

Gathering Song: VU 181 Midnight Sharpness, Starfields Fading

Announcements

Welcome:

One: Each new day reminds us of the light that dwells within us—the light God has placed deep within our hearts.

We light the Christ candle (*Elder lights Christ Candle*), remembering that we are made of light and love, remembering that we are called to bring light and love to others and the world.

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, the land, 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: In our lives,

All: We are surrounded by stories.

One: In our worship,

All: We bring our stories to God.

One: In this time, our stories are framed—

All: Our story is God's story, and God's story is ours.

One: Through scripture and singing,

All: God shines through our lives.

One: Through stained glass and stitching,

All: God shines through our lives.

One: Even through our tears, when the angels ask:

All: why are you weeping?

One: God still shines through our lives. In this assurance, come. Let us worship God.

Opening Prayer

All: Holy One, on this first day of the week, we give thanks that you take us as we are. We bring you our joys and sorrows, our hopes and fears, our brokenness and beauty, and you hold it all in your love.

Hear the prayers of our hearts this day, God, and through this time of worship, grant us the gift of new life. All of this we pray in the name of your Risen Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn: VU 166 Joy Comes with The Dawn

Celebration Time

Prayer of Illumination

Prayer of Illumination: Creating and Creative God, as light shines through a stained-glass window, we pray that you will illuminate the wisdom of this scripture reading for our day and age. Enlarge our vision and stretch our imagination, God, so we might see ourselves within your story, too. All of this we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Scripture:

John 20: 1-18 read by Pat Galbraith

Words of God that are still speaking.

Thanks be to God!

Hymn: VU 176 Who Is There on This Easter Morning

Reflection:

Offering Invitation:

One: Just as each piece of coloured glass is added together to create one whole, beautiful window that portrays a story of Christ's life, we each offer our own unique gifts of time, talents, and finances to create the ministry of Knox United Church. Thank you for all the ways you add beauty, depth, and meaning to this ministry by following God's call in your life.

Ministry of Music: VU 434 O Laughing Light

Offertory Response: VU 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

**** Offering Dedication:**

All: Gracious God, receive all the gifts we offer this day. Through time, talents, and financial gifts, may your love and joy shine through our offerings and illuminate this world with hope. All this we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Hymn before Prayers: MV 44 Shadow and Substance

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: MV 138 My Love Colours Outside the Lines

****Blessing:**

One: As you leave this time of worship, may you remember that God's story is *your* story, and your story is God's. So, in the week to come, may the love of God, the passion of Christ, and the wisdom of the Holy Spirit shine through your life in all you say and do. And in this way, Christ's Way, may you be blessed to be a blessing. Thanks be to God. Amen!

Parting Song: Sacred Stories

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