

**Gathering Song:** VU 122 This is the Day

**Lighting of the Christ Candle and Peace Candle**

One: We gather in the warmth of so much light this day. We gather in the light of the Christ candle, remembering that the light of Christ's life is always present. It is always there, inviting us to notice.

And we gather this day in the light of our Peace Candle for, through his life, Christ taught us to live in peace with all Creation. As the congregation of Knox United, we are grateful to live in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. We are all Treaty People committed to living together in peace and friendship with the lands, waters, and peoples of Mi'kma'ki.

**Lighting of the Affirmation Candle**

One: And through our Affirmation Candle, we celebrate the light of Christ that shines in us! In all of our diversity, Christ shines forth in this world, and God names this *good*. And so, this day, as we do each time we gather as a community of faith, we celebrate that:

**Welcome**      All are welcome in this place.  
                         **All are welcome by God's grace.**

**Call to Worship**

One: Come into this time for reflection.

**All: We come, open to the teachings of Christ.**

One: Come into this time for prayer.

**All: We come, open to the Spirit's nudges.**

One: Come and be nourished by the fellowship we share, and the movement of the Spirit of God in our midst.

**All: We come, open to a future hope today.**

One: In this hope, let us worship God!

**Opening Prayer**

**All: Holy and Persistent One, open our hearts to your wisdom this day. Through songs and silence, may our minds be opened, and through our exploration of scripture, may our lives be changed so that we will learn how to walk in your Way. All this we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**\*\*Opening Hymn:** VU 326 O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

**Prayer of Confession:**

One: At this time, we bring to God the confessions of our hearts not because God needs us to, but because *we* need to. Let us prayer our Prayer of Confession together, and then make space for our personal reflections in silence. If the prayer speaks to your life, sit with those revelations and pray with them. If not, let the prayer go with a prayer for those who find it does fit. Let us bring to God the confessions of our hearts.

**All: Dear God, you know the truths of our lives—we wish to follow you with all our hearts, but most days, we struggle. Forgive us for the times we have**

acted or spoken harshly towards another, and for the times we've chosen to ignore the hardships someone else endures. Forgive us for the times when we've forgotten how to dream, and most of all, God, forgive us when we've forgotten what your dreams even look like. Open our lives to become new and changed people. This we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen. *(A time of silent prayer)*

Words of Assurance:

One: People of God, receive the gift of God's Good News: God knows you even better than you know yourselves. And *still*, you are loved. No matter what you have done, or not done, you are loved. So may you live your lives differently from this day, trusting in the truth that you are loved, and you are forgiven!

May you share God's blessing with all you meet, in all you do and say and think, remembering:

**All: We are a loved and forgiven people! Thanks be to God! Amen.**

Ministry of Music— My Spirit Sings *(written by Valerie Kingsbury & Chris Bowman)*

Time for All Ages

Hymn: MV 140 As Long as We Follow

Announcements

Offering Invitation

**\*\*Offertory Response-** VU 541 The Doxology.

**\*\* Offering Dedication:**

**All: Gracious God, thank you for all the blessings that touch our lives! We are so grateful! From the blessings you give, we offer our gifts of time, talents, and finances to you in gratitude and humble trust, that they may be used to reflect your love and care here in Sackville, and across this world. This we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Hymn: MV 214 May God's Sheltering Wings

Scripture:

Luke 4:14-21

Offered by

The Word of God for the People of God

**Thanks be to God**

Reflection:

Nelson

- Rev. Penny

Hymn: Final Hymn: VU 509 I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

\*\*Blessing:

One: Let us go from this worship knowing that we are blessed: blessed with a love that knows no bounds; blessed with a community that welcomes all; blessed with a hopefulness; blessed with a quest and passion for justice for all God's people and for God's creation. Bursting with blessing, we go into the world to *share* these blessings with all we meet. Thanks be to God! Amen.

**\*\*Parting Song:** VU 437 The Day Thou Gavest vv.1-4

**OUR MISSION  
TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE  
BY LIVING THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS:  
showing mercy,  
promoting justice,  
offering forgiveness,  
acceptance, and hope.**

### **Our Vision...**

We, the congregation of Knox United Church, publicly proclaim our commitment to become an open and welcoming community of faith. We declare that we welcome everyone regardless of age, race, ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Everyone is welcome here.

Through the process of honouring diversity and challenging injustice with those who bear the weight of discrimination, we commit ourselves to openness, growth, education, love, and acceptance.

Christ's Disciples in Ministry: Everyone  
Minister of Worship, Faith Formation, and Outreach: Rev. Penny Nelson  
Minister of Pastoral Care: Rev. Kym Burke  
Minister of Music & Dramatic Arts: John Lindsay-Botten  
Church School Superintendent: Lynne Stewart  
Youth Group: James O'Connell  
Pastoral Care: Olive McIldoon & Judy Hayes

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+ Call to Worship adapted Bill Steadman, St. Andrew's United, Sudbury, ON. *The Gathering: A/C/E 2015-16*, Pg. 37. Used with permission; Opening Prayer written by Rev. Penny Nelson, 2019, while at the Tatamagouche Pastoral Charge; Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance written by Rev. Penny Nelson while at the Tatamagouche Pastoral Charge, 2016; Offering prayer written by Rev. Penny Nelson, 2022 while at Knox United Church, Lower Sackville.