

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield on June 5 .

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: We gather to worship God

All: We bring prayers of hope and prayers of anguish

One: We bring our faith, tattered or whole as it may be

All: We bring all this to God with our worship and praise

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON¹

Holy God, from our scattered lives we gather to praise you, for you are great and wonderful. With joyful hearts, we celebrate the work of your Spirit. At the dawn of creation, you sent your Spirit to bring life. Over the centuries, your Spirit called humanity to proclaim your love and justice. Through the flames of Pentecost, your Spirit gave energy and wonder. Today, your Spirit continues to bring renewal and hope throughout the world. Transform us by your Spirit to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Almighty God, you poured out your Spirit to guide your disciples, and empower your church with gifts for ministry. We confess we often resist the Spirit's guidance. The challenges of change are uncomfortable. Forgive us, O God. Send your Holy Spirit to open our minds and hearts to the challenges you set before us in Jesus' name. Amen.

¹ PCC Worship Planner Advent December 2021 Year C

Assurance of Pardon

Hear and believe the promise of the good news: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. The old life has passed away and new life has begun. Know that in Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! You are set free to live in the power of the Spirit. Amen.

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

Spirit of God, at Pentecost you create new understanding among the followers of Jesus. Move among us this day and fill us with new understanding of your living Word. Energize us bear witness to the world you love In the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

TANAKH* Genesis 11:1–9 [B#9/W#9]

HISTORICAL Acts 2:1–21 [B#119/W#123]

EPISTLE Romans 8:14–17 [B#158/W#16]

GOSPEL John 14:8–27 [B#108/W#112]

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

HYMN

O Spirit of the living God

#401

Pentecost

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.

Today marks Pentecost Sunday and the start of the annual General Assembly for the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The Assembly considers matters affecting the ministry and mission of our denomination. Commissioners are ministers and representative elders appointed from Presbytery. They received a significant amount of information to review and consider in the weeks ahead of the Assembly. The commissioners will gather virtually again this year to worship, discuss, and make decisions affecting the ministry and mission of our denomination.

Our readings this morning speak of community gatherings where people discover their diversity. We are diverse within this village congregation. Some of us gather here in person, some may be live-streaming, and others will watch the video at a latter time. We gather here from diverse walks of life. We are different ages, genders, and occupations – past and present. We have different educational backgrounds and diverse life experiences. Sometimes our diversity makes it seem like we are speaking in different languages. Our readings tell of the ways in which people responded to their community in the midst of great transition, chaos and fear. In Genesis, the story is that people were multiplying at a great rate. They were good people and they were scared of losing their sense of community. In the movement through Genesis, from Adam and Eve to Cain and Abel, through the flood to Shinnar we discover the ways in which people embraced their faith or allowed their fear to take control. One response to fear is seeking to gain control of the situation, which for some means turning away from their faith. In seeking safety they seek control of matters that are out of their control. John Calvin wrote: "For as soon as mortals, forgetful of themselves, are inflated above measure, it is certain that, like the giants, they wage war with God." This is seeking to be God-like, all powerful, all knowing. They made plans for a city and a tower with its top in the heavens. The people of Shinnar decided to make a name for themselves when they became afraid of being scattered across the whole earth. Another perspective understands this story of Babel as a way to understand cultural difference. When everyone spoke the same language they tried to keep things the same, to keep everyone in the same place, out of the fear that they would be scattered.

God had other plans. Cultural diversity is part of God's design for the world, not the result of punishment. In this story the people desire uniformity, and God desires diversity. We need diversity within community. One way to understand the need for diversity is with the term, "group think", which was developed by Irving Janis to describe the effect of pressure within groups. Group think occurs when the desire maintain group loyalty becomes more important than making the good choices. People may have difficulty thinking and acting independently in some group situations. The unchallenged belief in the group's competence and morality can develop when questions and challenges are discouraged. People may not risk the threat of expulsion from the group so they remain

silent. This creates the illusion of agreement. When 'group think' occurs the members may avoid challenging ethically dubious decisions and actions. It can cause us to value consensus over good judgment.

The scriptures remind us of the ways in which God breaks into our world with the gift of the Spirit to guide us. When Jesus foretold of what would happen when he was no longer present the disciples could not have predicted the unfolding events of Pentecost. In remembering Pentecost, we recognize what Jesus taught and what it means within the constant changes of the world. We recall how the promise of this powerful presence allowed the disciples to accomplish great things. The faithful who followed in the ways of Christ have been guided by the Spirit for 2,000 plus years. They have been healing, comforting, offering compassion and love. In the book of Acts the disciples lived during the tumultuous time during and after Christ's physical presence among them. These stories provide rich imagery of rushing wind with the many voices of Pentecost. The re-birth of hope and faith with the Spirit of Truth as guide.

In the book of Acts, the physician Luke wrote about the disciples gathering to celebrate Pentecost, Shavuot as it is known in the Jewish tradition. Shavuot is a festival that happens fifty days after Passover to celebrate the time of God giving the Torah to Moses. Christians celebrate Pentecost fifty days after Easter Sunday; fifty days after the resurrection. There is a rabbinic tradition that tells of when the Ten Commandments were given. There was a single sound, yet when that sound went out ... it divided into seven voices and then seventy , so that every people received the law in their own language. The law was meant to share the will of God, to guide the people. In giving the Spirit on Pentecost, the church received God's Spirit to guide the people. The Spirit is intended for all... to unite us with prophecies, visions, and dreams. ..united in diversity...the diversity of age, gender, nation, and social status ...united by the great outpouring of the Spirit. Within our church tradition we recognize Pentecost completing the cycle that begins with Ash Wednesday and continues through Lent, Holy Week and Easter. It is a journey that moves symbolically from ashes to fire. Pentecost helps us to better understand the gospels: Jesus Christ offers salvation to all, and the church exists to proclaim it. Pentecost affirms our participation as disciples in the body of Christ. We are challenged to live into

its promise of the witness of the church. Praise be to God for visions and the movement of the Spirit among us.

Hymn Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness #399

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO THE LORD

QUOTE If you can't feed a hundred people, then just feed one. Mother Teresa

BLESSING OF GIFTS & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us join in prayer:

O holy One, we pray your Spirit will blow through us to renew our faith. Re-awaken our love for you and strengthen our community as we recover from the challenges of the pandemic. Allow your flames to warm our hearts with trust in Jesus and hope for the future he will create. Dare us to do great things in his name.

Loving God, open our eyes to recognize needs for ministry and mission in changing times. Open our hearts to welcome newcomers in our lives. Open our hands to share in the tasks that need doing, and open our lips in prayer and praise.

Wind of the Spirit, give us new understanding for those whose lives seem so different from ours, and for those facing situations we've never encountered...for those with whom we disagree, and for those whose values challenge our expectations... for problems and challenges we face and for the complex issues we face in your world.

Healing and nurturing God, bring healing for all who know sorrow, sadness, and grief.

Bring healing for those who face stress and pressure. Bring healing for people who live in conflict and war.

God, we pray your Spirit will linger with the participants of the General Assembly this week. May they be inspired in the debates and decisions of the commissioners. Blow through our whole church and refresh us as your faithful people.

Spirit of grace and power, bless the gifts we offer today so that they may accomplish surprising things in Jesus' name. Equip each of us, and all of us together, to proclaim the Good News with grace and power in ways we have not yet dreamed possible. Amen.

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,

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

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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

immense challenges. Before we call, you answer, God. Before we speak, you know our words. Hear our prayers. 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 I am the church You are the church #475

To Go Forth In God's Name Commissioning and Benediction

Live in love, abide in peace, and serve the ever present, ever faithful God.

May God be gracious and bless you. May you live a life of praise forever in God's light, this day and forever more. 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**

399 Spirit Spirit of Gentleness

Refrain Spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free.

Spirit, Spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, Wind, Wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters; you called to the deep; then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep, and over the aeons you called to each thing: then you wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings. **Refrain**

You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand, and you goaded your people with a law and a land, and when they were blinded with their idols and lies, then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. **Refrain**

You sang in a stable; you cried from a hill; then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still, and down in the city you called once again, when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind. **Refrain**

You call from tomorrow; you break ancient schemes; from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams; our women see visions, our men clear their eyes; with bold new decisions your people arise. **Refrain**

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.

475 I am the church You are the church

Refrain I am the church! You are the church! We are the church together!

All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church together!

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD

2022 06 05

The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple; the church is not a resting place; the church is a people. **Refrain**

We're many kinds of people, with many kinds of faces, all colours and all ages, too, from all times and places. **Refrain**

Sometimes the church is marching; sometimes it's bravely burning; sometimes it's riding, sometimes hiding; always it's learning. **Refrain**

And when the people gather, there's singing and there's praying; there's laughing and there's crying sometimes, all of it saying: **Refrain**

At Pentecost some people received the Holy Spirit and told the Good News through the world to all who would hear it. **Refrain**