

Please stand where ** is indicated

Prelude:

Gathering Song: VU 373 As Comes the Breath of Spring

Announcements: Read by one of the Duty Elders

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:

Friends in Christ, Lent is a time to prepare and to renew our life.

We mark this holy season:

by acknowledging our need for repentance,

and for the mercy and forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel.

We are invited, in the name of Christ, to observe a holy Lent:

**by self-examination and penitence, by prayer and fasting, by works of love,
and by reading and meditation on the Word of God.**

Opening Prayer: O God, we come in worship wanting to be true disciples as we walk the Lenten road with Christ. We need your forgiving love, your power to try again. Amen.

Hymn: VU 121 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (vv. 1, Gen., 2nd Sunday)

Minute for Mission

Prayer of Confession: God of promise and hope, you call us to trust in your way and set before us paths of faithfulness. Sometimes we hesitate to follow you and make changes in our lives. Sometimes our priorities and commitments reflect personal interests more than your desire for our lives and world. Free us, O God, that we might be faithful to you in the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance: God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God has compassion for our fears and failures; God stays with us in our Lenten journey, We are a forgiven people.

Hymn: VU 500 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

Prayer of Illumination:

Eternal God,
In the reading of the scripture may Your Word be heard;
In the meditation of our hearts, may Your Word be known;
And in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown,
Amen

Scripture: Genesis 12:1-4a

- offered by Nancy Kent

Psalm 121 (sung, at **VU 842** Unto the Hills)

John 3:1-17
Perry

- offered by Rev Judith

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

Reflection:

- Reverend Judith Perry

Ministry of Music: Bring Back the Springtime, as found at The Hymnal #396

- composed by Kurt Kaiser, © 1970, arr. © 1979 WORD MUSIC (a div. of WORD, INC.).

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- offered by Knox Choir with John Lindsay-Botten, piano and director, and Danielle Findlay, bassoon

Offering Invitation

Hymn during Offering: Who on Earth Can Find God's Kingdom?

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****Offertory Response:** When Giving Your Gifts (v. 1)

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Offering Dedication:

In the name and in the spirit of Jesus,
We bring our gifts to You, O God,
Help us to give with them
a ready mind,

a willing spirit,
and a joyful heart. Amen

Prayer Requests

Prayers of the People:

God of the covenant,
you call us to be fruitful servants within creation,
and to offer our lives
as the foundation of your realm.
We lay before you the desires of our hearts,
that we may be transformed by their fulfillment.

(Prayers of the People, concluding with:)

Grant, O God, that the prayers we offer
may be your channel for new and abundant life
not only hoped for,
but worked for,
through faithful word and deed. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: VU 625 I Feel the Winds of God Today

Blessing: Go out into the world at the call of God.
Find your help in the Lord,
and allow the Spirit to carry you wherever she blows.
And may God shelter you from evil and keep you from stumbling;
May Christ Jesus secure your life in faith;
And may the Holy Spirit carry you on the winds of God's love.
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,
In the name of Christ. Amen.

****Parting Song:** VU 684 Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

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 McIlldoon & Judy Hayes

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+Call to Worship, Opening Prayer written by Rev. Bob Chapman, 2023; Communion Liturgy adapted from *Celebrate God's Presence* by Rev. Penny Nelson, 2022 and John Lindsay-Botten, 2023