

December 10, 2023 ORDER OF WORSHIP – Rev. Tom Woods

Please stand where ** is indicated

****Gathering Song: VU 29 Hark the Glad Sound**

Announcements:

Welcome:

In this community of faith, we celebrate that all are welcome in this place.

All are welcome by God's grace.

****Lighting of Advent Candle:**

On this second Sunday of Advent, we light this second candle symbolizing peace—the proclamation that God calls us to live peacefully in understanding.

Noticing the tiny flame, we wonder when the next puff of air will blow it out.

We wonder that, if this candle were outside, it would quickly be extinguished.

Still the flame flickers and flourishes—a symbol of the Prince of Peace living within us, a powerful image of strength despite perceived weakness.

We come to seek wisdom and daring to live lives of peace, transforming into a community of faith that builds bridges.

VU #7 Hope is a Star (vs. 2)

****Opening Prayer:**

We hear voices in the wilderness and look for straightened roads.

We hear voices calling out and look for levelled ground.

We hear prophets at the riverside and look for the glory of the Lord!

We are a people of peace in the Advent season of hope, peace, joy and love.

Come to us, Emmanuel, O come!

****Opening Hymn: VU 2 Come Thou Long Expected Jesus**

Ministry of Music & the Sunday School: One Little Candle

Baptism:

Baptismal Hymn: MV 161 I Have Called You by Your Name vv. 1 & 3

Knox faith community (Please stand):

One:

Do you covenant to receive these people affording them every opportunity to know Jesus Christ and grow in faithful witness to His love?

If so, please answer together: We will, God being our helper.

Congregation:

We will, God being our helper.

Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed

**We are not alone,
we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

**We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

Minister: Into the household of faith, we welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

**Congregation: We are members of the Body of Christ.
We are inheritors of God's promise. In the name of Christ, we welcome you.**

Baptismal Hymn: MV 161 I Have Called You by Your Name v.4

Scripture:

Isaiah 40: 1-11

- read by Brock Fee

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

Mark 1: 1-8

Hear the Witness of the Gospel.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Reverend Tom Woods

Minute for Mission:

Offering Invitation:

Hymn During Offering: VU 18 There's A Voice in the Wilderness

****Offertory Response: VU 55 (v. 4)**

****Offering Dedication:**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

****Hymn: VU 20 On Jordan's Bank**

****Blessing:**

****Parting Song: MV 224 May the God of 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. Tom Woods
Minister of Music & Dramatic Arts: John Lindsay-Botten
Church School Superintendent: Lynne Stewart
Pastoral Care: Olive McIlldoon & Judy Hayes

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