

Gathering Song: A New Creed

Announcements

Welcome

One: In the season of Autumn and the time in the Church known as the Season of Creation, we are thankful for the abundance of God's grace bestowed upon us, and in humbleness, we realize the depth of those blessings. (*Elder lights Christ Candle*) We light the Christ candle to remind us that we are not to hide the light of Christ within the walls of a church building, but to take it out into the world so that everyone will know and experience God's love and justice.

One: 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 are called to be the Church—

**All: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation,
and to love and serve others.**

One: We are called to be the Church—

**All: to seek justice and resist evil,
and to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
Our judge and our hope.**

One: We are called to *be* the Church—

All: to live our lives in Christ, with Christ, and through Christ.

One: Come, then. Let us live into our calling this day. Let us learn to be the Church and let us gather our hearts to worship God! Let us pray:

Opening Prayer:

All: Jesus, you are our teacher, our brother, and our Lord. This day, as we still our hearts in prayer and raise our hearts in song, we ask that you open our hearts and minds to greet you in each person we meet. May your majesty shine forth in the old and the young, in the joyous and the broken-hearted, and may your compassion shine through in us as we learn how to come alongside you in all of our neighbours. This day and every day, Jesus, may we become the people that you would have us be. Amen.

Hymn VU 296 This is God's Wondrous

Prayer of Illumination

Reader: Gracious God, Source of our beginnings and endings and beginnings again—as the scriptures are opened to us today, open our lives to the Word that comes through them. Help us not just to hear and tell these stories, but to live our lives from their wisdom and truth. All this we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

Scripture Readings

Matthew 25: 31-46 read by Florence Carman
Words of God that are still speaking.
Thanks be to God!

Reflection

Ministry of Music: Each Blade of Grass

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 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: VU 459 Here, O My Lord, I See Your Face to Face vv.1-3

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: VU 459 Here, O My Lord, I See You Face to Face vv. 4-5

Blessing:

One: We are *blessed* to be the Church. We are *blessed* to celebrate God’s presence, to live with respect in Creation, and to love and serve others as Jesus, our light and our hope, does, too. So, in the coming days, may you hold onto this truth: we are called to be the Church, and we are blessed to be a blessing. Thanks be to God for this calling, for it truly is a blessing!
Amen.

Parting Song: Three-fold Amen

+Call to Worship written by Rev. Penny Nelson while at Knox United Church, Lower Sackville, 2022. Based on “A New Creed”. Used with permission; Opening Prayer written by Rev. Penny Nelson while at the Tatamagouche Pastoral Charge, 2020. Used with permission; Prayer of Illumination written by Rev. Penny Nelson while in the Tatamagouche Pastoral Charge, 2017. Used with permission; Communion Invitation written by Bob Root “For World Communion Sunday” from *The Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2018*. Pg. 64-65. Used with permission; Communion Prayer written by Richard Bott “Eating at the Table of Love” from *The Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2017*. Pg. 68-69. Used with permission; Prayer after Communion adapted from Gord Dunbar, Kincardine P.C., Kincardine, ON. *The Gathering: Pentecost 2, 2018*. Pg. 65. Used with permission; Blessing written by Rev. Penny Nelson while at Knox United Church, Lower Sackville, 2022. Based on “A New Creed”. Used with permission.