September 13 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of East Toronto.

Thursday, September 14 We pray for the congregation of St. Andrew's (Ancaster) as they work through the PCC's New Beginnings Renewal Program to discern their next steps in ministry.

Friday, September 15 We pray for all of the students attending the church's theological colleges. May God grant them strength, clarity of mind and the ability to balance all aspects of their busy lives.

Saturday, September 16 We pray for Edmonton Urban Native Ministries, which runs a drop-in centre out of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, and the people it serves.