

Gathering Song: MV 4 All Who Are Thirsty

Announcements

Lighting of the Christ Candle and Peace Candle

Welcome to the season of Easter, to the season of resurrection promises and glimpses! We gather this morning in the presence of the risen Christ, whose love and peace gives light to our paths and hope to our days! In the light of our Christ candle, the joy of our hearts is rekindled this day.

And we gather this day in the light of our Peace Candle for, through his life, Christ taught us to live in peace with all Creation.

As the congregation of Knox United, we acknowledge that the land on which we live, work, and play continues to be the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaw people.

As we celebrate renewal and resurrection this day, may we strive for reconciliation and renewal in our lives, for we are all Treaty People.

Lighting of the Affirmation Candle

One: In Christ's presence, we have also lit the Affirmation Candle, and we give thanks for all the diversity in which God creates us and calls us good! In this community of faith, we celebrate that:

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

Call to Worship

One: In the beginning,

All: There was God.

One: In the end,

All: There will still be God.

One: Moment by moment,

All: Hour by hour,

One: Day by day,

All: Year by year,

One: God is among us!

All: God is within us.

One: The First and the Last, the Alpha and the Omega,

All: God is always with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

Opening Prayer

All: Every moment, O God, we seek to root ourselves in your heart.
When the challenges of life drain us,
when we have little hope for the future,
and when we just want to give up in despair,
we come to listen and to share stories of people of faith,
we come to be inspired by the Spirit's unpredictable movement,
we come to find the companion for whom we long in the living Christ walking
every moment beside us.
We come, as we pray, that you may fill us anew. Amen.

Hymn: VU 710 Shall We Gather at the River

Time for All Ages

Prayer of Illumination

Reader: God of our living, our dying, and our rising again—be present to us as we tell and hear the stories of Easter. As we receive this story, may it so work in our hearts and minds that our lives will reflect resurrection wherever we go. All this we pray in the name of your Son, the Risen Christ. Amen.

Scriptures:

Revelation 21:9-10, 22-26,

22:1-5 -read by Carolyn Silver-Crouse

Words of God that are still speaking.

Thanks be to God.

Ministry of Music:

Reflection:

- Rev. Penny Nelson

Hymn: VU 718 O God, You Gave Your Servant John

Offering Invitation

****Offertory Response**- VU 310 God, Who Touches Earth with Beauty vv.1, 4

**** Offering Dedication:**

All: Loving God, this morning, we give you the gifts of our life: our time and our talents, our wounds and our waiting. Take them and transform them, we pray, so that your healing work may be done here in Sackville, and around the world. This we pray, in the name of Jesus the Christ. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: VU 559 Come, O Font of Every Blessing

****Blessing:**

One: As you go forth this day, may you leave with these words of scripture on your heart: "Behold, I am making all things new."

May God's promise of new life work its way in your heart and mind these days; may God's promise of newness be a blessing to you in the week ahead, and may you offer the hope of God's promise to all you meet, for you are blessed to be a blessing. Thanks be to God for this! Amen.

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

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 adapted from "Seventh Sunday of Easter" closing response written by Ruth Burgess. *Fire and Bread: Resources from Easter Day to Trinity Sunday*, pg. 134. Used with permission; Opening Prayer written by God Dunbar, Kincardine P.C.

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