

PRELUDE
ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTROIT- PRAISE TEAM - Bev, Heather, Suzanne and Peter

ADVENT LITURGY:

One: In a world too often divided, we gather to embrace the gift of peace.

All: We come with hearts open to reconciliation and understanding.

One: We light the second candle of Advent, a symbol of God's peace in a troubled world. *Light the candle of peace

One: May the light of this candle guide us as we seek to fulfil our calling as peacemakers.

All: Holy One, strengthen us by your Spirit to commit ourselves to standing against injustice in our communities and the world. Affirm within us a dedication to foster your peace. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

HYMN: #119 Hope is a star Verse 2 only

Responsive Call to Worship:

One: A voice in the wilderness cries out:

All: Prepare the way of the Lord!

One: Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill be made low.

All: The crooked shall be made straight, and rough places, smooth.

One: A voice in the wilderness cries out:

All: All people shall see the salvation of God!

One: Lift up your hearts in expectation!

All: We lift up our praise to the One who is coming into the world once more.

Unison Prayer of Approach: Lord of Love and Light, shine through our darkness, bringing us hope. Open our hearts for the journey, our eyes for the light, our spirits for the peace which you bring. Fill our mouths with laughter, and our speech with shouts of joy, that we shall reveal the love with which you surround us. We offer this prayer in the name of the One who is coming into the world bringing your hope, love, peace, and joy, Jesus Christ. Amen. *-written by Nancy Townley and posted on the Worship Connections page of the Ministry Matters website.*

HYMN: #146 Angels from the Realms of Glory

PRAYER OF CONFESSION: (Together) Merciful God, baptism promises the washing away of our sin and the start of our new life in Christ. But we confess that we are still in love with our old ways. We sin against you and one another, in what we do and in what we fail to do. We excuse ourselves, and take comfort in what is familiar and pleases us rather than what serves you. Forgive us when we mistake such comfort for the peace you offer us in Christ Jesus, and prepare our hearts to embrace new ways of following him.

Assurance of Pardon (Minister): Zechariah, father of John the Baptist, proclaimed this hope: "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, giving light to those in darkness, guiding our feet in the way of peace." Receive God's tender mercy today. Trust that God's peace will prevail for all those who seek forgiveness in Jesus' name.

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

HYMN: #148 It Came Upon the Midnight Clear Verses 1,4,5

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Genesis 11:31-12:5
Hebrews 11:8-12

SERMON: "The Journey of Faith"

OFFERING

DOXOLOGY #830 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) Mighty and merciful God, we bring our gifts to you, trusting that your blessing will multiply their transformative power and use in the world. Use them and us to prepare the way for Christ to enter lives with his compassion and courage, so that the world will know his peace and trust his name.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION:(Closing in the Lord's Prayer)
Come, Christ Jesus, and rule in our lives and claim your rightful place in our hearts. Your world struggles for the justice and mercy you bring. We remember before you, places marked by violence and upheaval and the devastating impacts of the climate crisis. Encourage honourable action and co-operation in confronting global challenges and local needs. Hasten the day when the world's peoples will live as neighbours reconciled in your truth and freedom. Christ Jesus, coming among us, bring us peace.

HYMN: #109 All earth is waiting

BENEDICTION and CHORAL RESPONSE

POSTLUDE

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Join us for refreshments in the West Transept.

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

The **Blyth Festival Orchestra** will be joining us for our Advent worship service on **Sunday, December 15.**

Sacrament of Holy Communion – Sunday, December 22

Christmas Eve – Community Service at 7:00pm.



KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH STRATFORD

December 8, 2024. Advent 2

Minister: Pastor Kelli Berkner

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

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