

**Gathering Song:** Good Enough

What in our lives do we dream about for tomorrow, void of sorrow?  
Time spent regretting decisions of our yesterdays, mistakes we made?  
Sometimes we get what we get,  
life disappoints us and yet,  
God is still here and somehow, this faith is good enough.

**Call to Worship & Lighting the Christ Candle:**

One: Even as the days grow longer,

**All: Jesus' time grows shorter.**

One: Even as the Christ-light shines,

**All: the world works to hide it. To hide Christ's hope. To hide Christ's understanding. To hide Christ's love.**

One: But we will *not* let the Christ-light and the Christ-love be hidden.

**All: Even on our way to the cross. In the best, in the worst, Christ's light shines.**

*The Christ Candle, Peace Candle, and Affirmation Candle are lit.*

*Then all ask: Why are we here?*

*Reader: John 13:1-3 read by John Lindsay-Botten*

One: So we gather this night, to remember.

**Opening Prayer**

**Holy One, You who lay a table of blessing before us,  
you have heard us and have come to us.  
We lift up the cup of salvation in praise,  
we break open and share our love.  
Open us this night to your presence  
in our gardens of delight and sorrow—  
in the simple and good enough moments that fill our days.  
Amen.**

**Hymn:** VU 462 Before I Take the Body of My Lord vv.1-3

**Prayer of Confession:**

One: Servant God, kneeling, bending, serving us, take our dusty journeys

**All: And wrap your hands around them:**

One: Every path we have trodden in life,

**All: Every word that has taken us to hurtful scenes,**

One: Every thought that has moved us toward the shadows,

**All: Every act that has led us into harmful places.**

One: Wash away the pain as we confess and you forgive.

*(a moment of silent prayer)*

One: Take the wounds of our travelling

**All: And hold them in your healing hands.**

One: Every journey of remembrance that holds too many memories,

**All: Every memory that weighs us down with anger we cannot surrender.**

One: Every place we have visited that holds too much pain,

**All: Wash away the lingering memories as we let go and you heal.**

*(a moment of silent prayer)*

One: Take away the discomfort we feel because of our failure to honour our own values

**All: And cleanse us as you kneel at our feet.**

One: Every lesson about love we have not learned,

**All: Every heavenly value we have not grasped,**

One: Every truth of your realm we have ignored.

**All: Wash away hesitation as we accept your love. Amen.**

### **Words of Assurance:**

One: Hear this compassionate word: Love that cannot be quantified reminds us that each and every person is blessed, always, regardless of who we are, how we've failed, or what we've accomplished.

Know that already, God is offering us freedom from  
never feeling good enough for all the blessings of life and faith,  
inviting us to love and to bless in the same way—  
indiscriminately, extravagantly.

And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps,  
in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.

**All: Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**Hymn:** VU 462 Before I Take the Body of My Lord vv. 4-5

### **Washing of Hands:**

*Reader: John 13:3-10 read by Mary Brill*

*Minister: During this time, you're welcome to come forward to have your hands washed. There is soap, warm water in a basin, clean water for rinsing, and towels at the hand-washing station. May you receive this time as a gift of love and service.*

**Hymn:** VU 593 Jesu, Jesu

### **A New Commandment:**

*Reader: John 13:12-17, 34-35 read by Tony Mombourquette*

*Minister: We love blessing people we find easy to love. But Jesus knew that night there were people who would betray him, and he washed their feet anyway. Madeleine L'Engle wrote this in her work, "A Stone for a Pillow":*

*"We must bless without wanting to manipulate. Without insisting that everything be straightened out right now. Without insisting that our truth be known. This means simply turning whoever it is we need to bless over to God, knowing that God's powerful love will do what our own feeble love or lack of it won't. I have suggested that it is a good practice to believe in six impossible things every morning before breakfast, like the White Queen in Through the Looking Glass. It is also salutary to bless six people I don't much like every morning before breakfast."*

So now it is your turn. If you are comfortable doing so, close your eyes and call to mind six people that "rub you the wrong way," that have made your life less-than-easy, or that you just struggle to like at all. Take your time. Do you see them? *[pause]* Imagine yourself across a water basin from them. Imagine washing their feet, or hands. Imagine blessing them. Even . . . especially . . . if you don't want to. Take another few moments to visualize this. *[pause]* I invite you to open your eyes if they have been closed. Not easy. And it is ok if you couldn't bring yourself right now to bring their image into this moment—we can help each other make this good enough step. Let's say one of the

oldest blessings “in the Book” together, keeping in mind those we love and those we struggle to love:

**“The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.”**

**Hymn:** MV 85 Take, O Take Me As I Am

The Last Supper

*Reader: Mark 14:18-25 read by Janet Mombourquette*

**Communion Liturgy**

One: The Holy Living God be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts!

**All: We lift them up to the Lord!**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

One: It is right, and a good and joyful thing,  
anytime and everywhere to give thanks to you.  
You created this world full of so much beauty and sorrow  
and called it Good. And called it Enough.

Although we feel lost at times,  
you are ever present.  
We doubt, resist, turn away, and rage,  
insistent on our own power to pull us through,  
and yet sure that we are to blame,  
making life seem like a confusing paradox.

But you are patient.  
You are here to meet us—reside with us in strange and alienating times,  
always faithful, always present  
in this Body *[gesture to the table]*...  
in this Body *[gesture to the people]*.

And so,  
together we proclaim the praise-filled truth of your glory  
along with all the saints:

*[to the tune of “Take, O Take Me as I Am”]*

**Holy, holy, God of Hosts!  
Heav’n and earth sing out your name!  
Blest are they who come today;  
and take their place.**

*[music may continue to sparingly underscore the following]*

One: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.  
He proclaimed freedom for the bound,

justice for the oppressed,  
grace for the lost,  
love for the prodigal.

Through the life and ministry of Jesus,  
we can imagine and live into a community  
where all who struggle are taken into loving arms  
and those who struggle to love are invited into greater compassion.

*[underscoring concludes]*

On the night in which he was betrayed,  
he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,  
gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup,  
gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

“Drink from this, all of you;  
this is my blood of the new covenant,  
poured out for you and for many  
for the forgiveness of sins.  
Do this, as often as you drink it,  
in remembrance of me.”

And so,  
We remember... *[pause, piano enters]*  
We offer ourselves... *[pause]*  
We proclaim God’s time...

*[to the tune of “Take, O Take Me as I Am”]*

**Christ has died, yet Christ is ris’n;  
Christ will come once again!  
We remember and proclaim  
redeeming love.**

*[piano underscoring continues, crescendo in energy from both piano and presider]*

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,  
and on these gifts of bread and fruit of the vine.  
Make them be for us blessing for our days,  
love for simple and ordinary lives,  
fuel for justice in this world.

By your Spirit open us to each other.  
Open us to the world,  
making us one in you,  
through Christ,  
in the power of your amazing grace!

**[All sing, soaring]**

**Take, O take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart  
and live in me.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

*Sharing of Communion*

**Hymn:** VU 130 An Upper Room Did Our Lord Prepare vv.1-2

#### **From the Upper Room into the World**

*Reader: Luke 22:39-53 read by Carolyn Silver-Crouse*

*Hangings, banners, and the Bible are removed from the sanctuary, and the Table is covered with a black cloth for Good Friday. **Only the Christ Candle remains lit.***

One: Love has moved out. The room is silent. The Table is abandoned: broken bread still sitting there; wine half finished, herbs and lamb scattered across the Table.

**All: In the distance you can hear footsteps moving through the olive grove. Whose they are, we do not know.**

One: The room hangs, suspended in time, cushions scattered, crumbs across the floor, a basin and a towel discarded near the Table.

**All: There is a rustle of leaves from among the trees, a brushing of garments caught on branches, the sound of knees breaking twigs as they kneel in prayer.**

One: The room is cold, empty. The air is deep with the smell of betrayal and panic, of accusations and unfinished stories.

**All: And we are aware that someone has departed: his intricate blend of human and divine, prophetic presence, Galilean hope, Teacher with whom we have journeyed and broken bread.**

One: Footsteps echo on their way past the house out of the city. The room is dull. Shadows stretch across unfinished bread and half-drunk wine; unfinished conversations hang in the air.

**All: Outside, there is a gathering with noise, shouts, and then silence.**

One: From the room all that one can hear is a distant, subtle rattle of weapons on breastplates. The circle is tightening. Suddenly, all at once, the wind changes direction; there are muffled voices, and a kiss is placed on the Galilean's cheek.

**All: It is the moment of betrayal. The darkness begins.**

*(The Christ Candle is removed from the Sanctuary.)*

*The service is over. Stay as long as you wish and leave in silence when you are ready.*

## **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, Outreach and Faith Formation: 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 McIlldoon & Judy Hayes

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