

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRATFORD

Sunday, October 6, 2024

Preach for the Call Sunday

EPIC Sunday – Engaging People in Community

Guest Minister: Pastor Kelli Berkner

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAISE INTROIT:

I Give You My Heart - Reuben Morgan, arr. Dan Galbraith

Arise - Paul Baloche, Don Moen, arr. Dan Galbraith

CALL TO WORSHIP:

One: Let us worship the eternal God, the source of love and life, who creates us.

All: Let us worship Jesus Christ, the risen one, who lives among us.

One: Let us worship the Spirit, the holy fire, who renews us.

All: To the one true God be praise in all times and places, through the grace of Jesus Christ.

OPENING PRAYER: Compassionate God, the wind of Your Spirit is the very sign of life for all who long for You. One breath from You and we are rescued from the arid valley of dry bones, given muscles and sinews and joy with which to praise You, and filled with the Holy hope You grant to all Your faithful children. Let our whole lives be filled with the life-breath of the Spirit, that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom, and what looks to us to be death may be revealed as but sleep before the emergence of new life. Amen.

~ From *Come Out! On the Breath of God*, Service Prayers for the fifth Sunday of Lent, written by the Rev. Elizabeth Dilley. Posted on the United Church of Christ's Worship Ways website. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/>

HYMN: #461 Be Thou My Vision

INVITATION TO CONFESSION (Minister): The psalmist testifies: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Then I acknowledged my sin to You, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Therefore, let all who are faithful offer prayer to You. — Psalm 32:1-6 NRSV

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together): Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in Your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (Minister): Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

- Romans 5:1-2, NRSV

THE PEACE of CHRIST:

Leader: Let the Peace of Christ be with you!

Congregation: And also, with you. Please greet one another.

CHOIR ANTHEM

CHILDREN'S STORY

(During the hymn, the children will go to the Narthex – the back of the church - to participate in crafts and play.)

HYMN: #389 Breathe on me, Breath of God

SCRIPTURE READING:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

SERMON: “Breath of Life” Pastor Kelli Berkner

OFFERING - DOXOLOGY #79 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

One: Yours, Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory, the victory and the majesty.

All: All that is in the heavens and in the earth is Yours, and You rule over all.

One: Therefore, Lord, receive these offerings, our tangible expressions of love and gratitude.

All: Transform them into a source of life for many, so that Your kingdom may grow in the hearts of all. In the name of Jesus - Amen.

HYMN: #479 The Church's One Foundation Verses 1, 2, 3

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION (Together): Loving God, we offer these prayers, joining our voices to the great chorus of those who sing Your praise and depend on You alone. We long for that day when all Your children will live in Your peace and praise Your name. Until that day, give us sturdy patience and enduring hope, rooted only in Jesus, in whose name we pray - Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Trespases)

HYMN: #384 O Breath of Life, Come Sweeping Through Us

BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE