

**KNOX STRATFORD**

8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost July 14th

**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 west transept after the service and make yourself known to us over refreshments!**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it. **The world and those who live in it belong to God.** So, hear what God will speak: **God will speak peace to those who turn to him in their hearts.** Then faithfulness will spring up from the ground, **and righteousness will look down from the sky.** God's rescue is present for those who honour him. **We are grateful for our lives and give thanks always for all things to God.**

**PRAYER OF APPROACH (Together):** Gracious God, You are the Source of life and love in all creation, in a world marked by bitterness, You are compassion. In a culture marked by confusion, Your truth sets us free. Your strength is comfort when we are fearful. Your wisdom is guidance when we lose our way. For all that You are and all that You give, God, our Maker, Christ, The One who rescues us, and The Holy Spirit who leads us into life and truth telling, we offer you all honour, praise, and our love, now and always. Amen.

**HYMN: #626 Lord of all Power V: 2 and 3**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together):** Loving God, in a selfish world, you are generous to those in need. In the face of injustice, you speak as our conscience. Instead of vengeance, you call for mercy and reconciliation. Forgive us when we follow the instincts of the world, rather than the faithfulness you teach. Strengthen our resolve to live gratefully, thankfully and generously, in action and in attitude. 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 by God’s generous grace. Let us be thankful!

**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: # 699 All the way my Saviour leads me Verses 1 and 2.**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

Matthew 13: 44-46

1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

**Sermon: “Coping when your world darkens”**

**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 afterwards.

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION (Together):** Generous God, we offer our gifts with thankful hearts, grateful for your patience with us as your purposes unfold. Bless these gifts to accomplish your purposes throughout the world You love in the name of Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER (Trespases)**

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION (Minister and Congregation together):**

Today we pray for courageous leaders in cities, countries and congregations who strive to serve with integrity and honesty in a world prone to self-interest. We pray for those who struggle to create justice where it has been compromised, and to build understanding in divided communities. We remember before you quiet and reliable leaders who keep their word and meet their deadlines, so that we can depend on them in these unsettled times. Blessed are you, O God, **for all your goodness to us. Amen.**

**HYMN: # 457 Now thank we all our God verses: 1-3.**

**BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE**