

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP (Bolded for ALL)

God calls us to worship, **and we come**,  
some with laughter and songs of joy.

God calls us to worship, **and we come**,  
some from a sense of obligation or habit.

God calls us to worship, **and we come**,  
some with hearts heavy with grief.

God calls us to worship, **and we come**,  
some with distraction or exhaustion.

God calls us to worship, **and we come**,  
some with eagerness and enthusiasm.

God calls us to worship, **and we come**,  
some with stress, loneliness, or depression.

God calls all of us to come and worship, to give ourselves -  
**all our joy and pain, hurt and hope.**

And it is the God who invites us to come who speaks to us first  
**and tells us there is a place for us here with whatever  
we bring into this space.**

**PRAYER OF APPROACH** God of all faithfulness, you have  
opened the gate of mercy for your people and are always  
ready to welcome those who turn to you. Look on us in your  
compassion, that we may gladly respond to your love and  
faithfully walk in your way through Jesus Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

**HYMN #39** God of Mercy, God of Grace      All Verses

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God blesses those who realize their need for him, for the  
kingdom of heaven is given to them.

**But we have been proud in spirit, inflated with pride in our  
own self-sufficiency. We have forgotten how needy we are.**

God blesses those who are gentle and lowly, for the whole  
earth will be their inheritance.

**But we have valued toughness over gentleness. We have  
too often chosen to be concerned with ourselves rather  
than our brothers and sisters and neighbors.**

God blesses those who are merciful, for they will be shown  
mercy.

**But we have often presided as harsh judges over the lives  
of others. We have been quick to place blame on anything  
or anyone but ourselves. We have avoided obligations to  
care for or to help people in need.**

God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called  
the children of God.

**But we are often at war with one another. We seldom  
esteem others as more important than ourselves. We often  
create strife by demanding our way rather than by walking  
in God's Spirit.**

Lord, please show us your mercy.

**Lord, have mercy upon us in the name of the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON** Christ is our peace; those who are  
divided he has made one. He has broken down the barriers of  
separation by his death and has built us up into one body, with  
God. To all who repent and believe he has promised  
reconciliation. So live as people reconciled. Amen.

**THE PEACE of CHRIST** Take a moment and greet each other.

**HYMN #746** What a Friend We Have in Jesus      All verses

### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

**SCRIPTURE READING:** Luke 5:27-32

**SERMON** "Fearing Your Neighbour"

**HYMN #740** Make Me a Channel of Your Peace      All verses

**OFFERING** The offering can be placed on the offering plates at  
the back of the church before or during the service at the  
sound table, or at the front after the service.

**DOXOLOGY #830** Offering is brought forward.

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

God of wonder, we offer you these humble gifts, signs of your goodness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude, that through us all people may know the riches of your love in the Word-made-flesh. Amen.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

O God, whom we cannot love unless we love our neighbors, remove hate and prejudice from us and from all people, so that your children may be reconciled with those we fear, resent, or threaten, and may live together in your peace, through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN #620** Go Now in Peace

## **BENEDICTION**

## **POSTLUDE**

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Join us for fellowship and refreshments after the service.

**FEBRUARY OUTREACH** – The Knox Sole Walkers have registered a team for the **Coldest Night of the Year walk** on **February 22** in support of Stratford Connection Centre/United Way & Shelterlink Youth Services.

See Shirley Weitzel for a registration form.

**FAMILY DAY at the Stratford Warriors Hockey Game**

**Monday, February 17 at 4:30pm**

William Allman Memorial Arena

See Wendell Archer at the gate for complimentary tickets.

**SAVE the DATE!**

**Tuesday, March 4** - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper  
5:00-6:30pm in the Knox Banquet Hall

# KNOX CHURCH STRATFORD



February 9, 2025

**Minister:** Pastor Kelli Berkner

**Music Director:** Suzanne Strahan

**Treasurer:** Shannon Archer

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