

**\*\*Gathering Song: VU176 Who Is There on This Easter Morning**

Welcome

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Peace Candle

We gather this morning in the presence of the risen Christ,  
whose love and peace gives light to our paths and hope to our days!  
In the light of our Christ candle, the joy of our hearts is rekindled this day.  
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 acknowledge  
that the land on which we live, work, and play  
continues to be the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw people.  
As we celebrate renewal and resurrection this day,  
may we strive for reconciliation and renewal in our lives for 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: In Christ's presence, we have also lit the Affirmation Candle,  
and we give thanks for all the 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 are welcome by God's grace.

Call to Worship

Doubt...

**does not damage faith.**

Wondering...

**does not damage faith.**

Questioning...

**does not damage faith.**

Fear...

**does.**

So we will...

**question, wonder, and doubt,**

**knowing that God's love is with us, always.**

We shall not be afraid!

**We shall not be afraid!**

**Alleluia!**

Let us pray:

**We sometimes envy your first disciples, Christ.**

**The ones who walked with you.**

**The ones you healed.**

**The ones you taught.**

**And then we remember,**

**you do that with us, too.**

**Thanks be to God, who does such marvellous things!**

*Richard Bott, St. Andrew's U.C., Maple Ridge, B.C. (richardbott.com) Gathering LEP 2013*

Opening Prayer

**Holy God, meet us in this place. Meet us where we each are;  
be it sick of heart, worried, worn, or joyful, peaceful, content.  
Meet us where we are. Meet us and move us, Lord. Move us to where we need to be.  
Move us to be faithful. Move us to be thoughtful.  
You alone know who we truly are, and what we truly want.  
Let us relax our tight grip so that your holy fingers might make their way into our  
lives.**

**For the times we have not acted in ways that would make you proud, God, forgive us.  
For the times we have succeeded in choosing your holy way, God, rejoice with us.  
Move us toward you. In the name of our risen Saviour, we pray. Amen.**

*Elaine Bidgood Sweet, Port Perry U.C. and Prince Albert U.C., Port Perry, Ont. Gathering LEP 2012*

**\*\*Opening Hymn: VU399 God, Whose Love Is Reigning o'er Us**

Introduction to the Theme – with a picture/rendition of Jerusalem at the time

Hymn: MV21 Open Our Hearts

Announcements

- Jean Collier

Minute for Mission

- Vanessa Voerman

Offering Invitation

Participating in what God is doing is a gift we have been given. Being part of something larger than ourselves gives life meaning and connects us with others in empowering ways. Let the gifts we offer today serve God's dream and visions for those both near and far.

*David Lander, Fairlawn Heights U.C. Toronto Ont. Gathering LEP 2011*

**\*\*Offertory Hymn: VU541 Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

**\*\*Offering Dedication:**

We give you a portion of all you have so generously given us, Lord God.  
Even as we give, our hearts seek you and your blessing.  
Take us and take these gifts, and cause us and them to become blessings for many others.  
We ask this in love, and in Jesus' name. Amen.

*Rob Fennell, Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax, N.S. Gathering LEP 2013*

Prayer of Illumination

- read by Florence Carman

Open our minds, open our hearts, open our lives  
to your life-giving and life-changing word.  
Open us to meeting you this day. Amen.

*Beth W Johnston, Kings United P.C., Annandale/Bay Fortune/Dundas/Souris, P.E.I. Gathering LEP 2012*

Scripture:

- read by Florence Carman

John 20: 19-31

Words of God that are still speaking.

Thanks be to God.

**\*\*Hymn: VU185 You Tell Me that the Lord is Risen**

Reflection:

- Gardia Voerman

Ministry of Music: The Mystery

- words by Jean Anne Shafferman ; music by Anna Laura Page

Prayers of the People :

- lead by Jean Collier



**\*\*Hymn: VU173** Thine Is the Glory

**\*\*Blessing:**

And now may the blessing of God be ours as we leave:

the blessing of doubt, to be our guide;

the blessing of peace, to calm our troubled spirits;

the blessing of friendship, to be our companion.

May the risen Christ, who appeared to his disciples,

come through the locked doors of our hearts and make his home deep within us, and in our world.

May he find here hospitality and welcome,

justice and peace for all.

*Bob Root, Mark Street U.C., Peterborough, Ont. Gathering LEP 2015*

**\*\*Parting Song: Go Now in Peace**

*- words by Don Besig and Nancy Price; music by Don Besig*

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## OUR MISSION

TO SHARE GOD'S LOVE

BY LIVING THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS:

showing mercy,

promoting justice,

offering forgiveness,

acceptance, and hope.

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## 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.

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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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