

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1st Sunday after Epiphany

January 7th, 2024

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:

One: And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

Congregation: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".

One: And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".

Congregation: So, I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night.

PRAYER OF APPROACH: *(together)*

God of possibility and power,

on this first day of the week, You began creating,

bringing light to shine and bringing order out of chaos.

On this first day of the week, You began your new creation,

raising Christ out of death, breathing new life into the world.

On this first day of the week, You call us to gather in your holy name.

So we come to listen and wonder, to sing, pray, and be nourished by Your Holy Spirit. By the gift of Your Spirit, make us your instruments of hope in a hurting world, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn: # 324 Great is Thy faithfulness Verses 1 & 3

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: *(together)*

God of majesty and mercy, we confess to you our wrong-doing:

things we have done knowingly and things we have left undone;

hurts we inflicted unintentionally and hurts we have tried to disguise.

selfish things we have done just to please others, and those just to please ourselves. Forgive us and help us to mend our ways so that going forward into 2024. We exemplify what it means to be truly Christ like. Amen

Assurance of Pardon: (Minister)

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn?

Only Christ, and Christ died for us, Christ rose for us,

Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us.

Believe the good news of the Gospel!

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free to make a new start in 2024.

Congregation: Dear God: Through the power of Your forgiveness please make this coming year the best we have experienced in terms of a deeper knowledge of You, ourselves and others! Amen.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: Let the Peace of Christ be with you!

Congregation: And also with you. *(Please turn and greet one another)*

Anthem

STORY

HYMN: # 470 You that know the Lord is gracious Verses 1 & 3

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Matthew 6: 6-7:

When you pray, go into your room, and when you have shut your door, pray to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly.

Matthew 6:25-34:

Do not worry about your life, look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? ²⁷ Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³² For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³ But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Hebrews 13: 8:

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. Do not be carried away by all kinds of strange teaching. It is good to have our hearts strengthened by grace.

SERMON: "Fear of Change in 2024"

OFFERTORY: # 79 - Praise God from whom all blessings flow

PRAYER OF DEDICATION: (together)

God our Maker, we offer our gifts to You in thanksgiving for Your gifts to us in Christ and in creation. Bless what we bring and who we are, so that our gifts will bless the world You love, in Christ's name. Amen.

PRAYERS of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Prayer of intercession for 2024: (Minister and Congregation together)

God of Grace, We pray for churches struggling financially,
for churches enmeshed in conflict, for those that are tired and in need of renewal;
and for congregations for a new sense of mission and purpose.

Give them all wisdom and strength.

We thank you for the healing we have known in our lives:

For times we have been forgiven;
for relationships repaired and strengthened;
for comfort in times of grief;
for pain eased and recovery from illness.

While Covid 19 still haunts our communities, we pray for those struggling with its lingering effects or fresh infection. And we pray for those in health care coping with challenges that have no easy solution.

Give each one the hope and courage they need to face this new year.

We pray for people around the world who must confront danger and conflict daily;
for those working for justice in the face of oppression; and for all who know hunger and homelessness after drought and disaster. Give them hope and courage to face this new year. With thanks giving for listening to our prayers, Amen.

Hymn: #794 Abide with me Verses 1-3

Benediction

POSTLUDE