

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD

2022 07 10

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield on the 10th of July.

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: Love the Lord your God

All: With all my heart, with all my soul, with all my strength, and with all my mind

One: Love your neighbor as yourself

All: With all my heart, with all my soul, with all my strength, and with all my mind

One: Do this and you will live

All: Let us worship God

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON¹

God of Mercy, we confess our struggle to live as your beloved children. Too often we are mindful of the things of this world. We neglect the love you share with us and we neglect to share our love with others. We pursue self interest at the expense of others; we harbor uncharitable thoughts toward our enemies and our friends; and we avoid responsibilities to our neighbors. Forgive us, we pray. Help us to find freedom and strength as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear the good news: in the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God.

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 **God is love, come heaven, adoring [tune #371]** **#314**
To Hear The Word Of God

Prayer For Illumination

O God, your Word is like water to the root of the tree. Allow your Word to flow into us that we might flourish—to bear gospel fruit for a hungry world. In the name of Jesus, the Living Word, we pray. Amen

SCRIPTURE

Tanakh*	Amos 7:7–17	[B#855/W#953] ²
Historical	Psalm 82	[B#542/W#599]
Epistle	Colossians 1:1–14	[B#199/W#213]
Gospel	Luke 10:25–37	[B#71/W#73]

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

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.

I am intrigued by the weekly readings as we follow the Revised Common Lectionary. You are encouraged to explore the readings during the week in anticipation of our worship service each Sunday. They are included in the bulletin for the current week and for the next week. At first glance the readings may appear to be a chaotic mix of scripture from different sections of the bible. Yet, they all have the common theme of sharing the diverse stories of people of faith. The bible shares their journeys, a journey from birth to re-birth, from partial life to abundant life. Their stories provide a witness to God’s love and compassion. It is about the transforming power of God at work, moving us into the fullness of life, here and now.

There was an unexpected gift for me in becoming a minister. Paul speaks to this gift in his letter to the people of Colossae. After introducing himself and Timothy, Paul goes on to write, “In our prayers for you we always thank God” ... In our prayers for you. I remember praying as a little girl. I seem to recall that it was when I was young that I discovered the gift in praying for others. You may recall the first prayer that I learned. It started like this, Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. In my

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

prayers, it always ended with, God keep my sister and brothers and especially my Mom safe ... and then the list of people and pets would go on for as long as I stayed awake. So, when I was in the process of becoming a minister I knew that prayer would be important. The unexpected piece developed around keeping people in prayer.

I have discovered that a very special space is created when I ask someone if I can keep them in prayer and when I ask if their names can be mentioned in the prayers of the people during our worship service. This sacred space is held as people consider my request. There is really no other way to describe how the air literally shifts within our conversation. Many of you are familiar with this request and for some you are very familiar with this sacred space. You are familiar because it is a space that you enter into during your daily life. It is a sacred space where you hold your conversations with God. It is a space where you behold all that God provides and it moves you to tears of joy and gratitude. It is a space where the horror of the world bumps up against and you feel the presence of God with you.

Yet, there are many who are not familiar with this space. It is a surprising space for them, this sacred moment of holding room for others. Their faces will soften, and if they are able to stay in the moment, there is a deeper breath that is drawn into their aching hearts. Initially my efforts were centered on the prayers of the people on Sunday where people are named and many who wish to remain unnamed. With a growing number of people and situations I was presented with a bit of a dilemma. To ensure I held them in prayer I started a list. It became an evolving list of people who ask for prayer, people who are in need, and for those who I sense are in need of extra care. Time is set aside each day to hold space for each of them, to hold them with me in my prayers with God.

This week the scriptures speak to the importance of loving God and neighbour with prayer and the image of the plumb line. Are you familiar with a plumb line? It is a tool used to measure a straight line and determine whether the line is true. A simple example would be hanging a picture with two hooks on the back. The line between the hooks must be straight or the picture will be hanging on an angle. The original tool involved a weight on a string that hung straight without turning when the line was balanced. Now our modern tools include levels and electronic lasers. (hold up level) When the level is off center the bubble floats to one side or the other. The bubble needs to be centred in the middle for it

to be level. Regardless of the tool used, the plumb line represents congruity in a structure. In this context in the reading from Amos, the metaphor of the plumb line measuring a faulty wall illustrates a flaw in the community's structure. The people had wandered away from God and social justice. They were no longer following the laws put down by God. Amos cried out against the systemic exploitation of the powerless and the humiliation of the lowly. He denounced religion that masked injustice. He raged against the justification of social sin. In speeches and sermons, Martin Luther King would proclaim, "Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream". King drew attention to systemic racism rooted in the political economy that was indifferent to the poor. We tend to think of judgment in a negative way. Can God be both a judging and loving, gracious God. The biblical judge made judgments actively seeking justice to set things right. We affirm in the Apostles' Creed that one day the Lord "shall come to judge the quick and the dead." This God who comes to us as a seeking shepherd, as a woman searching, and as a loving judge seeks to set things right. The metaphor that a faulty structure must be destroyed leads to the conclusion that Israel's faulty structure will lead to its destruction. The people of Israel will be shattered because they have turned away from the goodness of God.

In the parable of the traveller left at the side of the road, Jesus expands our understanding of our neighbour. It is a familiar story for many of you. Sometimes that sense of familiarity can lose some of the complexity and richer details. It is a story of connection and community. A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, from David's city of peace, perched high on a hill, twenty miles through the wilderness, to Jericho, which is located at the edge of the Dead Sea. On this dangerous road the traveller was attacked by robbers, stripped of everything, brutally beaten, and left for dead. Jesus told of three people who noticed him on the side of the road. First a priest, then a Levite, and both crossed the road to avoid him. When the Samaritan came upon the traveller he was moved by compassion to clean his wounds and care for the man. The Samaritan was living fully in his truth of loving his neighbour. We do not know how the Samaritan developed his sense of mercy. A sense of mercy and compassion often develops as we discover more about ourselves and others. The ancient listeners of this story would recognize that the man filled with compassion, the real neighbor, was a

foreigner of a different faith. The lawyer, an expert in the law broke through religious legality by naming kindness as the true mark of the neighbor. The kindness appeared from an unexpected source and the readers expectations were shattered. Perhaps this is when the fruits by which we are known become more obvious and conspicuous—genuine goodness and authentic respect held for all creation. Douglas John Hall, a Canadian theologian, asks what it might mean to believe that our capacity for compassion was prodded by the divine. Imagine a transcendent Voice whispering in our ears, "For God's sake ... be kind!" Praise be to God for visions and the movement of the Spirit among us.

Hymn What a friend we have in Jesus #746

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO THE LORD

QUOTE Stewardship is the use of God-given resources for the accomplishment of God-given goals. Ron Blue, Christian financial advisor

We understand that everything we do and everything we have, comes from God, whose unconditional love lift us up each day. We continue our thanksgiving, with grateful hearts, by sharing a portion of what God has provided.

BLESSING OF GIFTS & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us join in prayer:

We thank you God, our rock and foundation, for the soil and our food, for water and sun, for everything we need to grow and thrive. From the many blessings we receive, we offer these gifts for your work in this world. We ask for your direction, as we work each day to reflect your light in this world.

God of Compassion, we pray for all who suffer violence or the tragedy of natural disaster. Shield them and, God, motivate your church to care for them. We pray for children and for the defenseless. Holy One, safeguard them and strengthen your church to tend to them. We pray for elected officials and for civil servants. May your Spirit stir them to seek justice. God of justice, strengthen the church to hold them accountable.

Gracious God, you know our wounds, our troubles, and our needs even before we know them ourselves. As the traveller showed compassion to the wounded man, you offer mercy to us. We pray for those who are sick or in trouble. Comfort them with your grace, and empower your church to minister to them. Equip us to offer support for those who are near to us. God of hope, we lift up Jim and his family as they travel the long journey of

grief as they mourn Brenda's death. May they sense your nurturing Spirit with them. 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 immense challenges. Before we call, you answer, God. Before we speak, you know our words. Merciful God, accept our prayers, spoken and unspoken. May we sense your overflowing love 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'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'm gonna live so God can use me #648

To Go Forth In God's Name Commissioning and Benediction

May you be like trees planted by water to yield your fruit in its season, watched over and protected by God. May the blessing of God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit, nourish and sustain, surprise and strengthen you in faith and hope for this life and the life to come.

Amen

Postlude Amen #766

64 Be still and know that I am God

Be still and know that I am God. X3

I am the Lord that healeth thee. X3

In thee, O Lord, I put my trust. X3

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**

314 God is love: come heaven, adoring tune #371

God is love: come heaven, adoring; God is love: come earth, rejoice. Come creation, voices soaring, Sing exulting with one voice. God who laid the earth's foundation, God who spread the heavens above, God who breathes through all creation-- God is love, eternal love.

God is love, whose arms enfolding All the world in one embrace, With unfailing grasp are holding Every child of every race, And when human hearts are breaking Under sorrow's iron rod, All the sorrow, all the aching Wrings with pain the heart of God.

God is love, and though with blindness Sin afflicts all human life, God's eternal loving-kindness Guides us through all earthly strife. Sin and death and hell shall never O'er us final triumph gain; God is love: so love forever O'er the universe must reign.

648 I'm gonna live so God can use me

I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna live so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna work so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna pray so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime! I'm gonna sing so God can use me anywhere, Lord, anytime!

746 **What a friend we have in Jesus**

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What a friend we have in Jesus All our sins and griefs to bear; What a privilege to carry Everything to God in prayer. Oh, what peace we often forfeit, Oh what needless pain we bear, All because we do not carry Everything to God in prayer.

Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged: Take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful, Who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our every weakness: Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy-laden, Cumbered with a load of care? Precious Saviour, still our refuge: Take it to the Lord in Prayer. Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer; In his arms he'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.