

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD

March 6, 2022

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield on this first Sunday of Lent, March 6.

Announcements

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 [responsive]

One: The season of Lent sets us on a journey.

All: The journey begins in the wilderness.

One: We follow the way of Jesus, who faced trouble, temptation, and testing.

All: We are not alone. The Holy Spirit is with us. God leads us through the wilderness.

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON¹

Join me in prayer

God of life and love, we rejoice in your Creation. We praise you for Jesus Christ who reveals your loving purpose for all people. In him we see your love; in his life we see the pattern for our lives. We are thankful for the Holy Spirit who guides and strengthens us. Almighty and most merciful God, we confess our sins against you in things we have done, and things we have neglected to do. We have held back from helping others. We have relied on the world's empty promises instead of trusting in your goodness. Forgive what we have done and direct who we shall become. Help us to serve you by serving your world with generous spirits. We pray all of this in the name of Christ. Amen

Friends, believe the good news. God calls to us with the desire to bring us into the glorious freedom offered in Jesus Christ. Everyone who calls on the name of God will be saved. Thanks be to God!

¹ PCC Worship Planner Advent December 2021 Year C

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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 Rom. 10:8; Ps. 91:9

Bring your word near to us, O God. May it rest on our lips and reside in our hearts. By the power of your Holy Spirit, help us to respond to your word with our whole lives until you become our dwelling place; through Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Hebrew Bible	Deuteronomy 26:1–11	[B#180/W#200]2
Hebrew Bible	Psalms 91:1–2, 9–16	[B#548/W#606]
Epistle	Romans 10:8b–13	[B#160/W#164]
Gospel	Luke 4:1–13	[B#61/W#62]

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

Hymn Jesus calls us here to meet him #528

Memories

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.

Our faith journey weaves through the study of scripture as we seek to understand God, our faith, and our place within creation. The season of Lent encourages us to reflect on our part within the larger story. We are encouraged to consider how our spiritual disciplines keep the teachings of Christ present and fresh. Traditions adapt to the time in which they are practiced. We live in a world where the wisdom of the past is too easily dismissed.

The Deuteronomy passage celebrates the journey of God's people... from the wandering Arameans, those who live in a strange land and find they are living in oppression; to those who live with impossible conditions yet their faith sustains them. Their journey ends in celebration and praise which reinforces the importance of rooting moments in memory. Moments that are shaped by life's journey.

² Page #'s for pew bibles with Blue or White edged pages

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The Deuteronomy passage provides an important perspective. There is the giving of the first fruit of the harvest and then a narration of the story of deliverance. These are inseparable in the passage, suggesting that thanksgiving frames God's acts of liberation. What happens to a people's sense of self and history when priorities focus on material possessions, momentary gratification, and shifting market values? They may no longer know why they give thanks or to whom thanks should be given. Their identity as God's people delivered from bondage may be lost ... so that certain acts of thanksgiving become meaningless. We are reminded that when a people forget their past, they lose their present and future.

Imagine after thirty-nine years in the wilderness, the Israelites are gathered on the plains of Moab, ready to enter the promised land. They were former slaves, wanderers without a land of their own; they were a nomadic people. They recall their history, the memory of the line of Jacob - the wandering the Aramean. They recall the memories as they are about to settle into the promised land. The harsh wilderness changed the habits formed during their slavery in Egypt. New ways of trusting God were created. They were discovering how to be in the land where they would grow their crops. To produce first fruits for blessing at the alter. The sense of God's grace and blessing must have been overwhelming. In our reading, the writer referred to the first fruits to be given at the alter. Are you familiar with this term? In Israel the barley crop ripens around the time of Passover and the harvest of grain begins. The first fruits were picked and offered at the temple as a way to offer their thanks to God. The poetic symbols of fertility include the honey created by bees and the milk from goats and cows. Milk produced on good pasture land. Bees thrive where flowers and fruit are abundant. Milk, honey, and first-fruits are metaphors for God's grace.

Too often privilege is taken as a sign of special blessing from God. Yet, abundance and privilege is better understood as a sign of responsibility. First fruits include the recognition that we are to share a portion of what we have. An intentional portion set aside with prayerful consideration. Not the left-overs that can be spared but the first fruits of our resources.

The time for Jesus in the wilderness recalls forty years of wandering for Israel. Luke's gospel describes the devil tempting Jesus with many offers: to turn a stone to bread and

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ease his hunger, to worship the devil and gain influence over the world, and to test God's promises in a freefall faith experiment. This story demonstrates how evil works with distortions and lies. The devil shifts a want into a need, lies as truth, distrust as faith. The devil's claim that all the kingdoms of the world have been given to him— actually sounds as if it might be true, yet it is false.

In our time, we have become increasingly aware of manipulations and lies. There are lies that sound truthful. People must be cautious in how they trust and respond. Where do we see wants presented as needs?

Are you tempted to think of God's love as something that must be earned rather than freely offered? The apostle Paul writes that when we call on God, we will be saved from our sin. When we confess and believe, we will no longer be shamed. We will be forgiven, renewed, and enriched. Earlier in the letter, Paul wrote that no one is righteous and that no one is hopeless. People can be transformed by spiritual renewal when they confess, believe, and trust. "The word is near you," Paul writes, "on your lips and in your heart". God does the heavy lifting —bringing the Word near, planting the seeds of faith in our hearts, placing words on our lips. We take the action to free the words in our hearts and on our lips. Yet, confessing our faith takes practice. It is an ongoing act that changes as our faith evolves. How are we able to speak our faith? With the assurance that all who call on the name of God will be saved. The call may be perfectly in tune or just a jumbled joyful noise. To learn to make this joyful noise, we listen to the voices of those who have gone before us: ancestors in the faith, hymn writers, and confessors.

Paul came to his understanding of Jesus by way of the Hebrew scriptures. Jesus was shaped and strengthened in ministry by his deep connection with the Hebrew scriptures. We read and study the Bible to discover the relationships between God and creation. Our focus remains on God's faithfulness throughout the generations. Christ demonstrates the possibility and the way of being in right relationship with God and neighbor. Praise be to God

Hymn Great is thy faithfulness #324

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO THE LORD

Prepared for Knox Presbyterian Church, Box 565, Bayfield, ON N0M 1G0

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Minister: Rev. Lisa Dolson 519-955-2158 revlisa dot knoxbayfield@icloud dot com

Resources include: PCC Worship Planner, <https://www.workingpreacher.org/> Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, and Feasting on the Word Companion, NRSV Bible

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QUOTE You give but little when you give of your possessions. It is when you give of yourself that you truly give. Khalil Gibran – writer, poet

BLESSING OF GIFTS & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Isa. 42:16; Ps. 23:5; Luke 1:53, 5*

Let us join in prayer:

Almighty God, we pray for all who live in places of threat and danger. We trust in you, for you are able to make peace in the midst of warfare and turn rough places into level ground. Teach us to prepare a table where enemies may feast instead of fight.

We pray for those who do not have enough—enough to eat, enough to wear, or enough justice. We trust in you, for you fill the empty with good things and lift up the lowly.

Help us to share the abundance we enjoy and to work for the freedom and dignity of all your children.

We pray for all who are homeless, those who wander the streets and sleep unprotected; and for those who are homeless for a season because of natural disaster or economic trouble or war. Make us more determined to assist those who need a place to live.

We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or heart. We trust in you, for you are able to heal and to make whole in this life and the next.

We pray for the church, dividing and uniting, wavering and witnessing. We trust in you, for you called the church into being. Keep your church from being both uncertain and too certain. Help us to joyfully trust that the Spirit is leading us into new opportunities of faith and service.

Help us to be nurturing caregivers, that your healing power may be at work in us and through us. God of love, we lift up those who travel the long journey of grief and mourning. Holy God, 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 pray all of this in the name of Christ. Amen

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

The unity and love we find in communion with Christ encourages us to reach out and find unity within the church. We seek communion with Christ and with our siblings in Christ.

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This is the communion table where all are invited and welcome to share in the feast. O taste and see that God is good.

Hymn #534 All who hunger, gather gladly

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

#539 The Apostles' Creed* [in unison]

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING [Responsive] #564

As we are called to come to The Table, we remember that this is the table of Jesus Christ, who has prepared a banquet for everyone. All who seek to be nourished and sustained in the journey of faith, all who seek wholeness and compassionate paths to peace and justice, and all who walk in love and charity with your companions on the Way are called to gather around the Table.

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessed and holy are you, O God, creator of all things. In the beginning, you spoke... and at your word your Spirit moved over the waters, bringing order, light, and life out of chaos. You knit together our inward parts, made us in your image and breathed breath and life into us.

When we turn away from you and our love fails, your love remains constant. When we wander off and follow ways of sin and death you call us from our scattered lives to repentance, unity and peace.

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Therefore, with choirs of angels and archangels and with those of every time and place, we give you praise and glory. We join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy, mighty and tender God, in time you sent word to Mary that she would conceive a son and call him Jesus and in him we saw your promises made flesh. Dwelling among us we heard and saw Good News. Jesus preached reconciliation and the Kingdom of God. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. In his suffering, death, and resurrection, he delivered us from sin and death. He revealed your living and redeeming hope for all people. When he ascended into heaven, your Holy Spirit came to be our Counsellor and Comforter. And so, remembering Christ's life, love, death, and resurrection, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ was promised. Christ was born. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we share may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, world without end. And the people join their voices together to say: **Amen**

O Holy One, 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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND INVITATION

Jesus, in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you: do this in remembrance of me.'

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In the same way, he took the cup, after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood: as often as you drink of it, do this in remembrance of me.' We break this bread, the communion in Christ's body once broken. We drink this cup, communion in Christ's blood once shed. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us join in prayer...

Eternal God, we thank you for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us and we praise you for breaking into the world. Send us out in peace for we have seen, have heard, and been fed by your grace. Keep us faithful and alert for signs of Christ's coming and lead us to live lives marked by truth and light, in the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.

Hymn # 556 Now let us from this table rise

To Go Forth In God's Name

Commissioning and Benediction

These Lenten days will take us to the cross of Christ. Go forward, knowing that you do not go this way alone. The Word of God strengthens us and the Holy Spirit sustains us. May the God of the Exodus lead us into freedom. May the Holy Spirit bind us to God's will. May Christ show us the way of true justice and 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**

324 Great is thy faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

Refrain Great is thy faithfulness; Great is thy faithfulness; morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided; great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon and stars in their courses above, join with all nature in eloquent witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Refrain

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow: blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! **Refrain**

528 Jesus calls us here to meet him

Jesus calls us here to meet him as, through word and song and prayer, We affirm God's promised presence Where his people live and care. Praise the God who keeps his promise; Praise the Son who calls us friends; Praise the Spirit who, among us, To our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him Word of Life and Lord of all, Sharer of our flesh and frailness

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Saving all who fail or fall. Tell his holy human story; Tell his tales that all may hear; Tell the world that Christ in glory Came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other: Found in him are no divides. Race and class and sex and language: Such are barriers he derides. Join the hands of friend and stranger; Join the hands of age and youth; Join the faithful and the doubter In their common search for truth.

Jesus calls us to his table Rooted firm in time and space, Where the church in earth and heaven Finds a common meeting place. Share his bread and wine, his body; Share the love of which we sing; Share the feast for saints and sinners Hosted by our Lord and King.

534 All who hunger, gather gladly

All who hunger, gather gladly; Holy manna is our bread. Come from wilderness and wandering. Here, in truth, we will be fed. You that yearn for days of fullness, All around us is our food. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, never strangers, Seeker, be a welcome guest. Come from restlessness and roaming. Here, in joy, we keep the feast. We that once were lost and scattered in communion's love have stood. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.

All who hunger, sing together; Jesus Christ is living bread. Come from loneliness and longing. Here, in peace, we have been led. Blest are those who from this table Live their days in gratitude. Taste and see the grace eternal. Taste and see that God is good.



Now let us from this Table Rise

ing the Revised

Now let us from this table rise