

December 3, 2023 ORDER OF WORSHIP – Rev. Tom Woods

Please stand where ** is indicated

****Gathering Song:** VU 60 O Come All Ye Faithful (vv. 1, 2, 5)

Announcements:

Birthday Church:

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:**

In a world filled with tragedy and chaos, we arrive weary and tired this Advent season.

We come to find shelter from our fears,

to discover hope as we practice our faith in worship.

We're tired of this marathon of difficulty,

longing for relief through a return to what we once thought normal.

We come because the vulnerable Christ child enlightens us with possibility.

****VU #7:** Hope is a Star vs. 1

****Opening Prayer:**

O God, we look forward to Christmas Day

and think of your coming to us as a baby, laid in a manger, so many years ago.

Help us, also, to be alive to your coming at any moment,

in the pleading eyes of a child, in the outstretched hand of one in need,

in the voice of an excited fool.

We confess that much of the time, we sit back, tuned-out to your presence,

hoping that the world's problems will go away

or that someone else will take care of them.

Forgive us, we pray,

and fire us up with the enthusiasm of your creative Spirit. Amen.

****Opening Hymn:** VU 1 O Come, O Come Emmanuel vv. 1-4

Children's Time:

White Gifts:

Scripture:

Isaiah 64: 1-9

- read by Caroline Silver-Crouse

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

Mark 13: 24-37

Hear the Witness of the Gospel.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Reverend Tom Woods

Ministry of Music:

Offering Invitation:

Hymn During Offering: VU 5 All Earth is Waiting

****Offertory Response:** VU 55 In the Bleak Midwinter (vs. 4)

****Offering Dedication:**

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

****Hymn:** VU 1 O Come, O Come Emmanuel (vv. 5-7)

****Blessing:**

****Parting Song:** MV 220 Hope Shines as the Solitary Star

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 McIldoon & Judy Hayes

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