

Gathering Song: MV 62 There Is Room for All

### Lighting of the Christ Candle and Peace Candle

On this second Sunday of Lent, we gather together in the light of Christ, who walks with us through all our joys and all our sorrows.

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: In Christ's presence, we have also lit the Affirmation Candle, and we give thanks for all the diversity in which God creates us and calls us good! In this 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!

*Left side: Come!*

**Right side: Come as you are**

One: to this sacred space,

*Left side: to this sacred time,*

**Right side: as we weave our prayers, songs and stories into worship.**

One: So pull up a chair, roll on in,

*Left side: gather all the parts of yourself*

**Right side: and bring them to the altar.**

One: Be here.

*Left side: Be present.*

**Right side: Be open.**

One: Just as you are--

*Left side: a beloved child of God,*

**Right side: a blessing to this world,**

One: and a disciple, growing in grace.

*Left side: Come!*

**Right side: You are welcome here!**

**All: Let us worship God!**

### Opening Prayer

**All: Beloved One, your embrace is a refuge from violence and hatred. Those who have been turned away, forgotten, or persecuted find belonging in you. We hope to embody such love in this place. May we be a sanctuary, a shelter, a safe place to turn. May we endeavor to learn from each other and grow together in love that protects and uplifts. Amen.**

**Hymn:** "Everyone is Welcomed Freely" by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette  
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### Prayer of Confession:

One: The Prayer of Confession isn't a time in our worship service that is supposed to make us feel *guilty*, its purpose is to help us look clearly at ourselves and our place in the world, and to make space in our lives for God to make changes for the better. The Prayer of Confession isn't a time for guilt, it's a time for *transformation*.

So, let us bring our prayers of confession to God, trusting that God hears our prayers and holds us always in love. Let us pray together for ourselves, our neighbours and our community:

**All: Loving God, for the times when we are too rushed to care,  
when we are too tired to bother,  
when we don't really listen,  
when we act from motives other than love,  
God, forgive us.**

*A time of silent prayer*

One: For our incapacity to feel the sufferings of others,  
and our tendency to live comfortably with injustice,

**God, forgive us.**

*A time of silent prayer*

One: For our failings in community,  
our lack of understanding,

**God, forgive us.**

*A time of silent prayer*

One: For our lack of forgiveness, openness, sensitivity,

**God, forgive us.**

*A time of silent prayer*

One: For the self-righteousness that denies guilt,  
and the self-interest that strangles compassion,

**God, forgive us, and work within us to create the people you would have us be—this day, and always.**

**Amen.**

### Words of Assurance:

One: People of God, hear the Good News of Jesus Christ: From before you were born, God's love was with you, and long after you die, God's love will still remain with you. So, despite our sometimes faltering steps, let us trust in God's love and forgiveness, and live our lives from this moment in gratitude, saying:

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

### Hymn: 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.

## Time for All Ages Announcements

Hymn: MV 209 Go Make a Diff' rence

### Prayer of Illumination

*Reader: Help us, O God, to receive these age-old, prophetic words as if they were being spoken for the first time. Let them seep into us and may new shoots of faith spring forth. Amen.*

### Scripture:

Luke 13: 31-35

-read by Don Acker

Words of God that are still speaking.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### Reflection:

- Rev. Penny Nelson

Ministry of Music: We Are a Rainbow words and music by David Kai,  
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### Offering Invitation

**\*\*Offertory Response- Enough For Me**

When food and raiment are not ever sure,  
and simple fare is hard to get for some,  
we work to share our goods with one and all,  
and that is enough, enough for me.  
Oh, that's enough for me,  
God's truth has set me free;  
a love like Christ's is meant for ev'ry soul,  
and that is enough for me.

### **\*\* Offering Dedication:**

**All: Generous God,  
in light of your extravagant blessings—  
no matter what the state of the world or our imperfect lives—  
we offer our gifts and ourselves,  
and know that you transform what we plant  
into the produce of love.  
Amen.**

### Prayers of the People

#### The Lord's Prayer

**Hymn:** MV 145 Draw the Circle Wide

**\*\*Blessing:**

**One:** Go from this time with open eyes, ears and hearts, ready to encounter the Holy One in the daily, in the ordinary, in the flesh. Go from this time with a daring and tender love, seeking to mend God's beloved creation, wherever and whenever you can. Know that God who is Love, goes with you, Within, beside and far ahead of you. Go into this day, into your life, trusting that you are held in the loving heart of the Holy Mystery, now and forever. Amen.

**\*\*Parting Song: The Irish Blessing**

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## OUR MISSION

TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

BY LIVING THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS:

showing mercy,  
promoting justice,  
offering forgiveness,  
acceptance, and hope.

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## 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.

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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  
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+Call to Worship adapted from Joy Cowan, Heritage United Church, Regina, SK. Found in *The Gathering: L/E 2022*, pg. 30. Used with permission; Opening Prayer written by *enfleshed* for PIE Day 2022 in their PIE Day Service Template 1; Offertory Prayer written by Marcia McFee for the "Lent 1" liturgy of *Good Enough* from Worship Design Studio; Prayer of Confession from *Celebrate God's Presence "Ash Wednesday B"* service. Used with permission; Words of Assurance adapted from The United Church of Canada's *Loving Our Neighbours 2020 "Five Sundays in Lent"* worship for Lent 1. Used with permission; Prayer of

Illumination written by Beth W. Johnston, Hantsport Pastoral Charge, Hantsport, NS. Found in *The Gathering*, L/E 2019, pg.35.  
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*[Faint, illegible handwritten text]*