

[worship will begin shortly slide – begin at 10:25am]

[today's date slide]

[new title slide]

Gathering Song: MV 122 This Is the Day

VANESSA: Good morning! *[Good morning!]* Welcome to a special worship service here at Knox United Church, whether here in our sanctuary, or from your place of worship preference at this time of COVID continuance. My name is Vanessa Voerman. I'm a member of the Spiritual Oversight Committee – and the Knox Choir – among other responsibilities, and I will be helping with this morning's worship where Rev. Penny Nelson and Rev. Kym Burke are away.

This morning we have lit the Christ candle ***[new slide]***, to remind us of Jesus' example being the light in our lives by which our path is guided.

We have lit the Peace candle, too ***[new slide]***, informing us to pray and act continually for Peace in this world... ***[new slide]*** Peace in the Ukraine ***[new slide]*** *[beat]*, in Canada ***[new slide]*** *[beat]*, in Nova Scotia ***[new slide]*** *[beat]*, in Sackville ***[new slide]*** *[beat]*, and in our very selves. ***[new slide]***

We also have lit the affirmation candle, to remind us of each genuine, breathing life on this Earth, and that in this community of faith ***[new slide]***, we celebrate that:

Welcome All are welcome in this place.
 All are welcome by God's grace.

[new slide]

Announcements (Vanessa)

Introduction – by John Lindsay-Botten and Vanessa Voerman

JOHN: Today, we find ourselves in a familiar - yet at times uncomfortable - spot in our lives as Christians. Our Knox Choir and friends present the Easter story to you in script and song: Once Upon a Tree ***[cue title slide]***, created by Pepper Choplin, with further instrumental arrangements by me. On this, the second Sunday in the season of Easter, we experience again the Passion Story, from Palm Sunday through the Holy Week of Jesus' betrayal, crucifixion, to Christ's resurrection three days later, as imagined from the quill of Apostle Luke ***[cue slide of Bob Chapman]***.

VANESSA: Before we begin our Easter Cantata, however, please join us in praise to God by singing Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Give Thanks, Voices United 179.

[new title slide]

Hymn: VU179 Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Give Thanks

v 1,4

[new slides – title slide with info for Once Upon a Tree, then blank-title slide, all while the following is being said.]

VANESSA As we've done earlier this month, I encourage us all to now enter into the story and find our place as we observe – *[Vanessa motions to the choir]* and participate – in the events.

You are invited to find YOUR place in the story as we hear Luke's account of Jesus' last days, to find your place in the crowd – or the choir – or as one of the main characters. Who has God called you to be? Where has God called you to be? What is God asking of you? Let us listen for God's voice as we experience this Cantata.

Once Upon a Tree

words and music by Pepper Choplin

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further instrumental arrangements and orchestration by John Lindsay-Botten

[new title slides for each of the 11 movements, sometimes with an overall Cantata slide in between, depending on if Luke is speaking]

[new slide]

Offering Invitation:

Vanessa: Now that we have been reminded of your Passion again, may we offer our tokens of generosity and appreciation for the example Jesus has given us in life, in death, in new life again, so that we can continue God's work here on Earth.

[new title slide]

****Offertory Response-That's Enough For Me**

When food and raiment are not ever sure,
and simple fare is hard to get for some,
we work to share our goods with one and all,
and that is enough, enough for me.
Oh, that's enough for me.

VU179 Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks
v 2.3

God's truth has set me free;
a love like Christ's is meant for ev'ry soul,
and that is enough for me.

[new slide]

**** Offering Dedication:**

All: Generous God,
in light of your extravagant blessings–
no matter what the state of the world or our imperfect lives–
we offer our gifts and ourselves,
knowing that you transform us
into a product of your love.
Amen.

[new slide]

Prayers of the People

- led by Olive McIlldoon

[new title slide]

Hymn: VU164 The Day of Resurrection

[new slide]

****Blessing:**

Vanessa: As you go from here, may the God who loves all of creation, especially the gardens we call our lives, and Jesus, our companion along this crooked path called life, and the Holy Spirit, who loves to improvise in surprising ways, go with you, dwell among you, and give you joy. *<Note: no spoken Amen>*

[new slide]

****Amen:** VU 967 Three-fold Amen *– up a semitone, in Ab*

[new title slide]

****Parting Song:** VU298 When You Walk from Here – *sung 3x, the last time a cappella*

****Postlude:** based on VU298 When You Walk from Here - *Choir members may recess on JLB's nod*

[during postlude: new slide, including “thanks to...” – keep up for 25 seconds]

Rev. Bob Chapman (Minister Emeritus) as “Luke”

Beth Cranston, piano

Serena Godmaire, bassoon

Sarah Krawiec, violin

Moira McDonald, flute

Matt Richard, trumpet

Additional Knox Choir members this morning:

Andrew Cranston, tenor

David Fletcher, bass

Don MacRae (Music Director Emeritus), bass

[new slide, thanking volunteers – keep up for 10 seconds]

[last slide, saying “Have a blessed week!” – keep up for the rest of the postlude]

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. 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 McIldoon & Judy Hayes

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+Call to Worship written by John Moses while at Trinity United, Charlottetown, PEI. Found in *The Gathering: L/E 2013*, pg. 30. Used with permission; Opening Prayer written by Marcia McFee for the “Lent 5” liturgy of *Good Enough* from Worship Design Studio. Used with permission; Offertory Prayer written by Marcia McFee for the “Lent 1” liturgy of *Good Enough* from Worship Design Studio; Prayer of Confession adapted from John Moses while at Trinity United, Charlottetown, PEI. Found in *The Gathering: L/E 2013*, pg. 30. Used with permission; Words of Assurance adapted from The United Church of Canada’s *Loving Our Neighbours 2020* “Five Sundays in Lent” worship for Lent 1. Used with permission; Prayer of Illumination written by Beth W. Johnston, Hantsport Pastoral Charge, Hantsport, NS. Found in *The Gathering, L/E 2019*, pg.35. Used with permission; Blessing written by Bob Root, while at Mark St. United, Peterborough ON. As found in *The Gathering: L/E 2013*, pg. 34. Used with permission.