

KNOX STRATFORD
15th Sunday after Pentecost
September 1st, 2024

Interim Minister: The Reverend Dr. David Thompson
Music Director: Suzanne Strahan
Treasurer: Shannon Archer 142 Ontario Street, Stratford, Ontario. N5A 3H2
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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

Dear God, In Your presence, we seek truth and forgiveness.

In your presence, we seek the grace to forgive one another.

Holy God, you call us to worship You, with heart, body, mind and soul.

We gather to offer you our prayer and praise with joyful thanks.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (Together)

Loving God, You have made the laws of creation, but You are not subject to them. You are beyond our understanding, but we are grateful for our lives and Your amazing creation. In Your creation, You have made the seasons to change, the sun to shine and the rain to fall, the vines to bear fruit and the fields to produce good things. When we consider where our security lies, we realize that You alone are our strength and security; You alone bring us rest and comfort.

We turn to you then as the source of all life, marvelling at your wisdom and seeking to learn Your purpose for our lives. We offer You our praise and thanksgiving, for You are the God who made us, the Christ who mends us, and the Spirit who brings us life. Amen

HYMN: # 324 – Great is thy faithfulness (all verses)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together):

Dear God: Even though we know you are the Source of our lives, we confess we often turn away from You. We hear Your Word but follow our own ways. We see others in need but preoccupy unnecessarily with our own needs first, when we could easily love others more deeply. We can harbor anger and say things that cause others pain. We want to change and be our best selves. In your mercy, forgive us, and restore us to right relationship with You and with one another. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Minister) While it is true that we have all sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God's love in Jesus Christ. When we seek the mercy of God in humility, God will grant us grace. We can be at peace with God, with ourselves, and with one another. We are all forgiven. All we have to do is seek God's forgiveness individually in prayer.

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.

ANTHEM

STORY

HYMN: # 462 All my hope on God is founded V: 1 and 3.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Acts 1: 6-11 Acts 22: 1-11

Sermon: "Is the ascension improbable?"

OFFERING - DOXOLOGY #661 - We give thee but thine own, verse 1 **The 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)

Great is Your faithfulness, O God, and so we offer to You a portion of what we have received through Your unfailing goodness. Bless these gifts and our lives, so that Your love is proclaimed to the world through all we accomplish following Jesus, our Friend and Saviour. Amen.

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

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION (Minister and Congregation together)

God of vigilant care, thank You for the strength and comfort You offer us in times of sorrow and stress. We pray for those who do not know security in their lives day by day, for those facing financial pressures, for the vulnerable who must depend on others for their care, and for those who feel exhausted by the responsibilities they carry. Guide us to shape a society where the weak are protected, where the elderly are honored for their experience, and children are cherished for their potential. Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer. Amen.**

HYMN: # 265 Hail the day that sees Christ rise V:1,2 and 5.

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE