

**Gathering Song:** Rejoice, the Lord is King *(as re-written and published in Gathering 2022 Pentecost 2)*

Rejoice the Lord is King,  
a most unlikely kind,  
who softens hardened hearts  
and opens up closed minds.

Lift up your heart; lift up your voice:  
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

Behold the servant king,  
who kneels to lift the weak.  
Forsaking privilege,  
he is the one we seek.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:  
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

He came to set us free  
from selfishness and pride,  
break down the walls of hate  
with love that reaches wide.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:  
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

Come people of the earth,  
with courage let us stand  
and follow such a king  
in each and every land.

Lift up your heart, lift up your voice:  
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!

### **Announcements**

This morning, we will be celebrating the sacrament of communion where we will share bread and juice together. In part, communion reminds us of Jesus' last supper with his disciples and his call to them to love one another as he loves us, but we also believe that, when we receive this food



that has been blessed, we are brought closer into community with God and one another, and in that moment, we experience a taste of the love and grace that God constantly shares with us in this life.

Now, in the United Church we practice what is called an “open table” which means that anyone is welcome to partake in communion, regardless of their age or denomination, or whether they have been baptized or confirmed. As long as a person wishes to follow in the ways of Jesus, according to the beliefs of our denomination, they are welcome to receive communion.

Of course, it is up to each individual whether they wish to receive the sacrament, but before we begin our service this morning, I want to extend the invitation to all who are gathered, online and in person: if you desire to follow in the ways of Jesus, then you are welcome to share in communion this day. When we say that all are welcome by God’s grace, we mean that, and we strive

### **Welcome**

One: As we gather to worship on this last Sunday in the Season of Ordinary Time, Reign of Christ Sunday, we pause to be grateful for the simple, everyday moments of our lives, and the ways in which Jesus is present with us in our ordinary days as he is with us in our highs and lows. (*Elder lights Christ Candle*) We light the Christ candle to remind us that Christ is with us always, even in the ordinary times of our lives.

One: And 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: We have come to the end of a journey.

**All: A full year has passed since we first began to wait in hope for God's reign.**

One: We looked for baby Jesus in a palace.

**All: But Jesus was not there.**

One: We looked for Jesus in all the respectable places.

**All: But Jesus was often associating in places less accepted by society.**

One: We looked for Jesus in a tomb.

**All: But Jesus was not there; he had been raised.**

One: We continue to look for Jesus.

**All: And we find him, in the midst of our daily lives and often in unexpected places.**

One: Let us open ourselves today to the presence of the Holy in this place.  
Let us pray:

### **Opening Prayer**

God of tender mercy, we thank you. We live in difficult times. There are moments when your kingdom seem to be far away. Many of us face struggles in our lives and need what your kingdom promises. Yet in this time of prayer, you are close to us. Your presence touches us and invites us to have hope, hope grounded in the wonder of being loved by you.  
Amen.

### **Hymn: VU 336 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies**

### **Prayer of Illumination**

*Reader: Holy One, in this Season of Ordinary Time, we ask you to illuminate our days with your wisdom. During this season, help us learn from the songs and stories of scripture so that we might recognize your presence amongst us and follow in the ways of your son, Jesus, even in our most ordinary of days. This we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.*

### **Scripture Readings**



Luke 1:68-79 - offered by Mary Brill  
Words of God that are still speaking.

**Thanks be to God!**

## **Reflection**

### **Offering Invitation**

It is such for which we are born – to proclaim the glory of God, in all that we are and all that we do. Let us glorify God now through offering our gifts and ourselves in grateful devotion to God. Let us share together in our morning offering. Our morning offering will now be received.

### **Ministry of Music as Offertory Hymn: VU 901 Song of Zechariah**

*(v.1 choir men; v.2 choir women; v.3 choir and congregation)*

### **Offering Response: All That We Have**

*- words Valerie Kingsbury; music Christopher Bowman.*

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### **Offering Dedication**

**All: Tender God, we pray that these gifts of time, talent and treasure, that we offer to you will witness to the world that we are a people of faith. We have faith in your love that one day there will be an abundance of your peace, justice, and mercy so all of your creation will share in your blessings. Until that time, these gifts we offer are a sign of our faith that your kingdom will come. Amen.**

## **Communion Invitation**

**One: For over 130 years, God's people have gathered in this community of Knox United for worship, coming to share in the life of this community and remember the One who calls us into relationship.**

Over the centuries since Jesus' death and resurrection, countless people have gathered at countless tables to break the bread and share the cup.

Today, around the world, countless people gather once again at countless tables to enact the meal and receive the grace to which Jesus invites us.

We come this morning, inheritors of this life and contributors to it in our day, to a table at which countless people have been nurtured,



nourished, and fed by remembering Jesus Christ and taking the bread and cup into ourselves so that we might be filled with his life.

We are *his* guests here.

He welcomes each of us, saying "You are known, and you are loved. You are welcome here."

So, come to this table, dear Siblings in Christ, and receive Jesus' welcome in bread and cup. Let us sing our Communion Hymn together.

**Communion Hymn: MV 194 Bread of Life, Feed My Soul**  
**Sacrament of Communion**

One: God is with you.

**All: And God is also with you!**

One: Lift up your hearts!

**All: We lift up our hearts to our Gracious Creator!**

One: Give thanks to God!

**All: It is right to our thanks to God.**

One: God, you dreamed a wonderful dream—  
And into that dream, you brought all things that exist:  
The rocks, the water, the air, the fire  
Plants of all shapes and sizes,  
Animals that fly in the air or move on or under the ground,  
and swish in the sea.  
You looked at it all and said:

**All: This is good!**

One: It was good. It *is* good.  
But sometimes, people forgot that you created all things in love.  
Sometimes, even now, people forget that you created all things in love.

Over and over, we did things that were unloving—to ourselves, to our neighbours, and to you.

And so, you sent wise youth and elders to try to help us slow down and listen to you.

You sent prophets and judges, teachers and preachers to try to call us back to your love.



Sometimes we listened.

Sometimes, we ignored them.

Sometimes, we pushed them away.

**All: Sometimes we *still* do.**

One: But, when the time was right, you decided to send someone else to your people.

Jesus of Nazareth.

Born like us, growing up with us, teaching and preaching and, most of all, *loving us* - he tried to show us how to live your kingdom - how to live your *love*.

He laughed with those who laughed and cried with those who cried;  
He invited everyone – *everyone* - to eat together at your table of love!

Today we pray for all who need your love, God...

We pray, asking you to help us be your hands in the world, sharing your love everywhere. With all of the angels and saints, with all of our grandparents and wise ones past and present,

We celebrate Christ's presence with all Creation, saying:

**All: Holy, holy, Holy  
God of power and might;  
Heaven and earth and full of your glory!  
Blessed is the one  
who comes in the name of the Lord,  
Hosanna in the highest!**

One: God of all,

**All: we celebrate Jesus' birth,  
We remember his teaching,  
We proclaim his death and resurrection,  
And we wait with hope for Christ's coming again—  
Alive in our lives, Now and forever!**

One: We ask that you might fill this bread, this cup, and all people, everywhere, with your Spirit.



As we eat and drink, help us to remember the change Jesus brought to people's lives, and help us to remember the change Christ brings each and every day.

May the bread we eat and the cup we drink help us to be one with all of Christ's disciples, help us to be one with all of Creation, now and always.

On the night before Jesus was executed, he gathered with his friends and disciples, he took a loaf of bread, gave thanks to you, and then he broke it, saying:

"This is my body, given for you. Each time you eat, remember me."

After the meal was over, he then took a cup of wine, gave thanks to you, God, and then gave it to his disciples, saying:

"This cup is my life which is poured out for you, and for the forgiveness of all. You are forgiven. All are forgiven!  
Each time you drink, remember me."

**All: So we eat, we drink, and we remember. We are forgiven. All are forgiven! This is God's gift of life.**

One: These are the gifts of God for the people of God! Let us taste and see that God is good. Thanks be to God! Amen.

*Communion is shared.*

Prayer After Communion:

**All: Self-giving Christ, you have hosted us at your table, feeding us with the bread of life and nourishing us with a cup of blessing. We thank you, living God, that by the Spirit, we discover you, face to face, in our neighbours, in our friends, in our enemies, and in the faces of strangers. Too soon we rise, but you are ever with us, transforming us and blessing this world. Thank you, God! Amen.**

**Hymn: VU2 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus**

**Blessing:**

One: Go into this new week sustained by your faith in the risen Christ, a faith that will make you strong. Whatever troubles you face, let God's mercy lift you up. Whatever joy you are blessed with, let God's grace leap in your

heart. And may you praise God and witness to God's love in each and every moment of your days. Amen.

**Parting Song: VU 87 I Am the Light of the World (refrain, v.2, refrain, v.4, refrain)**

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