

Please stand where ** is indicated

****Gathering Song:** VU 524 O Canada

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:**

(One)

We open ourselves to the One who gave us life.

We bring ourselves before God our Creator:

(All)

Settlers, new immigrants, and First Peoples: pilgrims all.

(One)

We come to pray, to sing, to dance with God's Spirit.

(All)

Settlers, new immigrants, and First Peoples: pilgrims all.

(One)

Come, followers of Jesus, people of God.

(All)

Settlers, new immigrants, and First Peoples: pilgrims all.

(One)

Let us worship God, who is the centre of our circle, the source of reconciling love.

(All)

Settlers, new immigrants, and First Peoples: pilgrims all.

(One)

We are all called to service in Christ's name.

****Opening Prayer:**

Creator God, you have blessed us with a land of abundance to live in, a land that provides for us, a land that offers us places of silence and tranquility, a land that is home. Dear Lord, we honour the First Peoples who have lived in and cared for this land for thousands of years. Help us truly appreciate what we have received in this land as we offer our thanks to you for this abundance. Help us appreciate the diversity of this country and the blessing of all the people who reside here.

Thank you for allowing everyone the freedom to worship as we individually choose. Thank you for our places of worship and for the people who worship and give thanks with us. Receive our prayer as we lift our voices to you in praise. In Jesus name we pray. **Amen.**

****Opening Hymn: VU 642 Be Thou My Vision**

Prayer of Confession:

(One)

Creator of all that is, great and small, you are always with us. As we worship today, we remember our history as people of this land.

(All)

We acknowledge how difficult it is to share this land with each other. We admit the challenges we face when asked to truly respect the ways of others.

(One)

We confess how difficult it is to change our attitudes.

(All)

We confess how hard it is to live in right relationship.

(A time of Silent Prayer)

(One)

Creator, help us to face the truth about ourselves.

(All)

Life-giving Spirit, humbly bring us to new life in you and with each other.

Amen

Words of Assurance:

God is good and forgiving, loyal to all who cry out for mercy.

Through our union with Christ we are now dead to sin, and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Our sins are forgiven, and we are at peace.

Prayer of Illumination:

Most loving God, your holy Son has taught us that none of our concerns lie outside your love, and no person is ever irrelevant or dispensable. As we hear the Holy Word, teach us the way of quiet trust, that placing all our affairs in Your hands, we may live faithfully and lovingly, allowing Your Spirit to guide our feet in the way of your peace. Through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen!

Scripture:

Genesis 22: 1-14

Psalms 13

Matthew 10: 40-42

- offered by Don Acker

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

Ministry of Music: A Prophet Has a Lonely Task

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Reflection:

- Reverend Tom Woods

Offering Invitation:

Creator and renewing God, we give thanks to you for the blessings we enjoy in this country: the diverse beauty of each province, from lakes to prairies, from mountains to coasts; the resources and opportunities to learn and grow and leave our mark; and the freedom to live and love, being true to ourselves.

****Hymn During Offering: VU 286 If You Will Trust in God to Guide You**

****Offertory Response: VU 541 Praise God from Whom All Blessing Flow**

****Offering Dedication:**

Bless these offerings as you have blessed our lives. Inspire us to discover beauty in those who hold approaches different from our own, to create opportunities for diversity to surprise and to flourish, and to share the abundance of your love, without limit or restriction. Amen

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

****Hymn: VU 651 Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

****Blessing:**

****Parting Song: VU 427 To Show by Touch and Word v3**

****God Save Our Gracious King**

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.