

May 25, 2025 KNOX STRATFORD

Minister: Pastor Kelli Berkner **Music Director:** Suzanne Strahan

Treasurer: Shannon Archer

142 Ontario Street, Stratford, Ontario N5A 3H2

519-271-0373

knoxs@wightman.ca

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PRELUDE AND WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

RANDOM ACTS OF MUSIC

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Let the peoples praise you, O God; **let all the peoples praise you!**

Let the earth rejoice and be glad, **let the heavens declare your righteousness!**

May all people see your glory, O God; **may your ways be known throughout the earth.**

Let us worship the God who loves us;

We come to worship with open hearts, to raise our voices with thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF APPROACH (All Together)

God of promise and purpose, we greet you this day with thankful hearts. As flowers unfurl and buds open, the beauty of your world lifts our spirits in praise. Your world is full of such variety and detail, we stand in awe of your creative imagination. Draw close to us in this hour of worship and show us the promise and purpose in our own lives. May we unfurl with your gift of new life, and move into the future, renewed by the energy of your Holy Spirit.

HYMN #315 A Mighty Fortress Verses 1,2,5

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Sovereign Lord, you have anointed us with your Spirit, yet we have not shared your great gift.

Create in us a clean heart, O God. Restore to us the joy of your salvation.

We have not proclaimed your good news to the poor. We have not bound up the brokenhearted.

Create in us a clean heart, O God. Restore to us the joy of your salvation.

We have not proclaimed your freedom to the captives. We have not comforted those who mourn.

Create in us a clean heart, O God. Restore to us the joy of your salvation.

Forgive us for closing our eyes to the needs of others. Forgive us for limiting your abundance.

Create in us a clean heart, O God. Restore to us the joy of your salvation.

Open our minds, Lord. Open our hearts, Lord. Open our hands, Lord. Open our lips, Lord.

Give us a willing spirit to show your love to your world. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON (Titus 3:4-7 - The Message) It wasn't so long ago that we ourselves were stupid and stubborn, easy marks for sin, ordered every which way by our glands, going around with a chip on our shoulder, hated and hating back. But when God, our kind and loving Savior God, stepped in, he saved us from all that. It was all his doing; we had nothing to do with it. He gave us a good bath, and we came out of it new people, washed inside and out by the Holy Spirit. Our Savior Jesus poured out new life so generously. God's gift has restored our relationship with him and given us back our lives. And there's more life to come—an eternity of life! You can count on this.

THE PEACE OF CHRIST Take a moment and greet each other

HOLY SPIRIT (THEY WERE WAITING)

CHOIR ANTHEM

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Titus 3:4-7 & Psalm 51

SERMON “Cleanliness and Joy”

HYMN #404 O Spirit Come, Our Hearts Inspire 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

Generous God, we thank you for your gift of new life in Christ Jesus. Receive our gifts this day, and bless each gift and each giver. Use each one to witness to your purposes through our congregation and throughout the world you love, in Jesus’ name. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God by your Spirit, surround each one of us with strength and love, and equip us to offer support for those whose lives are woven into ours. God of healing and hope, Jesus walks with us day by day to see us through every challenge, and so we claim the healing and hope he offers in the words he taught us to pray: **LORD’S PRAYER**

HYMN #467 Praise, My Soul, The God Who Crowns You All Verses

BENEDICTION AND POSTLUDE

Join us for refreshments in the west transept after worship.
See Shirley Weitzel if you can help with refreshments set up and clean up,
or bring some treats one Sunday.

21st Birthday of the Cancer Care Mission Wig Room!
Celebrate with the Mad Hatter Tea/Dance Party
Friday, May 30 from 6:00pm – 11:00pm

Sunday, June 1 - Sunday School and Ice Cream.