

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRATFORD

November 12, 2023

24th Sunday after Pentecost

* We continue to be mask friendly. Thank you.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Responsive Call to Worship:

Leader: God of all times and places, we gather to worship You.

People: We turn to You and rejoice in your presence.

Leader: God of all life and love, we gather to sing Your praise.

People: We turn to You and marvel at Your power and Your promise.

Leader: God of all wisdom and wonder, we gather to learn from Your Son.

People: We turn toward Christ and wait for His words to heal us.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (Together):

God of grace and purpose, You are the source of our lives and the source of all our possibilities. You call us to serve in Your world and inspire us to choose a purpose for ourselves that will express Your goodness and mercy. Jesus has shown us many ways to serve with courage and compassion. The Holy Spirit opens doors for us to act with love and loyalty.

Draw near to us in this time of worship and show us where You need us to be so that our lives may bring You honour, Source, Saviour and Spirit of Life. Amen.

HYMN: #411 Stand up and bless the Lord Verses 1, 3 and 4.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together):

God of mercy, You call us to love our neighbours and serve your purposes. We confess that this is easier said than done. When things get complicated, we lose patience and turn away. When we are unprepared for a challenge, we excuse ourselves from taking part. Forgive us, O God. Renew our willingness to put ourselves on the line for Your love.

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

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: #19 High in the Heavens Verses 1 and 2.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Old Testament: Exodus 23: 1-3 Page 56 in the Pew Bible

Gospel St. Luke 8: 26-39 Page 732 in the Pew Bible

SERMON: “Your peace of mind and critical thinking”

DOXOLOGY #661 Verse 1 (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): God of purpose and promise, we offer our gifts to help fulfill Your purposes on earth. Bless our gifts and our actions so that others will grasp the promise of Your love and discover Your purpose for their lives, through Christ, our Friend and Saviour. 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 and Congregation):

God of wisdom, You open our eyes on the world and show us its complexities. We see countries locked in old animosities and communities overwhelmed by fresh upheaval. We pray for those displaced by current conflicts and natural disasters. Open the eyes and ears of leaders to the suffering of their people, and to solutions as yet untried; and open our eyes to ways we can participate in resolving situations, which break Your great heart and ours.

God, in Your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We also ask for those in our congregation who need your healing touch.

We bring their names before you now in silent prayer....

HYMN:#717 We cannot own the sunlit sky Verses 1-3

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

** ** ** ** **

Refreshments are served in the West Transept after the service.

*****NEW***** Join us for fellowship and food 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.

UPCOMING DATES

- *Knox Session Meeting – Tuesday, November 21 at 7pm
- *Christmas Decorating of the Sanctuary-week of November 27
- *Sacrament of Holy Communion: Sunday, December 3.
- *Community Carol Sing on Sunday, December 10 at 2pm at Knox/Copperlight. Donations at the door by cash, debit or cheque, will go towards the Cancer Care Mission/Wig Room and other outreach projects at Knox.

Interim Minister: The Reverend Dr. David Thompson

Music Director: Suzanne Strahan **Treasurer:** Shannon Archer

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