

**Gathering Song:** VU 121 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery vv.1-3, 5 (L.S.V.)

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle and Peace Candle**

We gather on this fifth Sunday of Lent in the light of Christ, giving thanks that, through all our joys and sorrows, God is present with us through it all—and God's love is more than enough to lift us up and light our path.

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: We are very near to the time of letting go,

All: when the grain of wheat falls into the ground.

One: We fear the falling, the losing,

All: we don't want to think about it.

One: And yet, in the soil there is a mystery:

All: life is received and given for eternity.

One: Yes, we are very near to the time of letting go. In this time together, let us pray:

### **Opening Prayer**

Holy One, Lover of Souls,  
we call out to you.  
You know our tears and sorrows,  
and you bear the seeds of grief with us.  
Open us this day to your comfort  
that nurtures these seeds into sheaves of joy—  
the simple and good enough moments that fill our days.  
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.

### **Prayer of Confession:**

One: The truth is, not everything in our world is “good enough”. There is room for growth, for space, and change. And the Prayer of Confession helps 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. But 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: God, we want to save our lives; we want to hang on to as much as we can for as long as we can. And so we measure out our lives and our love, always calculating where to find the best value and how to receive more than we give. In the end, it surprises us how quickly everything slips away and how little we are able to keep. God, help us to learn from Jesus how to give ourselves away. Open our clenched hearts, we pray. (*a time of silent prayer*)**

### **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.**

### **Blessing of the Prayer Shawls**

**Introduction to Prayer Shawl and Teddy Bear Ministries (*Pat Nursey and Dianne Levy*)**

### **Affirmation of Prayer Shawl and Teddy Bear Ministries**

Without even knowing who would receive it, these gifts were made specifically for the person who will receive it.

**May they see the intricate love and care given to this shawl, mirroring the intricate love and care that God bestows upon all people.**

These shawls were made to bring warmth to someone who feels a chill.

**May they feel the warm breath of the Holy Spirit as they wrap themselves with it.**

These bears were made to bring comfort to someone who feels alone.

**May they feel comfort in knowing that someone prayed for them as they pieced it together.**

These bears were made to bring peace to someone in need of prayer.

**May they feel the power of our prayers as they feel the yarn winding through their fingers.**

These shawls were made to remind the recipient that they are part of this community.

**May they feel touched by our love, moved by our guidance and held up by our support.**

### **Blessing of the Prayer Shawls:**

One: May God's grace be upon these shawls, warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing.

May these mantles be a safe haven... a sacred place of security and well-being... sustaining and embracing in good times as well as difficult ones.

May the ones who receives these shawl be cradled in hope, kept in joy, graced with peace, and wrapped in love. Amen.

### **Blessing of the Teddy Bears:**

One: God, bless these bears with warmth, comfort, love, and joy.

May they offer a listening ear, a comforting hug, a friend to play with, and a courageous presence for the children who receive them.

Hold these children and these bears in your love, God, and bless them—all the days of their lives. Amen.

**Hymn:** MV 79 Spirit, Open My Heart

### **Announcements**

#### **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:**

John 12: 1-8

-read by John Butler

Words of God that are still speaking.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Reflection:**

- Rev. Penny Nelson

**Ministry of Music:** VU 129 Said Judas to Mary

Offering Invitation

**\*\*Offertory Response-That's 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: VU 652 Be Still, My Soul

**\*\*Blessing:**

One: May we be blessed on the journey that is ours to make:  
Blessed with the spirit of Christ within us;  
Blessed with sturdy companionship and great love;  
Blessed with integrity of purpose to meet the challenges that are ours.  
May we make this journey knowing that we are not alone,  
That God is with us,  
And that God will never leave us nor forsake us.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.

**\*\*Parting Song: Go Now in Peace**

---

**OUR MISSION**

**TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE**

**BY LIVING THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS:**

showing mercy,

promoting justice,

offering forgiveness,