

November 26, 2023 ORDER OF WORSHIP – Rev. Tom Woods

Please stand where ** is indicated

Gathering Song: VU 562 Jesus Calls Us O're the Tumult

Announcements:

Welcome:

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

All are welcome by God's grace.

****Call to Worship:**

Be joyful and sing as you come in to worship God!

Let the whole world shout praise to God.

We know that the one who made us is God!

We are God's people, and God is our shepherd.

Give thanks and praise to God as you gather to worship.

For God is good! God's love and faithfulness last forever!

Let the whole world shout praise to God!

****Opening Prayer:**

**Jesus, you are brother, friend, Lord, neighbour,
Saviour, God, and so very much more.**

The important thing is not the name but your abiding grace and power.

Your dearest friends had trouble knowing you were in their midst.

I wonder if we miss you in the ordinary activities of our lives:

**Are your eyes looking back from the bedside of someone who is ill
and frightened and very glad for some company?**

Is that your laughter heard from the children on the playground?

**Help us to glimpse you in the everyday,
and to recognize you in the touch of the ordinary.**

Bless us in our worship, and then send us out to love and serve you. Amen.

****Opening Hymn: VU 820 Make A Joyful Noise**

Scripture:

Ephesians 1: 15-23

- read by Olive McIlldoon

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

Matthew 25: 31-46

Hear the Witness of the Gospel.

Thanks be to God.

Message

Reverend Tom Woods

Ministry of Music: **This Is a Day for Rising** - *words and music by Joseph M. Martin*

Mission and Service Stories

Offering Invitation:

Hymn During Offering: **VU 469** We Gather Here

****Offertory Response:** Praise

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****Offering Dedication:**

Communion:

(One)

...still your voice echoes, calling us to return and follow you,
trusting in your powerful promise.

(All)

**We give you thanks and praise for your faithfulness and your goodness,
for your many blessings and gifts,
and especially for the gift of Jesus Christ your son.**

Living among us, he shared our experiences:

joy, pain, dreams, sorrow, laughter, tears, hope, frustration, love.

(One)

... but on the third day even Caesar knew who the real king was.

(All)

**We give you thanks and praise for our citizenship in your kingdom,
and we lift up our voices, our hearts, and our lives in gratitude.**

You, Lord, call us to let your glory shine in our lives,

to offer everyone a glimpse of your kingdom,

to live differently in order that all might know you in us.

May your kingdom rise up in this place,

in our words and deeds, our choices and relationships.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

****Hymn:** **VU 330** Jesus Shall Reign

****Blessing:**

****Parting Song:** **Go Now in Peace** *by Don Besig and Nancy Price*

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

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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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.