

Please stand where ** is indicated

Gathering Song: MV 190 Laughter Lit the Stars of Morning

Announcements:

Welcome:

The light of Christ shines within us. (*Elder lights Christ candle*).

We are worshipping on unceded Mi'kmak'i land;

acknowledging that we are all people of the Peace and Friendship Treaty.

(*Elder lights Peace Candle*)

The Holy Embrace encompasses us all. (*Elder lights Affirmation candle*)

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

All are welcome by God's grace.

****Call to Worship:**

Grandparent, Sacred One, teach us love, compassion and honour as we move forward as the people of God, lifting up and supporting our Canadian family of all tribes and races, praying for God's richest blessings as we worship here today.

****Opening Prayer:**

(*One*)

Regardless of from where we come, we are all interconnected through the land we live on, the water that we use and the air we breathe.

(*All*)

Generous God, let us celebrate the abundance of this land bursting with new life. Let us feel the cold waters gushing with promises. Let us experience the expanse of sky enfolding us in your love.

Abundant Creator God, we remember the Mi'kmak'i who love and care for this land. These people have lived lightly and with respect upon this land, a territory upon which we now live.

Generous God, help us on the journey of reconciliation with the land, the water and the air and with the first people of our province. Amen.

****Opening Hymn:** VU 264 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Prayer of Confession:

God of justice and mercy, we need your healing.

In the wrongs we have done, in the good we have left undone, we have turned from the goodness you intend. When we profit at the expense of others, when we turn our backs on the suffering of those around us, turn us toward your love. By your grace, turn our tears to laughter, our sighs into singing. Call us by name and we will answer in love, for the blessing of the world in Jesus' name. Amen.

Declaration:

As we reflect on the history of the relationship between the Church and the First Nations' people, we acknowledge our lack of understanding in the past, and we look to the future with new openness and reconciliation.

Ministry of Music: Spirit of Life / I Love You, God, Who Heard My Cry (VU 381 / 617)

Prayer of Illumination:

God, whose fingers sculpt sun and moon
and curl the baby's ear;
Spirit, brooding over chaos
before the naming of day;
Savior, sending us to earth's ends:
with water and words:
startle us with the grace, love, and communion
of your unity in diversity,
that we may live to the praise of your majestic name. Amen.

Scripture:

Genesis 18:1-15

Psalms 116: 1-2, 12-19

-offered by Sandra Braye

(Sung Refrain)

**How can I repay you, God,
for all the goodness you show to me?**

I love you, LORD!
How could I not love you
when you always respond to my cries?

**You are always ready to listen to me,
so I will bring my needs to you as long as I live. (Refrain)**

How can I ever repay you, LORD?
What gift could ever express my gratitude?

**I will raise my glass in your honour,
I will name you as the one who saved me. (Refrain)**

I will make good on all I promised you, LORD,
and I'll let everyone know its for you.

**Whenever one of your faithful people dies
it affects you deeply.**

LORD, you have released me from my chains.
I will serve you forever,
just as my forebears have done.

I will bring a gift to say thanks;
I will pray to you, and you alone.
I will be true to the vows I've made;
and I won't keep it hidden.
In full view of all your people,
in the public place of worship,
I'll do all I promised you, LORD.
All the praise and all the credit are yours, LORD! (*Refrain*)

Matthew 9:10-23

Word of God that is still speaking.
Thanks be to God.

The Oka Crisis:

- Reverend Judith Perry

Recollections:

Questions:

Offering Invitation:

To fulfill the ancient promise of salvation, God made a covenant with our ancestors and pledged to make our descendants more numerous than the stars. Acknowledging that all share in God's blessing we present our offerings to further the Realm of God in our midst.

Hymn During Offering: VU 628 Come, My Way, My Truth

****Offertory Response:** VU 542 We Give You but Your Own

****Offering Dedication:**

As we work together to embody the spirit of reconciliation and healing, we anticipate that our life together in the Church will be enriched and deepened. May our offerings signify our commitment to our ongoing journey together. Amen.

Prayer Requests

Prayers of the People

We praise your abiding guidance, O God,
for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah,
to model for us the way of love for the whole universe.
We offer these prayers of love
on behalf of ourselves and our neighbours,
on behalf of your creation and our fellow creatures.

Prayers of the People, concluding with:

Loving God,
open our ears to hear your word
and draw us closer to you,
that the whole world may be one with you
as you are one with us in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

****Hymn: VU 509** I the Lord of Sea and Sky

****Blessing:**

Proclaim the good news of the nearness of God;
and call all who will hear to wholeness, to life, to holiness.
And may God pour love into your hearts;
May Christ Jesus open the way of grace to you;
And may the Holy Spirit work through all things
to build you up in endurance, character and hope.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

****Parting Song: MV 212** Sent Out in Jesus' Name

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