

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD

2022 03 20

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield on the third Sunday of Lent March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Announcements**

**Mission Moment:** Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing support many important outreach ministries associated with Cyclical PCC, a church planting support initiative. One such ministry is Cornerstone Ministries. Cornerstone Ministries provides Christian hope and healing through innovative and supportive practices to struggling single moms and families in the Dunnville area of Ontario. Since moving most of their ministry work online, many more people have been positively impacted by Cornerstone. Through outreach, counselling and practical support, over 200 local families have come to know the God who loves them, helping them to blossom in faith, courage and wholeness.

**"On the Journey to Reconciliation & Healing"** Watch the **St. Marys Presbyterian Church** live-streamed event to hear the stories, learn about Treaty, the 94 Calls to Action, language & culture, along with what we can each do towards living in right relationship.

**Ukraine Crisis Appeal:** The current conflict in Ukraine continues to create massive displacement. The result is an urgent need for food and non-food support. We lift up the people of Ukraine and surrounding regions in prayer. There are many ways to take action during this difficult time. **The Canadian Foodgrains Bank and ACT Alliance** are receiving donations through **PWS&D** to respond to the escalating situation in Ukraine. Financial donations online [www.WeRespond.ca/Ukraine-Crisis](http://www.WeRespond.ca/Ukraine-Crisis) as well as the Canadian Red Cross.

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, Attiwoonderonk (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**

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

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Minister: Rev. Lisa Dolson 519-955-2158 [revlisa@knoxbayfield.icloud.com](mailto:revlisa@knoxbayfield.icloud.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

**CALL TO WORSHIP [responsive]**

One: Come worship God

**All: God has called and we respond**

One: Come with strength and weakness, with eager spirits and aging bodies,

**All: God has called and we respond**

One: Come as you are, with devotion and doubt, with weariness and wonder

**All: We respond to God's call with worship and praise**

**PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON<sup>1</sup>**

God, our Creator, in you we live and move and have our being. In your depths we find meaning; in your heights we find light and joy. You are the source of peace and hope for all who turn to you. You are our help and our guide; you give us strength and courage when we face challenges. In you we find rest, welcome, and acceptance. We praise you, O God, for your steadfast love. Allow us to draw near as your purpose is revealed.

God of grace and mercy, we confess that our thoughts are so often not your thoughts. We struggle with your ways. We struggle when our tempers are short and when our efforts with kindness fall short and we treat others with disrespect. There are times when we struggle with our faith and, God, we lose track of you. We seek your forgiveness for the many ways in which we fail. Amen

Through Jesus Christ we have received grace in good measure—spilling out and running over. Live as Christ has taught, be merciful, do not judge, and do not condemn. Forgive and you will be forgiven. Amen.

May the peace of Jesus the Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you. **And also with you.**

**Hymn**

**You thirsty ones**

**#190**

**To Hear The Word Of God**

**Prayer For Illumination** *Gen. 45:3-11, 15*

Gracious God, by your Word you provide all we need—for salvation, for wholeness, for abundant life.

Draw us close in your Spirit so that we may discover your will and live according to your purposes;

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<sup>1</sup> PCC Worship Planner Advent December 2021 Year C

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

# SCRIPTURE

HEBREW BIBLE                      **ISAIAH 55:1–9**                      **[B#685/W#760]<sup>2</sup>**

HEBREW BIBLE                      **PSALM 63:1–8**                      **[B#527/W#582]**

EPISTLE                              **1 CORINTHIANS 10:1–13** **[B#172/W#180]**

GOSPEL                              **LUKE 13:1–9**                      **[B#76/W#77]**

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

**Hymn    All the way my savior leads me                      #699**

## The gardener

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.

In scripture, we discover that God works through ordinary people in extraordinary ways. God works through us, within us, and often despite of us. Events of the last few years have helped us to better understand how we hold an illusion of control over many aspects of life.

An image that comes to mind for me is that of my grandson with his toy recycle truck. It has different shapes that fit into the appropriate holes. He will attempt to push fit the triangle shape square hole and get frustrated that it won't fit. In some ways, this tendency to make it fit continues well into adulthood. We try to organize and control our lives and surroundings. Some even try to control the people in their lives. Perhaps the length of the pandemic has provided the opportunity to recognize the fragile nature of our plans.

Although the radical nature of God can be frightening, scripture teaches that we can trust God. Again and again the scriptures illustrate God's love and compassion through stories, the psalms, parables, and letters.

Everyday occurrences are presented in ways the catch our attention.

Our Lenten readings challenge our understanding our needs. Isaiah's words help us to accept God's offer of steadfast love within the covenantal relationship.

Isaiah declares, "Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters." Water is essential to life, yet it is often overlooked. It is surprising how many people do not take care to simply drink sufficient

<sup>2</sup> Page #'s for pew bibles with **Blue** or **White** edged pages

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water each day. A lack of water will affect our cognitive and physical well being. Isaiah points toward meeting the collective needs of humanity.

Paul's letter to the church in Corinth warned against temptation and idolatry. Idolatry is the worship of an earthly good as if it were divine. Paul spoke of ancestors protected and nurtured by God. When they accepted leadership from Moses they were led from oppression in Egypt into the wilderness. They consumed spiritual food and spiritual drink, yet, many failed to appreciate and worship God. They yearned for the familiarity of the past as they failed to remember the horror of slavery.

We are encouraged to see that life goes beyond the immediate individual need when we hear how Jesus preached about the transformation of the world. Those who have ears to hear are called to repent or experience God's judgment. Jesus spoke to misconceptions held by his listeners when he responded to those who told him of a terrible tragedy. They were pointing to the faults of those who had been tortured, blaming their sinful behaviour. This follows the faulty reasoning that pain and sickness were signs of being punished by God for their sins or for sins of their ancestors. You may recall similar arguments in the story of Job. Friends and family were skeptical of Job's innocence when he was in anguish. The disciples confronted with similar questions as they struggled to understand his ministry of healing and forgiveness. It seems that people want to have a definitive reason for most things.

Jesus spoke bluntly against this misunderstanding when he said, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered ? I tell you, no." He then shared the parable about a gardener and a fig tree. The allegory may be understood literally— the "three years" could represent the time of Jesus' ministry and the tree as the Jewish nation. Or, perhaps we could see the fig tree as reflecting the apathy and indecision among those who hear the gospel message. The gardener was determined to care for a fruitless fig tree because he was open to a future possibilities. We are able to reflect on how this story fits in our life. Perhaps we might consider what needs special tending? What will cultivate the "soil" of daily life so new growth and new possibilities might emerge? This text seems so appropriate for a week when spring has become so evident. The birds are singing and the bulbs began to poke through the soil as the snow melted away.

In closing ....the parable of the fig tree can helps us embrace the divine mystery and recognize what is out of our control. Much is unknown. Questions remain unanswered. The future is God's.

Yet, we are able to share in the mission as the future unfolds.

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The working out of God's kingdom is not ours to figure out. Our task is live in relationship with one another, to work elbow to elbow in the labor. We labor now for a future we are not meant to control. We do so without having the answers. In doing so, we acknowledge the deep mystery. Our task is to witness, do our part, and leave the rest to God. Praise be to God.

**Hymn            I hunger and I thirst**

**#198**

**THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO THE LORD**

**QUOTE** You can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving. Amy Carmichael, missionary to India

**BLESSING OF GIFTS & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Let us join in prayer:

Holy and loving God, you preserve life. You send caretakers and peacemakers, scientists and inventors, and new eyes to behold the needs of your creation. Lead us into fields of wheat and pools of clean water. As the seasons shift and change we pray you will shelter the earth with clouds and nurture the soil with sun.

Holy One, may our gratitude be expressed with such joy that we will love and protect what you have created for our lives. God, you have given us land in which to grow and thrive, food for survival and pleasure, air and water, fire and cold.

Heal the nations, Mighty God. Rain peace on all people. Give hope to the hopeless and love to the lonely. Surprise the leaders of all nations with your joy. For the people of the Ukraine and Russia we cry out for reconciliation and plenty. We pray for your Spirit to linger among them during this time of great need. May the leaders of the world go to their aid.

Savior of the world, we give you thanks for the church, for the meek, for the courageous, for those who teach us how to wait. Help us to be grateful for prophets and dreamers.

We thank you for being among us to heal our pain and resentments. We yearn for your word and praise you for your love. Make our thanksgiving bloom forth into the lives of others

O Giver of prayer that groans within us, teach us to pray for our enemies. Their names are many, and we whisper some of them now before you in our hearts . . . [keep silence for a time]

Be with them, guard them from harm, and guide us all in the way of your light. Save us from self-righteousness, and help us begin our lives anew,

Trusting in the mercy of your never-failing wisdom, we commend into your hands all for whom we pray. We beg comfort for the sick, O God. Make whole the broken, make wise the foolish,

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humble the powerful, make glad the hearts of those who tend our loved ones, and for any who are in pain, give them release and rest. 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**

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

**#321**

**To Go Forth In God's Name**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

God is kind and merciful to all.

Now may the Lord who saved Joseph in Egypt and gave him tears of joy at reunion with his family, surround your days with strong visions, worthy work, reconciliations, and the strength to persevere, in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, One God, Mother of us all. 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**

**190 You thirsty ones**

You thirsty ones! Come to the spring! Have you no money? Come, Buy wine and milk! Come, buy and eat, Without a price or sum.

Why do you work and earn and spend On that which is not bread? Oh listen now and come to me; Eat what is good instead.

This food delights and satisfies, The food your God can give; Incline your ear and come to me; Oh hear that you may live.

Return while God may still be found And call while God will hear; Now let the wicked quit their ways, While yet the Lord is near.

My word like heaven's snow descends; It falls like heaven's rain; It waters all the thirsty earth And shall not go in vain.

**198 I hunger and I thirst**

I hunger and I thirst, Jesus manna be: ye living waters, burst out of the rock for me.

Thou bruised and broken bread, my life-long wants supply; as living souls are fed, oh feed me, or I die.

Thou true life-giving vine, let me thy sweetness prove; renew my life with thine; refresh my soul with love.

Since first their course began, rough paths my feet have trod. Feed me, thou living bread; help me, thou Son of God.

For still the desert lies my thirsting soul before; O living waters, rise within me evermore.

### **321 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty**

Praise to the Lord, The Almighty, who rules all creation. My soul, praise God who alone is your health and salvation. Come, all who hear, Sisters and brothers draw near, Joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, Who in all things so wondrously reigning Hides you with sheltering wings, Ever gently sustaining. Have you not seen How your heart's wishes have been Granted through God's kind ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, Who will prosper your work, who defends you; Surely God's merciful goodness Here daily attends you; Ponder anew What the Almighty can do, When in great love God befriends you.

Praise to the Lord, And with all that is in me adoring, All who have life and breath, Come with glad praises outpouring! Let the Amen Sound from God's people again: Now and forever adoring!

### **699 All the way my savior leads me**

All the way my Saviour leads me—What have I to ask beside? Can I doubt His tender mercy, Who through life has been my Guide? Heavenly peace, divinest comfort, Here by faith in Him to dwell! For I know, whate'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well

All the way my Saviour leads me—Cheers each winding path I tread, Gives me grace for every trial, Feeds me with the living bread. Tho my weary steps may falter And my soul athirst may be, Gushing from the Rock before me, Lo! A spring of joy I see

All the way my Saviour leads me—O the fullness of His love! Perfect rest to me is promised In my Father's house above. When my spirit, clothed immortal, Wings its flight to realms of day, This my song through endless ages: "Jesus led me all the way!"