

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD

5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter 2022 05 15

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield on Sunday May 15<sup>th</sup>.

**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: Alleluia! Christ is alive.

**All: Let all the people praise him.**

One: Let all creation sing with joy.

**All: Alleluia! Christ is alive.**

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

Holy God, you are the beginning and end of all things. You are worthy of praise from all your creation. The sun, moon, and stars praise you. The earth, sea, and sky praise you. Every living thing praises you in its own way. We praise you in our diversity, joining our voices with all creatures in heaven and on earth. You fill our lives with the wonder of your love in Christ Jesus.

Your Spirit moves throughout the world to reveal your purposes for every living thing.

Receive our prayers and praise this day, for you are the Source of our life and our hope, Holy God, ever Three and Ever One.

Loving God, Jesus commanded us to love one another. Yet we struggle to follow in his ways. The world has witnessed our history of hypocrisy, and our lack of compassion. We pray your forgiveness. Holy Spirit, fill us with love, so that the world will experience your love in our words and actions. Amen.

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

The good news - Christ calls us to new life and enables us to begin again and again and again and again. May the peace of Jesus the Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you. **And also with you.**

**Hymn                    Praise the Lord with the sound                    #466**

**To Hear The Word Of God**

**Prayer For Illumination**

God of wisdom, soften our hearts and direct our minds as we discern your holy scripture. May we be like fertile soil in which to plant your living Word. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE**

Tanakh*	<b>Psalm 148</b>	[B#582/W#645] <sup>2</sup>
Historical	<b>Acts 11:1-18</b>	[B#130/W#135]
Epistle	<b>Revelation 21:1-6</b>	[B#259/W#282]
Gospel	<b>John 13:31-35</b>	[B#108/W#112]

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

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

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.

In the midst of change there can be a great deal of confusion. Most of us are familiar with confusion – we hear or read conflicting information from various sources which can lead to uncertainty. The vast amount of available information includes some that may not be accurate. In a recent conversation with my youngest son ... we had the opportunity to talk about his schoolwork. Of all things, we discussed statistics. He had taken a stats course and he was intrigued by the ways in which the data could be manipulated. Data can be mis-shaped to create a false perception. In a similar way ... details in stories can be mis-shaped. It is our work to sift through the stories and the data to determine where the truth sits. It is helpful to start with a premise – which can be challenging when we feel confused. Some basics to ask include.. Do we trust the source of information? Does it

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

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seem to fit within the framework of our understanding? Do we have the necessary information?

In reading the Gospel this morning it is important to place it within its context. We are familiar with the scene of the last supper. We hold the main story of the Passover. Sometimes we lose track of the details that differ in the gospels. They are accounts from diverse perspectives so it makes sense that the unfolding stories would differ in the particulars. The passage from John's gospel today is taking place during the Passover. When Jesus was preparing for his death, and preparing the disciples, he was gentle with them. You may recall that during the supper, Jesus rose from the table to wash the feet of the disciples, drying them with the towel around his waist. When Jesus finished, the disciples were told, "You call me Teacher and Lord-and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I ... your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you." Then, Jesus told Judas to do what he intended and Judas left the room to gather the guards.

This is where we came into the story today. Jesus spoke again to the disciples, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" <sup>3</sup>

The glory, the passion of Christ. Jesus referred to the events that were about to unfold and culminate in his crucifixion. John's Gospel provides two perspectives—the ministry of Jesus as it unfolds and the concerns of the communities around him.

In the midst of this portion of the supper, Jesus built on the teaching that we are to care for one another when he said, "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another"<sup>4</sup>. Amy Jill Levine reminds us that this teaching "is not "new" in the sense of original: Leviticus 19:18, 34 enjoins love of one's fellow and of the stranger... It is a part of the new life to which the disciples are invited."<sup>5</sup> We are to love one another to embody the truth that Christ

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<sup>3</sup> (12:23-24)

<sup>4</sup> (John 13:34)

<sup>5</sup> The Jewish Annotated New Testament, 206

reveals. This embodied love is revealed through us in all that we do and say to one another.

This 'love command' is at the center and the underlying premise of the ways of Jesus. It seems a simple teaching, "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." Cyril of Alexandria, Augustine, and others noted that Leviticus 19:18 essentially commanded Israel to "love your neighbor as yourself." What was new? Augustine suggested the difference was found in the spiritual love. The Spirit moves us to be in connection with one another.

This teaching underlines the events in our reading from the book of Acts. Peter spoke of the vision he received while praying. He saw a sheet being lowered from heaven with a variety of creatures on it. He was told to "kill and eat." Peter refused because the food was "profane" and "unclean." Then he heard the crucial line, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane". Then three men from Caesarea appeared at the door. The Spirit told Peter to go with them and not distinguish between "them and us". Peter then preached at the home of Cornelius and the Holy Spirit fell upon them. Peter asked the profound question, "Who was I that I could hinder God?".

Peter was able to shift his understanding with the help of God's Spirit. He was open to the ways in which God was at work in the world and realized the Creator did not exclude anyone. Peter discerned the connection between his vision and the three visitors who asked him to travel to Caesarea with them. He was open to God's healing and reconciling Spirit. When the leaders in Jerusalem heard his account, they were moved by the Spirit as they listened to the new reality Peter experienced.

The love command forms the premise and structure of our faith. We are to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind and love our neighbours as ourselves. The Spirit nudges us to reach out to others and be in community. To be with one another in Christ's love. In closing, Peter's story spoke of how God intervened in a vision. A voice called to Peter to see his mission in broader terms. Stephen D Jones wrote, "Peter's message was, "This is my story, but it could as easily have been your story. This could have happened to you. What would you have done, if God had appeared and spoken to you in this way? Would you, could you, have acted differently?" Praise be to God.

**HYMN      One more step along the world      #641**

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

**QUOTE** The environment is where we all meet; where we all have a mutual interest; it is the one thing all of us share. Lady Bird Johnson–Former First Lady USA

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

Let us join in prayer:

Generous Creator, we bless you for your gift of life renewed through Christ's love, and through springtime growth in fields and gardens. Bless the gifts we bring and make them signs of hope and renewal in the world we serve

God, you created many wonders in this world. We thank you for the heat of the spring sunshine and refreshing rain; for sprouting blossoms and gardens. Thank you for all the signs of new life around us this Easter season. May your earth be fruitful this growing season to provide food for the hungry.

God of new life, we pray to increase our good care for this planet. We pray for those who teach about the environment as our eyes are opened to our responsibilities.

We pray for leaders in government, business, and communities. May they sense your Spirit in their care of the earth. May we all be inspired to do all we can to walk with respect on the face of your creation.

God, we thank you for our families and friends who offer us love and encouragement. We pray for families and communities disrupted by war, violence, and conflict. We pray for those who seek shelter, employment, and food. We pray your Spirit will guide the decision makers and influencers to care for the vulnerable. O holy One, empower us with your Spirit to reach out to those in need.

God, we thank you for this community that gathers in the name of Jesus Christ. We are thankful for the warmth and fellowship offered, for friendship and faithfulness discovered, for learning and leadership shared. Thank you for the hope that rises in us through the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ. Make us expressions of that hope to each other and to the world you love.

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**

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

**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 Give me oil in my lamp #655**

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

John 13:34

Just as Jesus loved us, we are to love one another. Go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord. May God, who has made you a new creation, give you the grace to grow in faith, hope, love, and justice. 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**

**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.

#### **466 Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet**

Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet, praise the Lord with the harp and lute, praise the Lord with the gentle-sounding flute. Praise the Lord in the field and forest, praise the Lord in the city square, praise the Lord anytime and anywhere. Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine, praise the Lord in the dark of night, praise the Lord in the rain or snow or in the morning light. Praise the Lord in the deepest valley, praise the Lord on the highest hill, praise the Lord; never let your voice be still.

Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal, praise the Lord with the pipe and string, praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing. Praise the Lord on a weekday morning, praise the Lord on a Sunday noon, praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon. Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow, praise the Lord in the time of joy, praise the Lord every moment; nothing let your praise destroy. Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet, praise the Lord in your work or play, praise the Lord everywhere in every way!

#### **641 One more step along the world I go**

One more step along the world I go. One more step along the world I go. From the old things to the new Keep me travelling along with you.

**Refrain** And it's from the old I travel to the new. Keep me travelling along with you.

Round the corners of the world I turn. More and more about the world I learn. All the new things that I see You'll be looking at along with me. **Refrain**

As I travel through the bad and good Keep me travelling the way I should. Where I see no way to go, You'll be telling me the way, I know. **Refrain**

Give me courage when the world is rough. Keep me loving though the world is tough. Leap and sing in all I do. Keep me travelling along with you. **Refrain**

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You are older than the world can be. You are younger than the life in me. Ever old and ever new, Keep me travelling along with you. **Refrain**

**655 Give me oil in my lamp**

Give me oil in my lamp; keep me burning; Give me oil in my lamp, I pray. Give me oil in my lamp; keep me burning; Keep me burning till the break of day.

**Refrain** Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, Sing hosanna to the Servant King;  
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna, Sing hosanna, let us sing!

Give me joy in my heart; keep me praising; Give me joy in my heart, I pray. Give me joy in my heart; keep me praising; Keep me praising till the break of day. **Refrain**

Give me peace in my heart; keep me loving; Give me peace in my heart, I pray. Give me peace in my heart; keep me loving; Keep me loving till the break of day. **Refrain**

Give me love in my heart; keep me serving; Give me love in my heart, I pray. Give me love in my heart; keep me serving; Keep me serving till the break of day. **Refrain**