

Please stand where \*\* is indicated

**Gathering Song: VU 289 It Only Takes a Spark vv 1,2**

**VU 345 Come, Children, Join to Sing**

**Announcements:**

**Welcome:**

The light of Christ shines within us. (*Elder lights Christ candle*).

We are worshipping on unceded Mi'kmak'i land;  
acknowledging that we are all people of the Peace and Friendship Treaty.  
(*Elder lights Peace Candle*)

The Holy Embrace encompasses us all. (*Elder lights Affirmation candle*)  
In this community of faith, we celebrate that all are welcome in this place.

**All are welcome by God's grace.**

**\*\*Call to Worship:**

One: Let us come into God's presence praise and thanksgiving,  
for God is our creator and giver of all. .

**All: Praise God, now and forever.**

**\*\*Opening Prayer:**

**All humankind is one vast family, this world, our home.**

**We sleep beneath one roof, the starry sky.**

**We warm ourselves before one hearth, the blazing sun.**

**Upon one soil we stand, and breathe one air,  
and drink one water,**

**and walk the night beneath one luminescent moon.**

**The children of one God are we, of one blood,  
members of one worldwide family of God.**

**Holy Creator, help us to never forget to care for this fragile blue/green planet.  
Amen.**

**\*\*Hymn: VU 186 Now the Green Blade Rises**

**Prayer of Confession:**

**Loving God, we are grateful for the earth upon which we live, yet we are also  
aware of a mighty healing wave needed in the world, in your world, your  
beautiful, but broken creation.**

**Ever-Present God, help us to surrender and to remember. Help us pay attention  
to the cry of Creation and to learn from the lessons in nature, lessons of  
reawakening in new life, new growth, and new beginnings.**

God of all beings, may we soak up your love and forgiveness as we move into a new way of being and of mindful participation in the world, understanding that we are part of creation, doing the sacred work of your hands, Amen.

*Adapted from Jani Francis, Gathering Lent/Easter 2023, page 53. Used with permission.*

**Words of Assurance:**

We go forward to renewed commitment to bring change and healing to our small planet.

**Prayer of Illumination**

Holy God,

you have called us to follow in the path of your risen Son,

and to care for those who are our companions,

not only with words of comfort, but with acts of love.

Seeking to be true friends of all,

open your word to us this morning that we may walk your path today. Amen.

**Scripture:**

Acts 2:14a, 36-41

- offered by Don Farmer

Luke 24:13-35

Words of God that is still speaking.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Ministry of Music: Emmaus – Bound on Easter Day - by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette**

**Reflection:**

- Reverend Judith Perry

**Offering Invitation**

**\*\*Offertory Response: VU 542 We Give You but Your Own**

**\*\*Offering Dedication:**

In the name and in the spirit of Jesus,

We bring our gifts to You, O God,

Help us to give with them

a ready mind,

a willing spirit,

and a joyful heart. Amen

**\*\*Hymn: VU 182 Stay with Us**

**Prayer Requests**

**Prayers of the People**

O God, your Son remained with his disciples after his resurrection, teaching them to love all people as neighbors.

As his disciples in this age,  
we offer our prayers on behalf of the universe  
in which we are privileged to live  
and our neighbors with whom we share it. (cont'd)

Prayers of the People, concluding with:

Open our hearts to your power moving  
around us and between us and within us,  
until your glory is revealed in our love of both friend and enemy,  
in communities transformed by justice and compassion,  
and in the healing of all that is broken.

### **The Prayer of Jesus**

**\*\*Hymn:** MV 135 Called by Earth and Sky

**\*\*Blessing:**

Go now as witnesses of God's eternal presence.  
The risen Christ has made himself known to you.  
So set your faith and hope on God,  
fulfilling your vows and living in genuine mutual love.  
And may God hear and respond whenever you call;  
May Christ Jesus make himself known to you in all things;  
And may the Holy Spirit open your eyes and set your hearts on fire with love.  
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

**In the name of Christ. Amen.**

**\*\*Parting Song:** VU 289 It Only Takes a Spark v3

---

## **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,