

## **KNOX PRESBYTERIAN STRATFORD**

**December 1, 2024. Advent 1**

**EPIC Sunday – Engaging People in Community**

**Minister:** Pastor Kelli Berkner

**Music Director:** Suzanne Strahan **Treasurer:** Shannon Archer

142 Ontario Street, Stratford, Ontario. N5A 3H2

519-271-0373 knoxs@wightman.ca CCLI #2405391

### **PRELUDE**

### **WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **ADVENT LITURGY:**

One: As we enter the season of Advent, we remember God's call to seek justice in the world God loves.

All: **We come longing for a brighter future for all.**

One: We light the first candle of Advent, a symbol of God's hope, which shines in the darkness.

❖ **Light the candle of hope**

One: May the light of this candle ignite a fire within your people, who are often afraid or hesitant to work for change.

All: **Holy One, strengthen us by Your Spirit to commit ourselves to walking with those who are oppressed and marginalized. May our actions reflect your hope, which transforms Your world. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

**HYMN: #119** Hope is a star Verse 1 only

#### **RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Advent is a time for waiting.

Many: **We wait for God, who appears like a tender branch growing from a stump.**

One: Advent is a time for hoping.

Many: **We wait for God, who comes with justice and righteousness.**

One: Advent is a time to worship.

Many: **We wait for God praising the one who comes to fulfil promises.**

One: Let us worship God together!

#### **UNISON PRAYER OF APPROACH:**

God of love, you come to your people to dwell with us. You come with power to transform all things. You come with promises to make all things new. You come with signs of Your deep love for the world. You come, and Your truth breaks into our lives shattering lies and half-truths, setting Your people free. Your coming is our hope, and so, we offer You our praise and prayers in gratitude and anticipation. Come into our lives again, O God, and show us how to hope in the face of all that is discouraging, for we gather in the name of Hope made flesh, Jesus Christ, Your promise and our desire. Amen.

**HYMN: #122** O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (Verses 1,3,4,&5)

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION:** (Together) **Surprising God, forgive our sleepiness in the presence of your splendour and for when we abandon hope. Forgive us for expecting and looking for the same old thing in the same old way. Forgive us our silence when we ought to have spoken up and our carelessness with Your world and each other. Awaken us to Your Holy, hopeful presence so we may watch and wait for You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Assurance of Pardon** (Minister): The One who comes with justice also comes with mercy. The God of Judgment is truly the Christ of compassion. God offers you forgiveness today, in the hope you will receive it gladly. Do not be afraid, but rejoice in the God who comes to us.

**THE PEACE of CHRIST:** Let the Peace of Christ be with you!

**Congregation: And also, with you.**

Please take time and greet one another.

#### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

#### **CHILDREN'S STORY**

➤ Children will leave for Sunday School during the hymn

**HYMN: #110** Come Thou Long Expected Jesus

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** Genesis 2:4-25;  
Genesis 3:1-13, and 22-24

**SERMON:** “Displaced”

### **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: (Unison)** Holy and Righteous God, we offer our gifts with humble hearts, knowing the needs in Your world are great and our gifts will never fill that need. We offer our gifts in hope that You will bless them and use them to help fulfil Your purpose revealed in Jesus Christ, Saviour of us all. Amen.

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**PRAYER OF INTERCESSION: (Together)** O Spirit of Hope, when the world is confusing and bleak, You pierce the despair with Your Word, and renew our vision of God’s possibilities for our lives. Thank You for lessons learned, for changes of heart and mind, and for new discoveries made and hope restored. As the seasons turn to winter, we pray for those who feel the burden of loneliness and isolation. We remember those without homes to shelter in, and those forced to leave their homes through conflict, natural disaster, or political upheaval. Spirit of Hope, shelter all these under Your winds. Amen.

**HYMN: #128** There’s a Voice in the Wilderness Crying

**BENEDICTION and CHORAL RESPONSE**

### **POSTLUDE**

**Please join us for a Christmas Luncheon and fellowship  
in the Banquet Hall following the service.**

**Sunday, December 8 at 4pm** will be the Presbytery Induction Service for Pastor Kelli. Everyone is welcome to join us at Knox!