

October 1, 2023

**ORDER OF WORSHIP**

– Rev. Tom Woods

Please stand where \*\* is indicated

**\*\*Gathering Song:** VU 389 God Is Here vv. 2, 4

**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.**

**\*\*Call to Worship:**

Come, let us think about holy things.

**We come into worship, open to what God might do in this time together.**

Come, with your minds, your hearts, your needs.

**We come completely, open as we give thanks for the bounty we receive.**

Come, aware that worship and Holy Communion are being shared all over the world.

**We come as participants in World Communion and worldwide worship.**

**\*\*Opening Prayer:**

Loving Creator God, how rich and beautiful is your world!

Often we forget to give you thanks for it,

acting as though what we have is of our own achievement.

We consume the fruits of creation, forgetting that you call us to bear fruit ourselves. We often do not share with others the way you intended.

We treat your generosity as our right and hug it possessively to ourselves.

Sometimes we are so blinded by our difficulties that we can see no reason to give you thanks. O God. Help us to trust you enough,

that we will stop worrying and will share freely with others

in confidence that your grace will never run out,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**\*\*Opening Hymn:** MV 161 I Have Called You by Your Name vv. 1, 2

**Sacrament of Baptism:**

**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.

**Choral Blessing:** "Little Child," words by Linnea Good & Dawn Richardson.  
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**Congregation:**  
We are members of the Body of Christ. We are inheritors of God's promise.  
In the name of Christ, we welcome you.

**Hymn:** MV 161 I Have Called You by Your Name vv. 3, 4

**Scripture:**

Exodus 17: 1-7

- read by Mary Brill

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 21: 23-32

Hear the Witness of the Gospel.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

- Reverend Tom Woods

**Ministry of Music:** "In Remembrance" words by Ragan Courtney;  
music by Buryl Red, arranged by Robert F. Douglas. Used by permission.

**Offering Invitation:**

**Hymn During Offering:** VU 467 One Bread, One Body

**\*\*Offertory Response:** MV 196 We Will Take What You Offer

**\*\*Offering Dedication:**

**Invitation to The Lord's Table:**

People of faith, welcome now to this table of blessing!

**We seek to be fed and nurtured!**

People of faith, bring your doubts and fears and leave them here at this table!

**Christ meets us here and accepts each one of us just as we are!**

With all Christians everywhere we are invited to satisfy our hunger and deepen our faith.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Communion Liturgy:**

**Post-Communion Prayer:**

**Thank-you, O Christ, for this feast of life.**

**We are fed by your love; we are strengthened by your life.**

**We are sent forth into this world to live your way and share your joy.**

**We are now commissioned to:**

**Feed as we have been fed,**

**Forgive as we have been forgiven,**

**Love as we have been loved.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Amen.**

**\*\*Hymn:** VU 271 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

**\*\*Blessing:**

**\*\*Parting Song:** MV 196 We Will Take What You Offer / MV215 Go Now in Peace by Don Besig and Nancy Price (All Rights Reserved)

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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.

**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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