May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you … **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield on Sunday .

**Announcements**

The announcements are available on our website and in the weekly email. Reach out to me if you would like to be added to the weekly email list.

The people of Knox Bayfield acknowledge with gratitude the territory upon which we live, work, play and worship. Knox is on the traditional lands of the Anishinabewaki, Attiwonderonk (Neutral), and Mississauga peoples within Treaty 29, of 1827. We are all treaty people. We acknowledge that The Presbyterian Church in Canada was a part of the residential school system. We seek a new relationship with the First Nations of this land, one based in truth, respect, and reconciliation.

**Hymn Let There be Light #727**

**Call to Worship** Ps. 92:1–2, 4

It is good to give thanks to God. To sing praises to your steadfast love in the morning and to your faithfulness by night.

**Prayer of Adoration and Assurance of Pardon[[1]](#footnote-1)**

God of grace and God of glory, you reveal your presence to the world in radiant glory and gentle whispers, on mountain tops, the plains and valleys, in classrooms and hospital beds, in homes and churches, in the silence of nature and the sounds of cities. God your presence pushes past our fear and yours is the touch that transforms our doubt. We celebrate your goodness and focus on your light. To you we offer praise, honour and thanksgiving, for you are our God and we are your people, now and always.

God of mercy and forgiveness we confess all that keeps us from sharing your goodness.

We are distracted by the desire to have more than we need. We focus on our disappointments rather than trust in you. We are discouraged by the pandemic and fail to claim the hope you hold out to us in Christ. Transfigure us by your grace to shape us into disciples who follow Christ’s leading each day. Amen

Do not be afraid. God’s forgiveness shines into the world. Know that you are forgiven and forgive one another in Christ’s name. May the peace of Jesus the Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you. **And also with you.**

**To Hear The Word Of God**

**Prayer For Illumination**

By your Spirit, O God, enlighten our hearts, open our minds, fill our vision with your radiance, and give us life, as we hear your Word today. Amen.

**Scripture**

Hebrew Bible **Exodus 34:29–35 [B#81/W#89][[2]](#footnote-2)**

Hebrew Bible **Psalm 99 [B#552/W#610]**

Epistle **2Corinthians 3:12–4:2 [B#180/W#190]**

Gospel **Luke 9:28–43a [B#69/W#71]**

May God bless our understanding of this, God’s holy word. **The word of the Lord.**

 **Hymn How sweet the name of Jesus sounds #357**

**Listen!**

O holy One, by the power of your Holy Spirit at work in the word read and proclaimed, may the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts acceptable to you, our Rock and Redeemer. Amen.

Each week the bulletin includes questions for reflection on the scripture readings. This week the questions refer to God proclaiming, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” Where have you heard words like these before in the Gospels? Where have you heard words like these in your own life? When have you had a strong sense of being chosen, claimed, and called by God? How have you responded?

The glory of Jesus shines through the passage in Luke, illuminating and highlighting his divine nature. Yet Peter, James, and John almost missed it. When Moses and Elijah joined the transformed Jesus they talked about the events that would lead to him to Jerusalem and his mortal death. Moses reminds us of the exodus from Egypt and the collective responsibilities of the community. Elijah is the prophet who turned people's hearts back to the covenant. The two leaders connect with Jesus about his mission, which will continue the redemptive work of the exodus through the end times.

The text describes the three disciples as amazed at the sight before them. It is here that they find a fuller understanding of Jesus fulfilling prophecy. Heidi Neumark uses these verses as she tells a powerful story of transfiguration. In her memoir Breathing Space: A Spiritual Journey in the South Bronx she details the transformation of the church she served for almost twenty years. Aptly named Transfiguration Lutheran Church, the community was struggling, barely surviving, when she arrived. Standing amid poverty and the myriad problems that can accompany such a demon—crime, drug abuse, lack of education and opportunity, lack of hope—Transfiguration mostly kept its doors shut tight to the world around it.

The work of Jesus rebuking the unclean spirit was example enough for Neumark. "When Peter and the others came down from the mountain," she writes, "they found a father and a child gasping for life. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. And they found transfiguration. And so it is. When the disciples of this Bronx church unlocked the doors of their private shelter and stepped out into the neighborhood, they did meet the distress of the community convulsed and mauled by poverty.... But they also discovered transfiguration as a congregation in connection with others."

The meaning of the transfiguration was demonstrated when Jesus and the disciples come down from the mountain. The transfigured Jesus changed the way he was seen The congregation at Transfiguration Church understood: "But living high up in the rarefied air isn't the point of transfiguration.... [It was] never meant as a private experience of spirituality removed from the public square. It was a vision to carry us down, a glimpse of unimagined possibility at ground level."

 The transfiguration bears witness to the identity of Jesus Christ and directs us to listen. Consider how you are able to hear what the disciples heard … the divine declaration: "Listen to him!" This passage illustrates how we might wrestle with the ways in which we are shaped by social, cultural, and economic pressures. Yet, we are to "listen to him!" We are called to lean into our faith. To seek and yearn for direction as we discern the everyday actions of our lives. To do so it is necessary to set aside time to be in connection with God in prayer. To do so it is necessary to discern the many ways in which God is present within our lives and creation itself.

Jesus was intentional in setting time aside for prayer with God. The disciples struggled, even during key moments like the transfiguration. This may be helpful in being gentle with yourself if you tend to doze off during your prayers. Carlos F. Cardoza-Orlandi, a professor of world Christianity and ordained minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), says that "the church needs to develop a spirituality of mission learning to discern, discover, participate, be patient, and be dependent on God's grace."

We are called to discern how we are being called and informed by the visions of God in our individual lives and in the life of the church. Over the last two years I have been involved in a program through St Andrews Hall, at the University of British Columbia. St. Andrew's Hall is one of three theological colleges of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. The Missional Leadership gathers people from across Canada to discuss, learn, and explore how we are discerning that God is leading the church in new and exciting ways. It is a tremendous opportunity to discuss opportunities and challenges that our faith communities face. It has been an opportunity to witness, learn, and share creative expressions of faith.

A recurring focus is on the ways in which we feel the nudging of the Spirit and how we respond. An important theme relates to the necessity of risk. There is risk in reaching out, in creating new and different ways of being present within our communities. One risk is failure. The risk of failure is necessary when we learn and when we yearn to grow. It seems the disciples were willing to risk failure. They left all that they had to follow Jesus. They stretched their spiritual muscles, so to speak, to help others, to heal, and to teach. Perhaps we can take notice of the efforts of the disciples in this passage today. They tried to heal the young boy and were unable to help him. Perhaps the important part is that the disciples tried. They stepped up, they were present, and they did what they could. Perhaps we can find inspiration and encouragement with their faithfulness to God’s call on their lives.

It may be tempting to not try. It may be tempting to despair that the world is beyond saving. The broken aspects of humanity, injustice, and oppression rise up to threaten life and creation. Hope may fade as the impact of the pandemic continues. Dreaded fear and horror mounts as war is waged against the innocent and unprotected. Yet. Yet, God is at work transfiguring creation. God is at work among us, within us, and within Creation. Praise be to God.

**Hymn Come, children, join to sing #377**

**The Offering Of Our Life And Labour To The Lord**

**Quote** Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise. Luke 3:11

**Blessing Of Gifts & Prayers Of The People**

Let us join in prayer:

 Almighty, all-merciful God, lover of justice and giver of peace, hear our prayer. For your people, for the church of Jesus Christ, and for all who seek your face. We pray for leaders and elders who will abide by your commandments. For those who are tormented by illness, addiction, and grief. O holy One, may our lives and our world be transfigured by your glory and transformed by your love.

God of compassion, we pray for all affected by violent and aggressive actions. We pray for the people of Ukraine and surrounding countries. We lift up civilians and the military as they deal with issues beyond their control. O holy God allow your Spirit to linger among them offering peace in this tumultuous time.

God of love, we lift up those who travel the long journey of grief and mourning. We bring before you the names of people on our hearts this day: Ruth Talbot, Lois, Rudy and Grace; Bonnie; Rob; Courtney and Kyla. We lift up all those who prefer to remain un-named as they face immense challenges of health and finances. Merciful God, accept our prayers, spoken and unspoken. May your love overflow more and more in our lives, in your church, and in all the world.

We join our voices together across space and time to speak the words that Christ taught his disciples … **Our Father who art in heaven, hallow’ed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

**Hymn** **Lord, the light of your love is shining #376**

**To Go Forth In God’s Name**

 **Commissioning and Benediction** 2 Cor. 3:12, 17

We live with hope and act with boldness. Love and serve God in the freedom of the Spirit.

May the glory of God shine upon you, the Word of God live within you, and the Spirit of God give you peace. Amen

**Postlude** **Holy, Holy, Holy # 623**

**#727 Let there be light**

Let there be light; let there be understanding; Let all the nations gather; let them be face to face. Open our lips; open our minds to ponder; Open the door of concord, opening into grace.

Perish the sword; perish the angry judgement; Perish the bombs and hunger; perish the fight for gain. Hallow our love; hallow the deaths of martyrs; Hallow their holy freedom; hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come; your spirit turn to language; Your people speak together; your spirit never fade. Let there be light; open our hearts to wonder; Perish the way of terror; hallow the world God made.

**623 Holy, holy, holy** Words: traditional Music: F Schubert

**Refrain**: Holy, holy, holy, God almighty Lord!

Holy, holy, holy, everywhere adored!

God without beginning, God eternal One reigns and rules forever all beneath the sun **Refrain**

Power and love and wonder, circling round God’s throne, Praise our God most holy, Lord of Life alone **Refrain**

**357 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds**

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer's ear It soothes his sorrows heals his wounds And drives away his fear

It makes the wounded spirit whole And calms the troubled breast 'Tis manna to the hungry soul And to the weary rest

Dear name the rock on which I build My shield and hiding place My never-failing treasury
Filled with boundless stores of grace

Jesus my shepherd brother friend My Prophet Priest and King My Lord my life my way my end Accept the praise I bring

Weak is the effort of my heart And cold my warmest thought But when I see Thee as Thou art I'll praise Thee as I ought

Till then I would Thy love proclaim With every fleeting breath And may the music of Thy name Refresh my soul in death

CCLI Song # 42940 Alexander Robert Reinagle | John Newton

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**377 Come, children, join to sing**

Come, children, join to sing— hallelujah, amen—Praise to our Servant King— hallelujah, amen! Let all with heart and voice Saved by God’s gracious choice, Now in this place rejoice—hallelujah, amen!

Come, lift your hearts on high— hallelujah, amen—Let praises fill the sky— hallelujah, amen! Christ calls his people friends; Lost, outcast he defends With love that never ends—hallelujah, amen!

Loud now our voices raise— hallelujah, amen— No power can still our praise—hallelujah, amen! On heaven‘s bless-ed shore, God‘s goodness we‘ll adore Singing for evermore—hallelujah, amen!

**376 Lord, the light of your love is shining**

Lord, the light of your love is shining in the midst of your darkness, shining; Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us. Set us free by the truth you now bring us. Shine on me; shine on me.

**Refrain** Shine, Jesus, shine; fill this land with the Father’s glory; blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire. Flow, river, flow; flood the nations with grace and mercy; send forth your word, Lord, and let there be light!

Lord, I come to your awesome presence, from the shadows into your radiance; by your blood I may enter your brightness. Search me, try me, consume all my darkness. Shine on me; shine on me.

As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness, ever changing from glory to glory: mirrored here may our lives tell your story. Shine on me; shine on me.

1. PCC Worship Planner Advent December 2021 Year C [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Page #’s for pew bibles with **B**lue or **W**hite edged pages

Resources include: PCC Worship Planner, Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary and Companion, https://www.workingpreacher.org/ [↑](#footnote-ref-2)