

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD

2022 04 24

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield on Sunday April 24th.

**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: Celebrate God in all places under heaven!

**All: Give praise for God's mighty deeds!**

One: Give praise for God's resurrecting power!

**All: Let everything with life and breath praise God!**

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

God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, we rejoice in this new day you have made. We praise you for the abundant life with which you bless us and for all the beauty that surrounds us as spring takes hold again. We praise you for Jesus and the power of new life promised in his resurrection. We praise you for your Spirit at work in human history, to restore and redeem our hope with that power of new life.

O God of mercy, in raising Jesus from the dead, you showed us your power to defeat all that brings fear and sorrow to our lives. In his resurrection, Jesus promised to be with us everywhere and always. Yet we confess we are sometimes uncertain about your promises. There are times when we doubt the promise of resurrection for our own lives.

Forgive us when we struggle to trust your goodness and your steadfast love for us.

God of the empty tomb and our empty hearts, when we are afraid to speak our faith in the world, forgive us and help us to find our voice. When we are afraid to forgive and to

---

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



Every day brings reminders that the promises of Easter are not yet fully realized. You read or listen to the upsetting news from around the world. News about war, oppression, violence, and corruption. The joy of Easter seems dampened by the ongoing struggles within family and friendships. Many people feel a connection with the disciples on the road to Emmaus before they recognize Jesus. Feelings of defeat or exhaustion or fear. Sometimes it is hard to hold onto the depth and breadth of the Easter promise. How do we understand the complexity of holding onto the promise of resurrection and the real, present suffering. Our readings today speak to the expectations, confusion, fear, and the hope of following in the ways of Christ.

Many of the followers of Christ were living in fear. Their expectations and hopes of the Messiah were crushed, they faced the risk of being persecuted, and they had left everything behind to follow the crucified Jesus. How were they supposed to be faithful when fear and discouragement seemed to make more sense? Scripture helps us to make our way through their experiences and their collective stories. Our journey through scripture helps us to connect our fear and confusion and our joy and faith with the divine promises fulfilled and yet to come.

The revelation of John was written by an unknown author from the area that we know as Turkey. This visionary letter is an apocalypse – a written work of heavenly secrets; and it is a prophecy – describing divine intentions. At the beginning of Revelation, there is the clearly stated expectation: God's triumph is not yet finished. This letter shares a sense of how to shape our understanding of Jesus ... *Christ has done this, and Christ is doing this, and Christ will do this. He was, and is, and is to come.*

Revelation encourages the reader to live in the promise of the resurrection, even when the presence of evil seems powerful the world. It begins with the reminder that God is in charge of the world. God will have the last word.

The gospel of John identifies the author as the Beloved Disciple, the one Jesus appointed to care for his mother at the cross. In our reading today John describes his corporeality [cor-pour-e-al-ity] when Jesus walks through walls. The physical presence of Jesus is described when Thomas was invited to touch his wounds. Hearing, seeing, and touching are crucial in this passage. When Mary discovered an empty tomb she shared the news with Peter and another disciple who went to the empty tomb. Mary Magdalene heard her

name called. Jesus spoke to the disciples on the day of the resurrection, telling them, "Peace be with you". Hearing, seeing, and touching are crucial in our understanding of our faith.

When we hear this passage from John's gospel there may be a tendency to focus on the doubt expressed by Thomas. Yet, this is a narrow understanding of this event. Many have nicknamed him doubting Thomas. He doubted what his friends shared with him. He told of his need to see and touch the wounds. When Thomas became a witness to the resurrected Christ, scripture tells us that "Jesus said...Thomas answered." The word did it; touching had become irrelevant.

Jesus breathed on them and the Holy Spirit was given in the breath, the pneuma, of the crucified and risen Jesus. We are mindful of the account in Genesis when God breathed into a creature of dust and humanity came to life. Christ breathed into the world and the disciples became more fully aware of God's presence.

Jesus appeared in the locked room that was filled with fear and spoke the word of peace. He allowed them to see his wounds. He gave his disciples the Holy Spirit and made them apostles. He told them, 'As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' They were empowered to speak words of forgiveness and of judgment, words that would declare the work of God here among us.

The scripture today seems to be most appropriate for Mission Awareness Sunday. The work of the Presbyterian Church in Canada is possible only through the support of the congregations. Each week we discover a brief description of the Presbyterian mission work in the world. The short descriptions point us toward the faithful work that illuminates God's presence among us.

The fullness of the scriptures speak to so much more than doubt. We discover Mary talking with Christ, disciples living in fear and then revelations of Christ among them in body and Spirit. Look beyond the narrow story and discover the fullness of God's presence among us. Peace be with you.

**Hymn          Jesus, stand among us          #452**

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

**QUOTE** Every generous act and every perfect gift is from above. *James 1:17*

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

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

4

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

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD

2022 04 24

John 20:29; Acts 5:27; Rev. 1:8;

Let us join in prayer:

We thank you, God, for the many ways you provide for our needs: for air and water, for food and shelter, for work to do and rest to sustain us. We pray for your creation, too often at risk because of the choices we've made. Help us care for the earth and all its creatures and relationships. Show us how to cherish the gifts you have given and protect them for future generations.

We pray for the church around the world in all its expressions. We pray for those who cannot see you and yearn to believe. We pray for religious and secular authorities who speak truth to power. We pray for those who need healing and hope, who cannot see the possibility of new life.

Holy One, bless our offerings and transform them into healing for the wounded, hope for the disheartened, courage for the frightened, and faith for the embittered.

We pray for those in our world who are wounded, those who suffer from war, oppression, famine, and disease. God who is and was and is to be, be for us the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the Almighty.

We pray for those who know neither freedom nor peace: those living under oppressive regimes or in conflict zones, and those who have fled their home in search of safety.

We thank you, God, for family: the families we were born or adopted into, the families we married into, and other families who welcomed us into their midst as friends and neighbours. We pray for those who have lost family members and relationships, and for any who know abuse and pain within the family circle.

God, we thank you for those who have supported us through the years of pandemic restrictions. We are thankful for those who bring us joy and wise counsel. Help us extend the gift of friendship to those who are experiencing isolation, loneliness or grief.

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.

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

5

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

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            Where charity and love prevail            #692**

**To Go Forth In God's Name  
Commissioning and Benediction**

Ps. 150:2; John 20:22-23; Rev. 1:4-5

Go to celebrate all that God has done as Christ breathes new life into you. Go out with the Spirit of forgiveness for the life of the world. May you be filled with the grace and peace of the God who is and was and is to come. 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**

## 249 The day of resurrection

Earth tell it out abroad The passover of gladness The passover of God From death to life eternal From earth unto the sky Our Christ has brought us over With hymns of victory

Our hearts be pure from evil That we may see aright The Lord in rays eternal Of resurrection light And listening to His accents May hear so calm and plain His own all hail and hearing May raise the victor strain

Now let the heavens be joyful Let earth her song begin The round world keep high triumph And all that is therein Let all things seen and unseen Their notes of gladness blend For Christ the Lord is risen Our joy that has no end

CCLI Song # 2725914 John Mason Neale | St. John Of Damascus Public Domain For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License # 11684328

## 258 To Thine be the glory

Thine be the glory, risen, conquering son, Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won; Angels in bright raiment rolled the tone away, Kept the folded grave clothes, where thy body lay.

**Refrain:** Thine be the glory, risen, conquering son; Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won.

Lo! Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb; Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom; Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, For her Lord now liveth; death hast lost its sting.

No more we doubt thee, glorious prince of life; Life is nought without thee: aid us in our strife; Make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love: Bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above.

## 452 Jesus, stand among us

Jesus, stand among us In your risen power; Let this time of worship Be a hallowed hour. Breathe the Holy Spirit Into every heart; Bid the fears and sorrows From each soul depart. Thus with quickened footsteps We pursue our way, Watching for the dawning Of eternal day.

**692 Where charity and love prevail**

Where charity and love There God is ever found Brought here together by Christ's love By  
love we are thus bound

With grateful joy and holy fear True charity we learn Let us with heart and mind and  
strength Now love Christ in return

Forgive we now each other's fault As we our faults confess Let us love each other well In  
Christian holiness

Let strife among us be unknown Let all contention cease Be Christ the glory that we seek  
Be ours Christ's holy peace

CCLI Song # 1779205 Dom Paul Benoit | Omer Westendorf © 1962 World Library  
Publications (Admin. by G.I.A. Publications, Inc.) For use solely with the SongSelect®  
Terms of Use. All rights reserved. [www.ccli.com](http://www.ccli.com) CCLI License # 11684328