

Gathering Song: 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.

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Peace Candle

We gather on this fourth 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: In the dark hours past midnight God is sitting alone, waiting: waiting for the crunch of tires as the car turns into the driveway; waiting for the turning of the key in the lock and the creaking of the stairs; waiting for the beloved child's safe return.

All: God is waiting for us; we will come home.

One: Let us pray:

Opening Prayer

Holy One,
 we call out to you and
 you surround us with deliverance.
 You love us infinitely more than we love ourselves or others.
 Open us this day to your counsel,
 helping us be more merciful, more grace-filled,
 so that we might rejoice in the simple and good enough moments that fill our
 days.
 Amen.

Hymn: We're Part of the Blessing

- words © 2016 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette; music THE ASH GROVE

Prayer of Confession:

One: The Prayer of Confession isn't a time in our worship service that is supposed to make us feel *guilty*, its purpose is to help 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. 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, sometimes we wander into far countries of the soul without ever thinking where we are going. We take your love for granted; we presume that we can always find our way back to you when we really need you, when we're not so busy, when it's more convenient. And then, we find ourselves in places where we don't want to be, and we wonder how we got there. Lonely and afraid, we don't know where to turn. *(a time of silent prayer)*

One: Speak to us, God, of mercy and forgiveness.

All: Stir up within us a longing to be with you again. Help us find the way to the place where we have always belonged. We pray in the name of Jesus, in whom you have come out to meet us. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

One: No matter what stage we are in our lives, Christ is always extending God's forgiveness and mercy towards us. God welcomes us with open arms before we even turn back. Now, may we forgive others with the same grace. May we love others with the same love, always proclaiming these words through our living:

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

Time for All Ages

Ministry of Music: "I Choose"

- words and music by Chris Giffen

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:

Luke 15: 11-32

-read by Sandra Braye

Words of God that are still speaking.
Thanks be to God.

- Rev. Penny Nelson

Reflection:

Hymn: VU 271 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy (vv.1-2, 5)

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 266 Amazing Grace vv.1-2

**Blessing:

One: And now, may the God who loves all of creation, especially the broken bits,
and Jesus, our companion along this crooked path called life,
and the Holy Spirit, who loves to improvise in surprising ways,
go with you, dwell among you, and give you joy. Amen.

**Parting Song: VU 266 Amazing Grace v. 5

OUR MISSION

TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

BY LIVING THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS:

showing mercy,

promoting justice,

offering forgiveness,