

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRATFORD

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 5, 2023

Interim Minister: The Reverend 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

* We continue to be mask friendly. Thank you.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Responsive Call to Worship:

Leader: Let us bless the Lord at all times;

People: God's praise will always be on our lips.

Leader: Magnify the Lord in all ways;

People: We will lift up God's name together in worship and in service.

Leader: God, send Your light and Your truth as we gather to worship.

People: May they lead us into Your holy presence.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (Together):

God, our God, You are gracious and loving, holy and eternal; Your love is steadfast, Your presence ever near. Your wisdom is older than time and as fresh as the morning dew. Your name has come to us through the centuries, yet You can always do a new thing to draw us back to You. God, Creator, Christ and Spirit, we offer You our prayers and praise this day in humble expectation; Please surprise us in this time of worship and refresh our readiness to serve you. Amen.

OPENING HYMN: #315 A Mighty Fortress Verses 1-3

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Together)

God, our God, You know our hearts, the times we truly loved one another and the times we merely tolerated each other. You know our minds, the times we truly focused on you and the times we pursued our own purposes. Forgive us those times we went our own way, and renew our commitment to live lives marked by your grace.

Assurance of Pardon (Minister): Friends in Christ, we are forgiven people, set free from past failures, to make a fresh start this day and every day. The Holy Spirit empowers us to love God and to love others. Thanks be to God for such everlasting Love!

PASSING OF THE PEACE:

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you

Congregation: And also with you.

Please turn and greet one another

CHOIR ANTHEM

STORY

HYMN:#18 Through all the changing scenes of life Verses 1 & 3

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 13: 1-9

Page 690 in the Pew Bible

Mark 4: 26-29

Page 709 in the Pew Bible

SERMON: "Frustrated trying to change people?"

DOXOLOGY #830 (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 both faithful and fruitful as You embrace each new generation. Bless our gifts and make them fruitful beyond our imagining. Keep us faithful in this generation so that the inheritance we have received in Christ will continue in generations yet to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let there be peace on earth (*Jill Jackson-Miller and Sy Miller, 1955*)

* We sing this prayer especially for Israel, The Middle East and Ukraine.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION:

Minister: God of justice and leadership, we pray for our country and nations of the world facing immense challenges. Guide decision makers in these complex times and keep the hearts of those with resources open to those who do not have enough. We pray for places where justice is lacking, where violence threatens or leaders are untrustworthy. Strengthen voices of wisdom and acts of courageous compassion to tend the needs of people most at risk.

Congregation: We also ask for those in our congregation who need your healing touch. We bring their names before you now in silent prayer....

HYMN:#483 Glorious things of Thee are spoken Verses 1 & 2

**BENEDICTION
POSTLUDE**

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Refreshments are served in the West Transept after the service.

*****NEW***** Join us for fellowship and food for the body and soul on **Wednesdays from 5:30-7:00pm** for our weekly Fellowship Café in the Banquet Hall. Pizza served at 5:30 pm. We will read and discuss chapters in the Book of Acts.

Save the date for our second annual **Community Carol Sing** to be held on **Sunday, December 10 at 2pm** right here at Knox/Copperlight. Donations at the door will go towards the Cancer Care Mission/Wig Room and other outreach projects at Knox.

Happy Birthday
from the
Knox Congregation!

