

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD

2022 05 29

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

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: Let every creature sing with joy!

All: Praise be to our God for ever and ever!

One: Let us raise our prayers and praises to God

All: Praise be to our God for ever and ever!

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON¹

God of mystery and mercy, in Jesus you came to live among us to share in our joys and sorrows. You give hope to your people in all places, in every time and situation. We join in that hope this day, for ourselves and for the world you love. We lift up our praise and worship in the name of Jesus Christ, with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Holy One, we confess that unity often eludes us. We dwell on our differences and are critical of others. The love you call us to often disappears when we disagree. Forgive us for our divisiveness within the body of your Church. We yearn to follow your call to honour unity and love. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen

Believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven and given a ministry of reconciliation. May the peace of Jesus the Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you. **And also with you.**

¹ PCC Worship Planner Advent December 2021 Year C

Hymn Jesus calls us here to meet him #528

To Hear The Word Of God

Prayer For Illumination

SCRIPTURE

Tanakh* **Psalm 97** [B#551/W#609]

Historical **Acts 16:16–34** [B#136/W#142]²

Gospel **John 17:20–26** [B#111/W#116]

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

Hymn Come ye thankful people come #803

Freedom

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. Amen.

We gather on Sunday morning to worship God and discover the stories of faith through time. We have developed a deeper understanding of what it is to enjoy the freedom to gather together on a Sunday morning. Our experience with the pandemic restrictions may provide us with insight into the loss of freedom through government directives, legal restrictions, or physical challenges. What does freedom mean to you? Is it freedom from debt, from pain, from isolation? Freedom from fear, oppression, abuse? Perhaps you seek freedom from racing thoughts or addiction.

The scriptures speak of the many ways that freedom is restricted. Last week the scriptures told of Paul's vision of a Macedonian man pleading with him. In his journey he met Lydia, the businesswoman whose heart was opened to Christ. Paul's ministry brought freedom to captives in diverse and surprising ways. In today's passage from Acts the slave girl and the jailer are freed.

After meeting with Lydia, Paul encountered a slave girl with a spirit of divination. She is described as a profitable source of income for her owners. The girl followed Paul for days, proclaiming, "These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation". She was possessed with a spirit of divination (pneuma pythōna), which is an allusion to the snake that symbolized the Greek god Apollo at Delphi. Paul became

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

annoyed and cast out the spirit, which meant the girl was no longer profitable for the slave owners. The slave's owners went to the authorities to claim that Paul and Silas were political subversives undermining the Roman order. When Paul and Silas were accused of being a threat against the state they were physically beaten, then put into prison. While they were chained in the inner cell in darkness they prayed and sang hymns. When an earthquake shook the prison all the doors opened and the prisoners were freed from the chains. Yet, they did not flee. They waited for the jailer to become conscious, both physically and spiritually. When the jailer woke up he thought the prisoners had escaped and believed he had failed in his responsibility as the jailer. In his despair he drew his sword to end his own life when Paul called out to him. The man fell trembling before them, asking them to share how he could be saved. There is irony here... the prisoners are free in Christ and the jailer was chained by his duty. He was ready to end his life when he thought he had failed. And, in that moment, found the freedom to live. What is it that restricts your freedom? What stops you from living in the fullness of yourself? The girl pointed to Paul and Silas as slaves of the most high God, yet they found freedom in their faith. She was exploited in her captivity with the spirit of divination and then freed. The jailer's value was focused on his duties and he found freedom in faith. After the jailer tended to the prisoners wounds his entire household was baptized. The jailer provided the hospitality of his home where they ate together and they rejoiced. Have you noticed that the occupations, the ways in which people earn an income, are prominent in the book of Acts? Perhaps, in part, due to the diverse aspects of Paul's life. He was a Pharisee, trained in the law and Jewish traditions, a Roman citizen, and he initially persecuted members of the early church. Paul's trade as tent-maker provided his income which funded his journeys and mission work. Although Paul remained stubborn and blind when he first saw the light of the Spirit, with help he was able to experience a connection with the divine. His entire life shifted when he became attentive to the Spirit of God. The scriptures provide us with the stories of how the early church developed and grew through the movement of the Spirit. The Spirit moves and faith grows within us and in the world. Praise be to God for visions and the movement of the Spirit among us.

Hymn Great is thy faithfulness #324

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

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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

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO THE LORD

QUOTE For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

We continue to enjoy God's blessings as the Easter season draws to a close. us give thanks to God for these blessings as we present our offering in Jesus' holy name.

Invitation to the Table

We come to the table to remember our past, to be here in our present, and to be mindful of our future with Christ. We remember Jesus declared that people will come from east and west and north and south to sit at the table in God's kingdom. Remember – the Risen Christ has spread this joyful feast for you. Taste and see that God is good.

Hymn All who hunger, gather gladly #534

Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed [in unison] **#539**

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.

The Story of the Table

When we gather at this table, we remember how this meal began, how it has promised hope and new life to those who follow Jesus from one generation to the next. Often, when we gather, we remember bread and wine shared around a table one solemn, holy night. Today we remember another day, the first Easter day, when Jesus appeared to friends along a road. But they were too sad and tired to recognise him. So he came to the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, then they recognised him.

As we break this bread and share this cup in the name of our Risen Christ, may our eyes be opened to recognize Jesus -present with us each day. And as Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth, let us thank God for what we are about receive.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving [responsive] **#564**

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 God thanks and praise.**

Holy One, on this joyful Easter day, we offer you our gratitude and praise with hearts full of love,

for we have seen your grace and power, rolling away the stone of sorrow and despair, bursting from the tomb in the gift of new life. And so we join our voices with all your creatures high and low, with all the saints before us and beside us, in heaven and on earth, to celebrate your resurrecting power. 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.

Receive our praise and joy this day, O Christ. Your resurrection promises that there are new possibilities for us and our weary world. Even when we falter in discouragement, even if we hesitate at the news that your great love has come back to embrace us, You will not let us go.

You call us by name to assure us of your love. You open your arms to welcome us back to your side. You spread this table for us, offering us not only the bread and wine, but your very self, present with us here and everywhere.

In joyful anticipation of sharing these gifts, we proclaim our faith And so, remembering Christ's life, love, death, and resurrection, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Spirit of Life, rising in us and around us, breathe upon us now and upon this bread and wine. May they be for us Christ's body and blood, gifts of new life, with the power to make us whole. As this bread and wine become a part of us, may we become a part of

you, Jesus, united with you and with each other in love. Dare us to live for justice and joy, trusting that all things will work together for good through the power of love that raised you from the dead, the power of the love we share in your name. And all the people say, **Amen**

We boldly lift our voices to pray: **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.' [eat] In the same way, he took the cup saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood: as often as you drink of it, do this in remembrance of me.' [drink] 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

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. Giving, life-giving God, with our gifts this day, receive our thanks and praise for the hope rising within us through the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Bless the gifts we offer with your Holy Spirit so that they will bring hope to raise the hearts of those to whom we reach out in Jesus' holy name.

Loving God, we pray for those who know sickness, pain, grief, loneliness, and anxiety. By your Spirit, surround each one with strength and love. Equip us to offer support for those who are near to us. We ask your Spirit to linger with Adam & Christina, Grace, Rudy,

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Audrey, Betty Lou, and Rob. We lift up all those who are on our hearts as they face immense challenges.

Before we call, you answer, God. Before we speak, you know our voices. Hear our prayers. Let there be joy in Jerusalem and peace among all nations. Let sounds of weeping and cries of distress turn to shouts of joy and laughter. Let infants grow and thrive; let the old dance like children. Let every person find a home and enjoy the fruit of their labor. Let the wolf and the lamb live in peace. We pray all this through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hymn

Amen

#766

To Go Forth In God's Name

Commissioning and Benediction

Go forth with the spirit of wisdom and hope, with eyes opened and minds aroused by the love of Christ. Be assured that wherever you go, Christ is with you.

May the One who shapes you, strengthen you in faith and hope, 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**

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 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.

803 Come ye thankful people come

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home. All is safely gathered in, ere the winter storms begin; God, our Maker, doth provide for our wants to be supplied. Come, to God's own temple come: raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, fruit unto God's praise to yield; Wheat and weeds together sown, unto joy or sorrow grown; First the blade and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear. Lord of harvest, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For the Lord our God shall come and shall take the harvest home; From the field shall in that day all offences purge away, Give the angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast, But the fruitful ears to store in God's storehouse evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come to thy final harvest home: Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin; There, forever purified, in thy presence to abide. Come, with all thine angels, come: raise the glorious harvest home.

324 Great is Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;

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**

534 All who hunger, gather gladly

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Praise the Son who calls us friends; Praise the Spirit who, among us, To our hopes and fears attends.

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