

Please stand where ** is indicated

Gathering Song: VU 559 Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

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:**

Let us give thanks and praise to God, who alone is God.

God created the earth and its inhabitants, and God's care for its creatures is so complete that even the hairs on our heads are counted.

Today let us joyfully worship the Divine Other.

****Opening Prayer:**

(All)

**Most wonderful God, our Parent and Friend,
we praise You for the riches of love that enable us to come together in this
house of prayer to celebrate Your goodness.**

**Please lead our truant minds away from petty concerns to larger commitments,
away from tiredness or apathy towards a sense of awe and wonder, away from
self obsession to the holy intoxication of Your awesome beauty,
humble power, and Your unspeakable love.**

**We realise we never seem to be able to thank, praise and enjoy You to the
heights that we should, but we do pray to be able give You the best worship
that at this time is possible.**

Through Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn: VU 296 This Is God's Wondrous World

Prayer of Confession:

(One) God, is light, in whom there is no darkness at all.

(All)

**Holy Friend, in you there are no shadows, no imperfections, and no regrets.
We wish we could say the same about ourselves, but it is not so.**

**So, we come to you in simple trust, as we have done many times, asking for
mercy and seeking forgiveness from each other and from the Divine Essence
which surrounds us all. Amen**

Words of Assurance:

God is good and forgiving, loyal to all who cry out for mercy.
Through our union with Christ we are now dead to sin,
and alive to God in Christ Jesus.
Our sins are forgiven, and we are at peace.

Prayer of Illumination:

Most loving God, Your holy Son has taught us that none of our concerns lie outside your love, and no person is ever irrelevant or dispensable. As we hear the Holy Word, teach us the way of quiet trust, that placing all our affairs in Your hands, we may live faithfully and lovingly, allowing Your Spirit to guide our feet in the way of your peace. Through Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen!

Scripture:

Genesis 21: 8-21
Matthew 10: 24-39

-Betty Ferguson

Word of God that is still speaking.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn: His Eye Is on the Sparrow

Reflection:

- Reverend Judith Perry

Offering Invitation:

Let us give as each are able, according to the blessings God has given each of us.

****Hymn During Offering: VU 229 God of the Sparrow**

****Offertory Response: VU 540 Grant Us, God, the Grace**

****Offering Dedication:**

Bless these offerings as you have blessed our lives. Inspire us to share the abundance of your love without limit or restriction. Amen.

Prayer Requests

Prayers of the People

Lord God, friend of those in need,
Your Son Jesus has untied our burdens and healed our spirits.
We lift up the prayers of our hearts for those still burdened, those seeking healing,
those in need within the church and the world.

Prayers of the People, concluding with:

Hear our prayers that we may love you with our whole being and willingly share the concerns of our neighbors. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

****Ministry of Music:** I Feel the Spirit

****Hymn:** VU 380 She Comes Sailing on the Wind (She Flies On)

****Blessing:**

Go now and walk in newness of life
for Christ was raised from the dead.

Therefore do not be afraid.

What God speaks to you in the dark, proclaim boldly in the light.

Take up your cross and follow the Christ.

And may God watch over you and provide for you;

May Christ Jesus openly declare you to be his own;

And may the Holy Spirit bring you help and comfort always.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

In the name of Christ. Amen.

****Parting Song:** Go Now is Peace (*Price/Besig*)

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:

Minister of Pastoral Care: