

**Hymn Sing:** 331 The Church's One Foundation vv. 1-2;

VU149 When I Survey the Wondrous Cross; 650 O God of Bethel;

**Gathering Song:** VU 415 God, We Praise You for the Morning

### **Announcements – with “how to donate” slide**

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

Pentecost is not just a day, it is a *season* of celebration—celebrating the gift of the Holy Spirit to the world, the birth of the church community, and all the incredible ways God acts throughout time through all God's people! So, we gather this day in the light of our Christ candle, giving thanks for the light of God that continues to inspire us in our days.

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 acknowledge that the land on which we live, work, and play continues to be the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw people.

As we celebrate renewal and resurrection this day, may we strive for reconciliation and renewal in our lives, for we are all Treaty People.

### **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: There is a story to us being here.

**All: There are those who have gone before us.**

One: Methodists, hearts on fire with the Spirit, souls washed clean by Jesus' precious love.

**All: There is a story to our being here. There are those who have gone before us:**

One: Presbyterians, zealous for the good order of the kirk, eager to hear the word preached plain and true.

**All: There is a story to our being here. There are those who have gone before us:**

One: Congregationalists, tenacious for their freedom, uneasy with creeds and structures that bind.

**All: There is a story to our being here. There are those who have gone before us:**

One: Movers and shakers, prophets and church “lawyers”, quiet saints, fools and sages, debtors of grace, one and all.

**All: There is a story to our being here.**

One: There are those who have gone before us:

**All: We will celebrate, we will dream, we will serve; now, we are the story.**

### Opening Prayer

**All: Sacred Spirit on whom our hearts rely and our hopes depend, we pray a blessing upon this day. May we live fully and love extravagantly. Like those who have gone before us, may we be gracious in word, generous in deed and fearless in action. Thanks be! Amen.**

**Hymn:** VU 326 O, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

### \*Prayer of Confession:

One: Merciful God, we confess that on occasions such as this, our 97<sup>th</sup> anniversary of church union, it's so much easier to look back rather than to look forward.

**All: Fearful of what you're calling us to do and be in this time, we look back and say “It was easier then!”**

One: We appreciate the work of our forefathers and mothers, but we assume it was more satisfying in their time.

**All: We forget the cost, the sacrifice, the hard work that brought our church to where it is today.**

One: We forget the painful mistakes made by our denomination in the name of helping others, which still require vision, healing, and reconciliation.

**All: Forgive us, God, and help us to look forward and to work forward, knowing that the same Spirit that enabled past generations enables us still. Thanks be to you, Amen.**

### \*Assurance of Grace:

One: We often forget important lessons. But may we remember, and may we trust in the love of God who forgives us and loves us in spite of our shortcomings. Through the past, the present, and the future, know that you are loved, and know that you are called. So let us live into the people God is calling us to be. And let all the people say:

**All: Amen!**

**Hymn:** VU 822 All People That on Earth Do Dwell (Scottish Psalter) vv.1-2

**Time for All Ages**

**Hymn:** VU 820 Make a Joyful Noise vv.1 & 3

**Prayer of Illumination**

*Divine One, hold us close as we discern your truth. Open our hearts, spirits, and minds to your life-changing power. May we approach your awesome word with receptivity and astonishment. May the Holy Spirit transform us. We pray, in Jesus name. Amen.*

**Scriptures:**

John 17:1-2, 17-26 -read by Janet Mombourquette  
Words of God that are still speaking.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Reflection:** "Looking Back—A United Church"

**Ministry of Music:** On the Rock We'll Build Our Temple

**Reflection:** "Looking Ahead—A Uniting Church"

**Prayers of the People**

*What is your prayer for Knox United, for the wider Sackville area, or The United Church of Canada for the next 100 years?*

*For those of you worshipping on Facebook Live, we ask you to take a moment and write your prayer in the chat box. For those of you worshipping here at Knox United Church, take a moment to write your prayer on the piece of paper provided to you, and then, when you are ready, please bring your prayers forward to place them in the baskets provided. When you have come forward, you may also receive your communion elements to prepare for communion. If you are unable to come forward, please raise your hand and a Communion Elder will bring elements to you.*

**Communion Hymn:** MV 182 Grateful

**\*\* Offering Dedication:**

**All:** God of deep grace, with gratitude we honour the 97<sup>th</sup> birthday of this uniting and United Church of Canada. We pray, bless these offerings brought today and the heritage of faithful ministry they equip here in Sackville and far beyond. Bless our church in its future with your deep grace. In the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

**Communion Liturgy**

**Invitation:**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

One: May the Spirit of God be with you!

**All: And also with you!**

One: May the Spirit be present in all our places of worship.

**All: The Spirit is in us!**

One: The Spirit gathers us around this table.

**All: It is good to live in the Spirit!**

One: When the Spirit is in us, we want to say thank you! We say thank you to God for the world we live in, and all the ways God's Spirit has brought life to the world. We are thankful for the trees and the sun, and even the bugs. We are thankful for people who lived a long time ago, and people who live today. We are thankful for everyone who is part of our community of faith. And we are thankful for Jesus, who taught his friends and followers (and is still teaching us!) what it is like to live in the Spirit. For all of this, we say thank you God.

**All: Thank you God!**

One: So, now we gather around this table to share a meal. To remember that Jesus often shared food with friends and strangers, and he told people to do what he did – to give thanks and share food, and remember what he taught. We pray that God's spirit will be with us as we share this meal. We say a sort of grace with our words and our actions. Let us pray:

**All: God, bless us and bless this meal. Bless us and bless all who cannot be with us to share it. Bless us and bless all those who are on our hearts this day. Bless all who need some love today.**

One: Now God, may your Spirit fill us, and fill our hearts so that we can share your Spirit with the world. Receive the prayers of all our hearts as we pray together the words that your son has taught us to pray, for you are like Our Mother and ... :

**Lord's Prayer**

**All: Our Father,  
who art in heaven,  
hallowed by thy name.  
Thy kingdom come,**

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread,  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever,  
Amen.

#### Breaking the Bread and Blessing the Cup

One: On the night before Jesus died, he shared a meal with his friends. And at this meal, he took bread, and broke it, and gave it to his friends, saying "This is my body, which is broken for you. Whenever you eat, remember me." (*bread is broken*) The body of Christ, given for all!

**All: To us, this, bless.**

One: And after supper, Jesus took a cup of wine, he blessed it, and gave it to his friends, saying "This is my life, which is poured out in forgiveness for all. Whenever you drink, remember me." (*cup is lifted*) The life of Christ, poured out for all!

**All: To us, this, bless.**

One: These are the gifts of God for the people of God! Let us now receive this blessing and celebrate this feast today with our brothers and sisters in faith.  
(*Communion is shared*)

#### Prayer after Communion

**All: Thank you God for blessing us in this time together. Thank you for all that we receive by being together in this family of faith. Thank you for this meal and these people around us, who give us the strength and courage to follow your way in the world. Help us to show your Spirit in our lives wherever we are.  
Amen.**

**Hymn:** VU 481 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

**\*\*Blessing:**

One: And now, may we leave this time and place together: grateful, hopeful, anticipating the great thing that God would do in our lives and in the life of the world. May we leave this time and place together: eager, excited, and grateful for the opportunities given to us to share God's love in all the places life calls us to be. 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,  
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: 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 McIlldoon & Judy Hayes

567 Sackville Drive (PO Box 210) Lower Sackville, NS B4C 2S9  
Office: 902.865.9216 Hall/Kitchen: 902.865.1603 Fax: 902.865.0599  
In the case of pastoral emergency, please dial 902.865.2617  
office: [admin@knoxsackville.ca](mailto:admin@knoxsackville.ca) website: [www.knoxsackville.ca](http://www.knoxsackville.ca) [facebook.com/knoxunited](https://www.facebook.com/knoxunited)