

Gathering Song: VU 226 For the Beauty of the Earth

## Announcements

### Welcome:

One: As we move into the season of Autumn and the time in the Church known as the Season of Creation, we are thankful for the abundance of God's grace bestowed upon us, and in humbleness, we realize the depth of those blessings. *(Elder lights Christ Candle)* We light the Christ candle to remind us that we are not to hide the light of Christ within the walls of a church building, but to take it out into the world so that everyone will know and experience God's love and justice.

One: We light the Peace candle *(Elder lights Peace Candle)* as a reminder that Jesus taught us to live in peace with all Creation. As the congregation of Knox United, we acknowledge that we live, work, worship and play within the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people. As those who follow Jesus' path of peace,

**All: we commit ourselves to upholding the Treaties of Peace and Friendship so that we will live in a good way with all peoples, the land, the waters, and all of Creation, for we are all treaty people.**

One: We light the Affirmation Candle *(Elder lights Affirmation candle)* as a celebration of all the wonderful 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: All are welcome by God's grace.**

### Call to Worship:

One: Creating God, you give life to life! From nothingness to everything!

**All: From Day One, your Spirit brooding over the deep, your wind rushing, your breath filling.**

One: As creatures of the earth, we inhale your grace, rejoicing in life abundant.

**All: We use our breath, our being to raise our voices to sing your praise.**

One: Fill us, enliven us to be ambassadors of life divine,

**All: breathing out your song in harmony, singing to our Creator, whose Holy Spirit is unending, ageless, eternal and ever new. Let us worship you this day that you have made!**

## Opening Prayer

All: In the beginning God created all things, and God saw that they were good. At our beginning, God created us unique, loved and wanted, known and treasured by God even before God created us. In all our new beginnings, God creates something new so we will seek God in the freshness of this morning, in the laughter of friends, in the colors of creation, and in this beautiful place. Creator God, open our eyes, our souls, and our hearts to see your presence, ever here in your creation, and ever beyond it in eternity. Amen.

**Hymn:** MV 27 Creator God You Gave Us Life

## Children's Time

**Children's Sending Hymn:** VU 639 One More Step v. 1

### Prayer of Illumination

*Reader: Gracious God, Source of our beginnings and endings and beginnings again—as the scriptures are opened to us today, open our lives to the Word that comes through them. Help us not just to hear and tell these stories, but to live our lives from their wisdom and truth. All this we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

**Scripture Readings:** Genesis 1: 1-5 read by Betty Ferguson

Words of God that are still speaking.

**Thanks be to God!**

### Reflection

**Ministry of Music:** A New Creed

*- musical setting by Linnea Good*

### **Offering Invitation:**

One: God's breath sustains the ever-creating universe. Divine love created all of creation, our world, our environment, our lives, and that same Divine love is with us in every joy, heartbreak and challenge. Let God's love and hope move us to commit our gifts of time, talent, and money to help those known and unknown to us. Our morning offering will not be received.

**Offertory Hymn:** VU 260 God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness

**\*\* Offering Dedication:**

All: Omnipotent God, who created our vast universe. Open our eyes to see the reflection of your image in each person. By your Spirit, inspire us to contribute to the flourishing of people, creatures, and the environment that you made to be very good indeed. Use these gifts and offerings to support our church's mission of hope and assistance for people in our wider community. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: MV 135 Called by Earth and Sky

**\*\*Blessing**

We leave now to live our lives.  
We will grow old,  
we will raise families,  
we will love neighbor and family.  
We will do these things with  
the love of God guiding us  
as we build, plant, eat, love and multiply.

We will get on with living our lives,  
mindful of the dreams God has for humanity.  
Mindful of the dreams God has for Knox United.  
Mindful of the dreams God has for us.  
Whether we are in Jerusalem or Babylon or Lower Sackville,  
no matter where we are,  
we will trust that God's peace will come  
and the hope of a Genesis God is the hope we have today.

Parting Song: VU 289 It Only Takes a Spark

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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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+ Lighting of the Christ candle adapted from "In This Autumn Season of abundance" written by Fern Gibbard, Penticton U.C., Penticton, B.C., 2022 from <gatheringworship.ca>. Used with permission; Call to Worship adapted from prayer written by Carol Penner (<http://carolpenner.typepad.com/leadinginworship/>); Opening Prayer adapted from *Liturgy of Creation* (<http://www.wellsprings.org.uk/liturgies/creation.htm>); Prayer of Illumination written by Rev. Penny Nelson while at Tatamagouche Pastoral Charge, Tatamagouche, NS, 2017. Used with permission; Offertory Prayer adapted from prayer from [umcdiscipleship.org](http://umcdiscipleship.org); Offertory Invitation and Blessing has adapted from work by Tim Graves (<https://liturgybits.wordpress.com/>)  
Pastoral Prayer was adapted from prayers written by Rev. Mindi (<http://rev-o-lution.org/>)