

Gathering Song: VU 524 O Canada

Announcements

Call to Worship:

One: We light the Christ candle (*Elder lights Christ Candle*) as a reminder of the presence of Jesus Christ, who is the Light of the World,

All: and of our own call to be beacons of that light in all we do.

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 with all peoples, with the lands, 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.

One: In this place, in this time, in this gathering of hearts and minds,

All: May we open ourselves to the presence of God who is with us always.

One: Let us pray.

Opening Prayer

One: O God, whose mystery and power is beyond comprehension, settle us into this time of worship. Remove anxieties that trap our thinking. Let us see abundance where we see only scarcity. Free us to forgive others, and to envision new possibilities in frozen relationships. Free us from focus on self to fulfill your hope for all people, welcoming the stranger, feeding those who are hungry, and living the good news in unity. Let us live this freedom in such a way so that all might know the peace of your presence. Amen.

Hymn: VU 691 Though Ancient Walls

Celebration Time

Prayer of Illumination

Prayer of Illumination: Life-changing God, as we prepare to hear and tell your sacred stories once more this day, may you open our minds to perceive new insights, open our hearts to be touched by your love, and open our lives to become the people Christ is calling us to be. Amen.

Scriptures:

Galatians 5:1, 13-25 -read by Valerie Parsons

Words of God that are still speaking.

Thanks be to God.

Ministry of Music: Medley: This is My Commandment/Dance with the Spirit/Set Free

Reflection:

- Rev. Penny Nelson

Hymn: VU 595 The Servant Song

Offering Invitation

****Offertory Response-** MV 191 What Can I Do?

**** Offering Dedication:**

**All: Receive the works of our hands, hearts, and lives, O Lord,
for your work in the world.**

**Bless those who give,
those who send,
and those who will receive these gifts.
May our offering sow seeds of hope
and bear the fruit of love
wherever they are sown. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: VU 686 God of Grace and God of Glory

****Blessing:**

One: As you leave this time of worship,

may the transforming love of God
work in your lives, today and always.

Go forth into the world with peace, love, and joy,

for you have been set free to offer God's love and freedom to others.

Thanks be to God for this! Amen.

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

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+Call to Worship adapted from *Salt and Light*, The United Church of Canada 2016. Used with permission; Opening Prayer adapted from "Believe, Receive, Rejoice" by Elaine Bidgood Sweet, First Lutheran, Rugby & Leeds, North Dakota as found on <gatheringworship.ca>. Used with permission; Prayer of Illumination written by Rev. Penny Nelson, 2015 while serving the Tatamagouche Pastoral Charge. Used with permission; Offering prayer used from "Worship Elements, June 26, 2022" from <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3972/worship-elements-june-26-2022>; Blessing adapted from "Worship Elements, June 26, 2022" from <<https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/3972/worship-elements-june-26-2022>>.