

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRATFORD
17th Sunday after Pentecost
Presbyterians Sharing Sunday
September 24, 2023

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

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Responsive Call to Worship:

Leader: Give thanks to the Lord for God is good.

People: We will call on God's name and make known
God's wonderful works.

Leader: Seek the Lord continually.

People: We will watch and listen for signs of God's grace.

Leader: Together let us worship God.

People: We will rejoice in God's presence and praise
God's holy name.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (Together)

**God of all creation, You open the world around us and fill
it with creatures of Your love and purpose.**

The mountains state Your majesty;

The ripened field, Your generosity;

The oceans Your power and the skies Your grandeur.

Birds flying aloft sing of Your freedom;

The tiny ant works with Your persistence.

**We pray that our work will honour Your justice and mercy;
and our relationships speak of Your love and compassion,
not just in this hour of worship, but in everything we do
and say. Amen.**

HYMN: #103 O Lord, thou art my God and King
Verses 1, 2, and 4.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Together) **Holy, Mysterious,
Eternal and Ever-Living God, You are the giver of all good
gifts, yet our generosity is often limited.**

**We complain about our lot. We compare ourselves to
others and see what they have that we lack. We share
some of what we have, but we worry about running short.
Forgive us our worries about tomorrow and give us
generous hearts that trust in you day by day. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon (Minister) The mercy of our God is
from everlasting to everlasting. Believe the Good News! In
Jesus Christ, God's generous love reaches out to embrace us.
In Christ, we are forgiven and set free to begin again. Thanks
be to God! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE:

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you

Congregation: And also with you.

Please turn and greet one another

ANTHEM

STORY

HYMN: #502 Lord, thy word abideth Verses 1,3 and 6

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 65: Verse 8

Ecclesiasticus: "Do not abandon yourself to sorrow, do not
torment yourself with brooding. Gladness of heart is life to a
man, joy is what gives him length of days!"

New Testament: St. John 2: 1-10

SERMON: "Beyond the Drama"

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)

Generous God, You are the source of all good things, of life itself and all that sustains it. Bless the gifts we offer and the gifts of fellow Presbyterians this day. By Your Spirit, multiply their impact to support Your purposes in the world You love in the name of Christ, our Saviour and Friend. 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*)

CLOSING PRAYER (Minister) God of mystery and wonder,

We look around at the beauty of the world
and sense that You have given each precious thing its place
and a way of sustaining itself.

Thank You for Your attention to the details of creation.

Yet we also see an aching world

and sense that many precious things are under threat.

Bless the work of faithful people everywhere to care for the
climate and environment.

Show us how we can protect what is at risk

for the health of your whole creation.

God our Maker, make us a sharing people. Amen

Hymn: #651 Guide me, O Thou Great Redeemer

BENEDICTION and POSTLUDE

Join us for refreshments following the service.



KNOX CHURCH CHOIR practices
Wednesdays at 7pm in the sanctuary.

“Reconnecting Sunday” Barbecue-Fellowship-Food
Sunday, October 1 from 3-5pm in the Banquet Hall