



**KNOX STRATFORD**  
A place where friendships begin!  
**Every Person In Church Sunday**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter**  
**April 7, 2024**

**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

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME to Epic Sunday!**  
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: We gather with joy, for Easter continues.

**ALL: Locked doors have been opened and fear has turned to peace.**

One: We celebrate the presence of the Risen Christ among us.

**ALL: Doubts can be erased, and uncertainty turned to faith.**

One: Let us rejoice and be glad!

**ALL: We offer our prayers and praise with humble, hopeful hearts.**

**PRAYER OF APPROACH (Together):**

**God of new life, we come to you, rejoicing in the mystery of the Risen Christ, present among us always, even when we least expect Him. We marvel at Your constant love, Your victory over death, and Your resurrecting hope which embraces us in every circumstance. Trusting in these gifts, we seek to live as Easter people in every time and place. Fill us with the gift of Your Holy Spirit in this time of worship, and grant us Your peace through Christ, our Risen Saviour. Amen.**

**HYMN: # 249** The Day of Resurrection Verse 1 and 2.

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** Merciful God, we confess our trust in You can weaken, and we become anxious about many things. We talk about love, but we fear those who differ from us. We cling to our personal agendas, and neglect Your call to serve others, especially when that service costs us something. Forgive us. Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, rekindle our passion for You, so, we can witness to Your love in all we do. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon (Minister):** Hear the words of the risen Christ: "Peace be with you!" Receive the peace and forgiveness of Christ and share that peace with one another this day and every day. Amen.

**PASSING OF THE PEACE:**

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you

**Congregation: And also, with you.**

Please greet one another.

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**STORY**

\*Children leave for Sunday School during the Hymn.

**HYMN: #261** Hallelujah! Verses 1 and 9

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Psalms 68: 4-6

Proverbs 18:24

John 14: 2-6

**SERMON**

**"When a friend means the world"**

**OFFERING - DOXOLOGY #661 Verse 1**

Offering is brought forward. The offering can be placed on the offering plates at the back of the church before or during the service, or at the front after the service.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION:** Generous God, thank you for the hope we can claim in Your resurrecting power. Bless the gifts we bring so they may spread hope and friendships in the world You love. In the name of Your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen

### **PRAYERS FOR THE WORLD**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (Trespases)**

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION**(Together): Thank You, loving God, for Your renewing presence in our lives, and for the many ways You make yourself known to us: in words spoken in peace, in actions that embody love, in creation that awakens wonder within us, and in worship that inspires faith and understanding. We pray for those who are feeling fearful, worried, or overwhelmed, in these days of economic pressure and uncertainty. We pray for those who face violence and unrest each day, in countries around the world, especially in Palestine, Israel, the Ukraine, Russia and the Sudan, and in our own community. We pray for our national, provincial, and municipal leaders as they seek solutions to the challenges in our common life. Give them wisdom and compassion. We pray for our congregation, for churches in our community, and for Christians around the world, especially those facing persecution and danger. Amen.

**HYMN: #262** Come to us beloved stranger Verses 1 and 3

#### **BENEDICTION and POSTLUDE**

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\* \*Join us for Fellowship and a Chili and Hotdog Luncheon in the Banquet Hall following the service.

The **KNOX HANDCRAFTERS GROUP** meets on **Tuesday, April 16 at 10:30am** at Knox in our new space on the Main Floor (accessible).

### **"WE LOVE KNOX" Cups**

Jesus said that when we give, we are not to let the right hand know what the left hand is doing. Whatever did he mean? In Jesus day money was all in coins. The coins were kept in a purse or a bag- all together. The denarius was the usual pay for a day's work. The shekel was made of silver and was worth two denarii. The Stater was a gold coin worth 4 denarii. Jesus was teaching that when giving one should simply reach into the bag or purse, grab a handful of coins without counting them, and dump them into the treasury.

We are following this principle at Knox. Simply bring all your coins, not minding whether they are loonies or toonies, dimes, nickels or quarters or folding money and put them into the **"WE LOVE KNOX" Cup** that it is the middle of the offering plate. And you will have no idea how much you have given. (Jesus told us to give in secret.) This is one way. Over a period of a year this can mount up. In St. Paul's Ingersoll, (not a wealthy congregation) and New St. James where they were running a deficit, both congregations found that they were able to raise in this way over \$10,000 for the budget. At Knox this will go to the Operating Fund, which makes all the others work. **THANK YOU!**

**A Life Study Group focusing on the sermon and scriptures is meeting weekly on Thursdays at 10:00am.**

### **APRIL OUTREACH**

#### **For The Emily Murphy Centre**

The **EMILY MURPHY CENTRE** provides transitional housing for women and children. They are in need of items to restock their pantry. We will not focus on food for this collection.

The following are items that they are in need of:

- ✓ Toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, conditioner ,
- ✓ women's products
- ✓ Paper products
- ✓ Kleenex, paper towels, toilet tissue.
- ✓ Cleaning products
- ✓ Sink and tub cleaners, floor cleaners, etc.
- ✓ Snacks for school lunches

**Let's help fill those pantry shelves.**