

Gathering Song: VU 381 Spirit of Life (x2)

Announcements

Welcome:

One: We light the Christ candle (*Elder lights Christ Candle*) as a reminder of the presence of Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the World, and of our own call to be beacons of that light in all we do.

One: We light the Peace candle (*Elder lights Peace Candle*) as a reminder that Jesus taught us to live in peace with all Creation. As the congregation of Knox United, we acknowledge that we live, work, worship and play within the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. As those who follow Jesus' path of peace,

All: we commit ourselves to upholding the Treaties of Peace and Friendship so that we will live in a good way with all peoples, with the lands, the waters, and all of Creation, for we are all treaty people.

One: We light the Affirmation Candle (*Elder lights Affirmation candle*) as a celebration of all the wonderful diversity in which God creates us and calls us good! In this community of faith, we celebrate that all are welcome in this place.

All: All are welcome by God's grace.

Call to Worship:

One: As we enter fully into our worship service, let us take time to pause.
Let us take time to breathe deeply as we rest in God's loving arms.
Let us release all that troubles us, weighs us down, and occupies our thoughts.
(time of silent prayer as we breathe deeply and still ourselves)

One: In the stillness of this morning, we hear the Spirit singing.

All: In the stillness of this morning, the Spirit stirs our hearts with compassion.

One: In the stillness of this morning, we hear Jesus calling.

All: In the stillness of this morning, Christ calls us to pay attention to our living.

One: In the stillness of this morning, we feel God's presence here among us.

All: In the stillness of this morning, we come together to worship God.

One: Let us pray.

Opening Prayer

All: Gracious God, we open our hearts to you, that your Spirit may flourish and bear fruit in us. May we be a garden of love, joy, and peace. May we blossom with patience, faithfulness and self-control. May our gentleness, kindness and generosity bear fruit in the lives of those around us. Help us set aside all that hinders us from perfect love, by the grace of your Beloved, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn: MV 185 Ev'ry Day (Is a Day of Thanksgiving)

Celebration Time

Video: Deep Listening

Prayer of Illumination

Prayer of Illumination: Life-changing God, as we prepare to hear and tell your sacred stories once more this day, may you open our minds to perceive new insights, open our hearts to be touched by your love, and open our lives to become the people Christ is calling us to be. Amen.

Scripture:

Paraphrase of Galatians 5:13-15, 22-25 -read by Olive McIlldoon

For freedom, Christ has set us free. But remember: freedom isn't for the sake of selfishness. Freedom is the power to love each other deeply. For, the whole law is summed up in this one thing: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." If you bite and devour one another, you'll be eaten up by your selfishness. Therefore, live by the Spirit that makes us one.

Listen: when the Spirit lives in you it bears the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. So, if we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

Reflection: Lectio Divina

Ministry of Music: We'll Find a Way to be Honest

Offering Invitation

****Offertory Response**- VU 540 Grant Us, God, The Grace of Giving

**** Offering Dedication:**

**All: Receive the works of our hands, hearts, and lives, O Lord,
for your work in the world.**

**Bless those who give,
those who send,
and those who will receive these gifts.
May our offering sow seeds of hope**

**and bear the fruit of love
wherever they are sown. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: VU 421 Lead On, O Cloud of Presence

****Blessing:**

One: As you leave this time of worship,
may the transforming love of God
work in your life, today and always.

Go forth into the world with peace, love, and joy,
for you have been set free to offer God's love and freedom to others.
Thanks be to God for this! Amen.

****Parting Song** MV 212 Sent Out in Jesus' Name

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