

February 26, 2023

ORDER OF WORSHIP– Rev. Bob Chapman

Please stand where \*\* is indicated

Prelude: Sarabanda – by Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1770), offered by Vlad Martsyniv, viola

Gathering Song: VU 121 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (vv.1, 2, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday)

### Announcements

### WELCOME

One: Early in the morning upon rising up for the day we turn on the lights. At this time, we also seek light and enlightenment as gifted to us in the Spirit of Jesus. As we light the Christ Candle may it also glow in our hearts and minds.

*(Elder lights the Christ candle)*

One: And we gather in a time of war and rumors of wars. May we not be disturbed in mind but rather all the more cherish the peace of heart and soul that comes through Jesus's embrace in God's promise of peace for all the world.

*(Elder lights the Peace candle)*

One: The story of Jesus speaks of unity and oneness when we embrace God's will. God's will is to love one another even as much as we love ourselves.

So, we light the affirmation candle *(Elder lights the affirmation candle)*, celebrating our collective unity that all are one in the Spirit of Jesus, and that 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:

God has given us this beautiful earth,  
all that grows, all that lives upon it.

**Thanks be to God.**

God has given us breath to live and spirit to sing.

**Thanks be to God.**

God has gathered us into a community of care and worship.

**Let us worship God with love, thanksgiving, and praise.**

### \*\*GATHERING PRAYER:

**(All) O God of all time and space, hear us as we gather in prayer.**

**Listen to our lips as we sing your praise.**

**Care for us as we approach in prayer seeking comfort and guidance.**

**And as we drink from your Cup and eat the bread of life,**

**may we with gladness return to the world refreshed and renewed;  
in the Spirit of Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

\*\*Opening Hymn: VU 389 God Is Here

## Prayer of Illumination

Eternal God,  
In the reading of the scripture may Your Word be heard;  
In the meditation of our hearts, may Your Word be known;  
And in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown.

**Amen**

**Scripture:** Song of Solomon 2:8-14, 16-17 - *offered by Florence Carman & Dave Duggan*  
Luke 12:27-31 - *offered by Rev Bob Chapman*

Words of God that is still speaking.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Reflection:**

**Rev. Bob Chapman**

**Ministry of Music: Sonata for violin and viola, 2<sup>nd</sup> mvmt, abridged**  
- *composed by F. Joseph Haydn (1732 – 1809)*  
- *offered by Inna Klymenko, violin, and Vlad Martsyniv, viola*

**Offering Invitation**

**Ministry of Music during Offering: MV 71 Warm the Time of Winter**

**\*\*Offertory Response:**

**\*\* Offering Dedication: VU 540 Grant Us, God, the Grace**

**Hymn: VU 480 Let Us Break Bread Together**

## **COMMUNION**

**Invitation:**

One: This table is for everyone, a table of generous welcome for all people,  
in all of our diversity and difference.

Whether we are doubtful or certain, neighbour or stranger, no one is barred.

All are welcomed to be nourished in Christ's name.

**Greeting:**

One: The Lord 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.**

Blessed are you, gracious God,  
Creator of light, Giver of life, Source of love.  
You guide the sun, cradle the moon, and toss the stars.  
Through your inspiration, the earth was made  
and spun on its course among the planets.  
You breathe life into us  
and set us among all your creatures,  
in a covenant of love and service.  
Even when we turn away from you, you do not forsake us.  
You send your prophets to proclaim your justice,  
to remind us of your promise of peace,  
and to call us back to you.

Creator, Christ, and Spirit,  
we praise you for your love revealed to us in Jesus,  
who walks with us, our Wisdom and our Way,  
sharing our joy and sorrow,  
healing the sick,  
feeding the hungry,  
and setting the captive free.  
So it is that we join the song of all creation  
to proclaim your goodness:

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,  
God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Radiant God, in Jesus of Nazareth  
we recognize the fullness of your grace:  
light, life, and love, revealed  
in words that confront and comfort us,  
in teachings that challenge and change us,  
in compassion that heals and frees us.  
As we have begun this Season of Lent,  
May we ask for discernment from you,  
so we may, like Jesus, recognize the untoward temptations laid before us,  
and hold fast to what is good, what is honest,  
and what is true in our lives.

**All: And now we gather at this table to remember  
and to be filled with such longing for your realm,  
that we may rise together  
to turn our worship into witness  
and to follow in your way.**

We remember that, on the night before he was executed,  
Jesus ate a meal with his friends.

During the meal, he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it,  
he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

“Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.

Each time you do this, remember me.”

Then, he took a cup, and after giving thanks,  
passed it to his friends, saying:

“Take, drink. This cup that is poured out for you

is the promise of God’s everlasting love and forgiveness, made in my blood.

Whenever you drink, remember me.”

And so, as we eat and drink together this day, God,  
we remember all those with whom you would have us share your feast.

We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain . . .

all who are ill or alone . . .

all who live with fear, or hunger . . .

for all whom the world counts as last and least . . .

We pray for the church and its varied ministries . . .

for nations as they strive for peace and justice . . .

for all our families and friends . . .

*The Lord’s Prayer...*

One: Send, O God, your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts,  
that all who share in this loaf and cup

may be the body of Christ:

light, life, and love in the world.

In this hope and as your people, we praise you. Amen.

### **Sharing of Communion**

#### **Prayer after Communion:**

**All: Life-giving God,  
may we, who share Christ’s body, live his risen life;  
we, who drink his cup, bring new life to others;  
we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.  
Amen.**

**\*\*Hymn after Communion: VU 120 O Jesus, I Have Promised**

**\*\*Blessing:**

**\*\*Parting Song: VU 967 Danish Threefold Amen**

**Postlude: Merry-Go-Round of Life** from *Katoun* - written by  
- offered by Inna Klymenko, violin, and Vlad Martsyniv, viola

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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  
Church School Superintendent: Lynne Stewart  
Youth Group: James O'Connell  
Pastoral Care: Olive McIldoon & Judy Hayes

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+Call to Worship, Opening Prayer written by Rev. Bob Chapman, 2023; Communion Liturgy adapted from *Celebrate God's Presence* by Rev. Penny Nelson, 2022 and John Lindsay-Botten, 2023