

**KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRATFORD**

**21st Sunday after Pentecost**

**Thanksgiving Sunday    October 13th, 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**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHOIR INTROIT:**

**CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: God blesses us with gifts of love,

**Many: In relationships that bring joy and gratitude.**

One: God blesses us with talents and opportunities to serve,

**Many: All we need for faithful living.**

One: God can protect us in times of danger.

**Many: And guard us from the time of trial. So we gather to offer thanksgiving to the Lord our God. Praise be to God for all good things, now and always!**

**PRAYER OF APPROACH (Together): God of all creation, in this season of harvest thanksgiving, we are struck by the beauties of autumn, leaves in bright colours, birds flying south in formation, fields ripe with produce. Such beauty speaks of Your goodness that provides what each beloved creature needs. On this Thanksgiving weekend, renew our gratitude for what You give to us in the fruitfulness of creation, and in Jesus who would teach us how to walk wisely in these times of climate change, on the earth You have made. Amen.**

**HYMN: #802 For the fruits of all creation Verses 1-3**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Together): God of our lives, even in these challenging times, we know we enjoy an abundance many cannot imagine. Yet we confess we do not always recognize these blessings. We worry about the future, and whether our families can flourish. Forgive our fears of going without, and show us how to share the goodness that is already ours. Amen.**

**Assurance of Pardon (Minister): Be at peace this day. Jesus, our High Priest, knows the temptations of the human heart. From the throne of God, He offers us mercy in our weakness and renewal to all. Thanks be to God.**

**THE PEACE of CHRIST: Let the Peace of Christ be with you!  
**Congregation:** And also, with you. Please greet one another.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM**

**STORY**

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

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

Job 3: 1-10 (Job's deep pessimism)

Ephesians 3: 14-21 (Paul's prayer)

St. John 20: 24-29 (Story of Doubting Thomas)

**SERMON: "Hope when you are pessimistic about everything!"**

**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 (Together): Generous God, we offer you our thanks for all the goodness we enjoy in Christ and in creation. Bless the gifts we bring, and use them to relieve the need and anxiety many feel these days. May anxious lives see signs of your love and joy in what we can offer them in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and friend. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION (Together):** Just and Generous God, we pray for the wellbeing of Your world and our own community. Where there is hostility between nations or neighbours, inspire leaders to show wisdom and courage in decision-making. We pray for areas hard hit by flood, storm surge, fire or bombs, and for all those struggling in an uncertain economy. May neighbours with resources maintain generosity and compassion for the long work of reconstructing lives, livelihoods and neighbourhoods. By Your Spirit, O God, may our friends see in us, signs of a grateful heart.

**HYMN: #462** All my hope on God is founded Verses 1, 3 & 5

## BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE

\*\*\*\*\*

**SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**\* NEXT SUNDAY OCTOBER 20 \***

**OCTOBER'S OUTREACH is A FOOD DRIVE** for the House of Blessing and the Emily Murphy Centre. Donations can be placed in the baskets in the Narthex. Most needed items: healthy school snacks, peanut butter, canned veggies & fruit, canned soups & stews, pasta & sauce, rice side dishes (Kraft dinner, sidekicks, instant potatoes).

**HOCKEY FIGHTS CANCER** – The Stratford Warriors games to support the Cancer Care Mission-Wigs and Accessories room are on **Friday, October 25 and Friday, November 1.**

These games are at **7:30pm at the Allman Arena.**

Plan to attend one or both of these games for some exciting hockey and in support of the Wig Room at Knox. Special jerseys will be auctioned off as a fundraiser after the November game.

T-Shirts will also be for sale \$ 30.00 at the games.

Thanks to Wendell Archer for arranging this with the Warriors.