

**October 29, 2023 ORDER OF WORSHIP – Rev. Tom Woods**

**Please stand where \*\* is indicated**

**Gathering Song:** VU 395 Come In, Come In and Sit Down (vv.1-2,4)

**Announcements:**

**Welcome:**

In this community of faith, we celebrate that all are welcome in this place.

**All are welcome by God's grace.**

**\*\*Call to Worship:**

We gather in Christ's name to remember his faithful followers who, in ages past, answered the Spirit's call to seek reform in God's holy church.

**May we honour the rich heritage of faith they have passed on.**

May we honour them by remembering their words and deeds, and the high price they sometimes paid for their faithfulness, but also, by examining the ways our church today is in need of reforming.

**By God's grace, and God's grace alone, we are redeemed. May this time of worship reconnect us to the Holy and strengthen our discipleship as we honour the saints past and those yet to come.**

**\*\*Opening Prayer:**

**Welcoming God, we bring today our true selves, without the masks we hide behind, daring to show you who we really are, knowing that you love us. Be with us as we worship, as we join with the communion of saints who before us established the church. May we on this Knox Anniversary Sunday witness the unfolding of our call of what it means to be the church blossoming into the world with all its aching needs. In the name of Jesus Christ, who through the Holy Spirit invites us into a life of sainthood. Amen.**

**\*\*Opening Hymn:** VU 714 Come, We That Love the Lord

**Scripture:**

Deuteronomy 34: 1-12

- read by *Thelma Carter*

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

**Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 22: 34-46

Hear the Witness of the Gospel.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Message**

**Reverend Tom Woods**

**Ministry of Music:** I Feel the Spirit

*a traditional spiritual medley, arr. Don Besig; additional words by Nancy Price*

## **Mission and Service Stories:**

- Vanessa Voerman

### **Offering Invitation:**

**Hymn During Offering: VU 581 When We Are Living (vv. 1,2,4)**

**\*\*Offertory Response: MV 191 What Can I Do?**

**\*\*Offering Dedication:**

### **Prayers of the People**

#### **The Lord's Prayer**

**\*\*Hymn: VU 232 Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You**

**\*\*Blessing:**

**\*\*Parting Song: VU 884 You Shall Go Out with Joy**

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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.**

### **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. Tom Woods  
Minister of Music & Dramatic Arts: John Lindsay-Botten  
Church School Superintendent: Lynne Stewart  
Pastoral Care: Olive McIldoon & Judy Hayes

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