

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship with Knox Presbyterian Bayfield on Sunday March 27<sup>th</sup>. There is quite a bit of blustery snow with high winds so our in-person service was cancelled. I am taping this from my home.

### **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, 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**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP [responsive]**

One: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation

**All: Together we will make a new beginning in Christ!**

One: Let us worship God with joyful hearts, trusting God to renew us and all things.

**All: We will lift our praises to God with hearts refreshed by grace.**

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

God of mystery and mercy, we gather to worship you in humility and hope. We believe you have the power to change the world with your love. We gather to worship you trusting that every one is welcome within your embrace. Your love astonishes us. Your grace extends beyond our comprehension. Inspire us with visions of love that empower us to seek change in the world and in our lives.

**God of love and mercy, we pause in your presence as the details of our lives continue to press in on us. We recall things left undone, opportunities ignored. We remember careless words spoken and disappointments that trouble our souls. We seek your forgiveness for the many ways in which we fail. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen**

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

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

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

Remember the promise that the apostle Paul declared: What can separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship? Distress? Peril or sword? Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Thanks be to God for such a promise! May the peace of Jesus the Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you. **And also with you.**

**Hymn                      Come, let us sing                      #706**

### **To Hear The Word Of God**

**Prayer For Illumination**    2 Cor. 5:16–17

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit open our minds and bodies to the re-creating power of your Word, that we may see the world through the mind of Christ and live in the world as a foretaste of your new creation. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

### **Scripture**

**Hebrew Bible      Joshua 5:9–12                      [B#197/W#217]<sup>2</sup>**

**Hebrew Bible      Psalm 32                      [B#506/W#562]**

**Epistle              2Corinthians 5:16–21                      [B#181/W#191]**

**Gospel              Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32                      [B#78/W#80]**

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

**Hymn              There were ninety and nine                      #347**

### **The Lost**

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 be acceptable to you, our Rock and Redeemer. Amen.

Our reading in Luke shares a familiar parable, which follows two other parables about loss. In the first parable, a shepherd of 100 sheep noticed one missing and went in search of it. In the second, a woman with ten coins noticed one was lost and celebrated when it was found. In each of these parables they noticed the missing, went seeking and found it. The parable today is often referred to as the parable of the prodigal son. The term prodigal can be defined as reckless and extravagant or it can be giving something on a lavish scale. The young son can be described as reckless while the father gives on a lavish scale.

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

Perhaps in it's naming the parable lost a piece of its intended meaning. Could the parable also be understood from the perspective of "A Man Had Two Sons." This title may bring to mind the stories of Cain and Abel, Ishmael and Isaac, Esau and Jacob. In their stories, you may recall the focus tended to be on the younger brother. In Luke, the focus remains the younger son for much of the parable. Yet, the story is about much more.

After leaving the family and squandering his early inheritance, the younger son experienced a moment of clarity and realized something was not as it should be. After he hit rock bottom he made his way home. This lost son returned hungry and destitute. His father heard of his return and, filled with compassion, ran to embrace him. The father interrupted the son's planned speech. Regardless of what he had done, he was still his father's son. "My son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found!"

The father was overwhelmed with joy when the young man safely returned home.

And the parable continued with an extravagant feast to celebrate. But, the oldest son was somehow not told of the celebration. When the oldest returned from work he discovered his brother's return and the lavish party and he was upset. The oldest felt disconnected from his father and neglected.

The father had two sons and it seems he didn't realize that he had lost the older son.

Perhaps in this parable Jesus is urging us to be mindful of who is counted and who is not. Have we recognized the need to include care for others? Each week we hear of the mission moment which provides a very brief update on the efforts of PWS&D and Presbyterian Sharing. This brief update allows a glimpse into the immense efforts of caring for those in need. The scriptures teach that we live in a world filled with the abundance of God's provision and grace.

In God Has a Dream, Archbishop Desmond Tutu writes: "I have a dream, God says. Please help Me to realize it. It is a dream of a world whose ugliness and squalor and poverty, its war and hostility, its greed and harsh competitiveness, its alienation and disharmony are changed into their glorious counterparts, when there will be more laughter, joy, and peace, where there will be justice and goodness and compassion and love and caring and sharing. I have a dream that swords will be beaten into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, that My children will know that they are members of one family, the human family, God's family, My family."

**Hymn**

**Amazing grace**

**#670**

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

**QUOTE** When we give cheerfully and accept gratefully, everyone is blessed

Maya Angelou – poet, civil rights activist

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

Let us join in prayer:

Gracious God, you call us together to be the church of Jesus Christ. Make us one in faith and discipleship, breaking bread together, and sharing the good news so that the world grow in their awareness of you. Faithful God, embrace us with your hope.

Great Creator you made all things and called them good. We pray for the earth in its vulnerability. May we act on our awareness of our impact on your creation. Guide us all to make wiser choices for the sake of your creation. Help us use resources wisely, mindful of future generations, guarding the fragile balances among many precious species.

Jesus Christ, you taught us of God's reconciling grace in the story of a father who welcomed back his wandering son and invited his jealous son to open his heart. Speak to the hearts of all your people as neighbours and nations sit in judgment on each other, provoking conflict and resentment. Teach us to seek peace together. May all who hold power and influence work for the common good.

We lift up the people of Ukraine as they continue to live in the fragility and terror of war.

We pray for all who have been impacted by the pandemic.

Grant rest and renewal to those who are broken in body, mind or spirit, and bring comfort and hope to all who face loss and loneliness. In silence we lift before you the names of those on our hearts today. [silence]

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 unnamed 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'd be thy name. Thy**

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**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**

**Love divine, all loves excelling**

**#371**

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

**Commissioning and Benediction** 2 Cor. 5:19-20

Go into the world as ambassadors for Christ, in whom we have new life. The God of reconciliation bless you, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you, and the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen you this day and forevermore.

**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**

### **347 There were ninety and nine**

There were ninety and nine that safely lay in the shelter of the fold, but one was out on the hills away, far off from the gates of gold, away on the mountains wild and bare, away from the tender Shepherd's care, away from the tender Shepherd's care.

"Lord, thou hast here thy ninety and nine: are they not enough for thee?" But the Shepherd made answer, "This of mine has wandered away from me, and although the road be rough and steep, I go to the desert to find my sheep; I go to the desert to find my sheep."

But none of the ransomed ever knew how deep were the waters crossed, nor how dark was the night that the Lord passed through, ere he found his sheep that was lost. Out in the desert he heard its cry, sick and helpless and ready to die, sick and helpless and ready to die.

And all through the mountains, thunder-riven, and up from the rocky steep, there rose a cry to the gate of heaven, "Rejoice, I have found my sheep." And the angels echoed around the throne, "Rejoice, for the Lord brings back his own; rejoice, for the Lord brings back his own."

### **371 Love divine, all loves excelling**

Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down; fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, oh breathe thy loving Spirit into every troubled breast! Let us all in thee inherit, let us find the promised rest; take away our love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be; end of faith as its beginning, set our hearts at liberty.

Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy grace receive; suddenly return and never, never more thy temples leave. Thee we would be always blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray and praise thee, without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.

Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee, changed from glory into glory till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love and praise.

**670 Amazing grace**

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear And grace my fears relieved; How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come; 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me: This word my hope secures; God will my shield and portion be, As long as life endures.

What thanks I owe you, and what love— a boundless, endless store— Shall echo through the realms above When time shall be no more.

When we've been here ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun, We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

**706 Come, let us sing**

Come, let us sing of a wonderful love, tender and true, tender and true; out of the heart of the Father above, streaming to me and to you: wonderful love, wonderful love dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Jesus the Saviour this gospel to tell joyfully came, joyfully came, came with the helpless and hopeless to dwell, sharing their sorrow and shame: seeking the lost, seeking the lost, saving, redeeming at measureless cost.

Jesus is seeking the wanderers yet; why do they roam? why do they roam? Love only waits to forgive and forget; home, weary wanderers, home: wonderful love, wonderful love dwells in the heart of the Father above.

Come to my heart, O thou wonderful love; come and abide, come and abide, lifting my life till it rises above envy and falsehood and pride: seeking to be, seeking to be lowly and humble, a learner of thee.