

KNOX STRATFORD
4th Sunday after Pentecost
National Indigenous People's Sunday and Father's Day!
June 16th, 2024

Interim Minister: The Reverend Dr. David Thompson

Music Director: Suzanne Strahan

Treasurer: Shannon Archer

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PRELUDE

WELCOME to Knox: a place where friendships begin and grow! Come to the fellowship hour in the transept after the service and make yourself known to us over coffee!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL to WORSHIP:

Leader: It is good to give God thanks, to sing praises to the Most High!

Congregation: We will sing for joy to God who has made us glad.

Leader: Let us declare God's steadfast love in the morning,

Congregation: and God's faithfulness by night.

Leader: Let us come to worship God with thankful, joyful hearts!

Congregation: Let us praise God's holy name together.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (Together):

Living God, from You come vitality, love and joy. On this day when we remember our native peoples, we believe that Your peace is our companion and theirs, Your love is our strength and theirs and Your Son is our hope, for the world and all its peoples. Your Spirit nurtures tiny seeds of purpose and potential, hidden deep in the soil of life, to surprise us with new life. While the earth begins to bloom around us, we bring You our prayers and praise, trusting that Your Spirit will renew in us the gifts we need to serve You in faithfulness in the example of Christ our Lord.

HYMN: #328 This is my Father's world Verses 1 and 2

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together):

Living, loving God, on this Father's Day, we celebrate our native people's fathers, as we together watch our gardens and forests and our children grow, we confess we often resist the change growth can bring. We form opinions about many things – and cling to them. We fear new insights and new directions. Forgive us when we think we already know enough. Grant us faith like the red wood seed, able to grow with Your blessing to become a mighty tree, a sign of Your connection to all living things, a part of Your lively kingdom among us. Amen

Assurance of Pardon (Minister): Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ – and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us, Christ reigns in power for us, Christ prays for us. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and set free by God's generous grace! Let us rejoice in God's good gifts.

PASSING OF THE PEACE:

Leader: Let the Peace of Christ be with you!

Congregation: And also with you. Please turn and take time to greet one another.

CHOIR ANTHEM

STORY

HYMN: #632 Help us accept each other Verses 1 and 2

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Acts 17: 22-31

St. Luke 15: 11-32 - A parable of the Good Father

Sermon: "Loving without strings attached"

OFFERING - DOXOLOGY #306 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,

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Together): God of small seeds and secret growth, bless the gifts we bring to you. Use them as seeds of new life in our community and in your world. Grow results we cannot even imagine – within us, among us, because of us and beyond us, for the sake of Christ, our Living Lord. Amen

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Trespases)

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION (Minister and Congregation together):

On this day that celebrates fathers, we pray for families in war-torn communities where celebration is an impossible dream.

We pray for fathers and families who face financial hardship and worry for the well-being of their children. And we pray for any who feel empty or lonely this day, who fear the future or mourn the past. As summer holidays draw closer, guide families to find meaningful opportunities to enjoy each other and the world on their doorsteps.

Plant seeds of your kingdom in our midst, O God. Amen.

HYMN: #489 Help us to help each other, Lord Verses 3 and 4

BENEDICTION:

Walk gently on the earth God has entrusted to us all and cherish God's amazing creation.

Deep peace of the running wave to you,

Deep peace of the flowing air to you,

Deep peace of the quiet earth to you,

Deep peace of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you. Amen.

POSTLUDE