

Gathering Song: MV 18 God, Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Peace Candle

One: We gather for worship this day in the light of the Christ candle. The light of this candle reminds us of the light of Christ's life that lights up the skies, bathes the land, and brightens our life's 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: And through our Affirmation Candle, we celebrate the light of Christ that shines in us! In all of our diversity, Christ shines forth in this world, and God names this *good*. And so, this day, as we do each time we gather as a community of faith, we celebrate that:

Welcome All are welcome in this place.
All are welcome by God's grace.

Call to Worship

One: To pray is to open our hearts.

All: To pray is to open our minds and souls.

One: To whom do we pray?

All: We pray to the Ground-of-Our-Being. We pray to that which gives us life. We pray to God—beyond, around, and within.

One: And the world changes.

All: And we change!

One: And within that change, we worship God. Alleluia!

All: Alleluia!

Opening Prayer

All: Gracious God, Holy Mystery, and Abiding Love—as we enter this time of worship today, open our hearts and still our minds to be receptive to your wisdom. Help us to feel your presence with us in story, song, and prayer, and give us the courage to live into your love all the days of our lives. This we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

****Opening Hymn:** VU 315 Holy, Holy, Holy

Prayer of Confession:

One: At this time, we bring to God the confessions of our hearts not because God needs us to, but because we need to. Let us pray our Prayer of Confession together, and then make space for our personal reflections in silence. Let us bring to God the confessions of our hearts.

All: God, there are times when our lives don't reflect your ways. There are times when we don't want your kingdom to come on earth—we like things just as they are. There are times when we refuse to forgive those who have sinned against us—even after many years. And there are times we can't seem to forgive ourselves, let alone believe that *you* forgive us. Heal our hearts, Loving God. Hear the prayers of our hearts and give us the courage to believe your love and forgiveness can change our world. Amen.

(A time of silent, personal prayer)

Assurance of Grace:

One: Hear God's words of love and grace: God's kingdom will come on earth, as in heaven, whether we get in the way of it or not. And God's forgiveness is for all people, whether we have forgiven them or not, or whether we've forgiven ourselves or not. Know that you are loved and forgiven, and know that you have God's power within you to love and forgive.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen!

Ministry of Music—The Lord's Prayer (Linnea Good)

Time for All Ages: Singing and Signing "This Little Light of Mine" (vv 1-3)

Announcements

Offering Invitation

****Offertory Response**- MV 33 Jesus Came Bringing us Hope

**** Offering Dedication:**

All: Gracious God, receive the work of our hearts and hands. We give it back to you as we give you our lives, praying that you might transform it all. May your kingdom come, God, and may our hearts, our lives, our talents and treasures be put to use in your glorious world. This we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen!

Hymn—Jesus On the Mainline (SA 41)

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil: for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Scripture:

Matthew 6:5-15

Offered by Tracey Acker-Canning

The Word of God for the People of God

Thanks be to God

Reflection:

- Rev. Penny

Nelson

Hymn: VU 556 Would You Bless our Homes and Families

****Blessing:**

One: In the days to come, may you be blessed by the loving presence of God, the Father and Mother of us all. May God's kingdom grow up around you, and may you be given the blessings you need for the days you live. On the road ahead, may forgiveness be the gift you freely give and receive, and in all things, may God's grace surround you. Amen!

****Parting Song:** MV 216 Wherever You May Go vv.1-2

**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, Faith Formation, and Outreach: 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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+ Lighting the Christ Candle inspired by words written by Peter Chynoweth, while at Yellowknife, NWT, as found in *The Gathering: Pentecost 1, 2021*. Pg. 38. Used with permission; Call to Worship written by Richard Bott while at St. Andrew's United, Maple Ridge, BC. *The Gathering: Pentecost 1 2013*, pg.43. Used with permission; Opening Prayer written by Rev. Penny Nelson while at the Tatamagouche Pastoral Charge, 2013. Used with permission; Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance adapted from prayers written by Rev. Penny Nelson while at the Tatamagouche Pastoral Charge, 2015. Used with permission; Offering prayer written by Rev. Penny Nelson while at the Tatamagouche Pastoral Charge, 2015. Used with permission; Blessing written by Rev. Penny Nelson while at the Tatamagouche Pastoral Charge, 2017. Used with permission.