

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD

2022 07 17

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield on the 17<sup>th</sup> 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: God is our light and our salvation

**All: Whom shall we fear?**

One: God has called us together

**All: and we have gathered**

One: We proclaim God's holy name

**All: Let us worship God together**

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

God of majesty and mystery, your love and purpose embrace the whole world. You invite us to meet you in the midst of the beauty and abundance of your creation. You call us to love each other to make your world a place of justice and compassion.

Jesus, you lived among humanity to show God's love for us. You taught God's truth and mercy. We confess there are times when we push you away. We cling to our familiar comforts as we resist your challenge to open our lives to others. We seek your mercy when we turn away from the path you set for us. We pray in the name of Christ. Amen

Hear the good news! God's forgiveness shines into the world and the darkness scatters. Jesus knows our every strength ... our every weakness, and loves us still. We are called to the promise of God's amazing grace. Thanks be to God. Amen. May the peace of Jesus the Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you. **And also with you.**

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

**Hymn                      Take my life, and let it be                      #637**  
**To Hear The Word Of God**

**Prayer For Illumination**

God of wisdom, by the leading of your Spirit, open our minds to receive new insight from familiar stories. Open our hearts to grasp deeper truth, revealed through the Scriptures, and through Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE**

TANAKH*	Genesis 18:1–10a	[B#14/W#15]
HISTORICAL	Psalms 15	[B#495/W#546]
EPISTLE	Colossians 1:15–28	[B#200/W#213]
GOSPEL	Luke 10:38–42	[B#72/W#73]

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

**Two sisters**

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 wonder, do you ever jump to conclusions? You see or hear something and presume you know what it is. Your friend starts to share news and you jump to the end. Then, if you listen, you may discover the story is quite different from what you anticipated.

We hear news from PWS&D and Presbyterian Sharing... and sometimes I wonder if we are really taking in the story that is shared. We gather food for the foodbank and I wonder how much thought is given to the needs and the circumstance of the people who receive the food hampers. It is when we take in the fuller story, when we actively listen, that it is possible to have questions bubble up. Our tendency as people is to fill in the blanks with our experience and our presumptions. We miss an awful lot when we jump to conclusions. There are some famous stories about responding too quickly. You may recall the story about the radio broadcast of the ‘war of the worlds’. On October 30, 1938, radio listeners across the U.S. heard a startling report of mysterious creatures and terrifying war machines moving toward New York City. The broadcast was Orson Welles' adaptation of "The War of the Worlds." Later in 1975, the movie “The night that panicked America” recreated the impact of that 1938 broadcast. The young Orson Welles adapted H.G.

Wells' novel "The War of the Worlds" into a radio play. His production did such a realistic job that many listeners believed Martians had invaded the United States. The story was taken out of context, yet, it is helpful to know that the great depression had affected most lives throughout the thirties and there were ongoing reports of atrocities in Germany. There can be a tendency to take information and stories out of context. Too often a complex situation becomes reduced to a simple stereotype. An example might be the opioid crisis. The opioid problem is so severe it is the focus of the PCC July Social Action Spotlight. I am curious about your thoughts and reactions with addiction issues. Did you know that Canada has the second highest rate of opioid use? Opioids are used to treat pain. The medications include codeine, fentanyl, morphine, oxycodone, hydromorphone, and medical heroin. Between 2016 and 2021, more than 26,600 people in Canada died from an opioid-related overdose. The problem increased during the pandemic. There were increased numbers of opioid-related deaths and hospitalizations during the pandemic. This drug crisis affects people from all walks of life. The 2018 Presbyterian General Assembly concluded:

"Responses to the opioid crisis need to remove shame and [stigma] and address the suffering of people, caused by numerous factors that are often beyond the control of any one person, community or level of government and will only be effectively addressed when all parties work together to respond to a multi-faceted public health crisis"

We are encouraged to talk and pray about substance use and addiction here at our church. There are valuable educational resources available online on the Social Action Hub on our national website. It is recommended that churches have a naloxone kit on-site. Training is available online and the protocol is part of the kit. The kits are available at no cost from pharmacies. Speak with me if you would like to know more about this important initiative. We are urged to grapple with the complexity of this issue as it may be affecting family, friends, and neighbours. We are reminded that Jesus' ministry was marked by fellowship with people, no matter their circumstances, and by healing. When we are able to let go of our presumptions we discover the complexity of the people affected by addiction.

In today's gospel passage, Luke took us into the home of a family who supported Jesus. This is a familiar rather short passage. Did you notice a familiar response to the story as we heard that Jesus was going to the home of Mary, Martha, and their brother Lazarus. This story has often been shared from the perspective that Martha was wrong in being concerned with her distractions and duties. Was she scolded by Jesus? What was Jesus telling Martha in this brief encounter?

Joel Green wrote, "Jesus' encounter with Martha and Mary clarified the nature of the welcome he seeks not only for himself but also for his messengers—that is, for all who participate in the drawing near of God's dominion" From this, Cynthia A. Jarvis wrote, "... a community that is hospitable to Christ is a community marked by the attention the community gives to God's word. A church that has been led to be "worried and distracted by many things" inevitably will be a community that dwells in the shallows ..." How do we, as a community and as individuals, respond to Christ?

We explore scripture together each week to seek deeper understanding. Our questions are pondered. In this congregation we actively seek understanding during our worship services, in conversations, and through group discussions. Many of you set time aside each day to pray and meditate. You read scripture. In book discussions we study writers who offer diverse perspectives on how this ancient text relates to our lives. We are engaging in interesting discussions around the Alpha videos with Nicky Gumble and others. In all of our discussions there is space to simply be and space to speak. There are always many questions, sometimes we have the comfort of answers and other times the questions remain open.

This passage in Luke lingers with me. There are times when I will think of Mary and Martha ... and that likely occurs when I'm rushing about with many tasks on my to do list. In the hectic rush to get things done I sometimes think of these women. I hear Jesus encouraging Martha pause, to consider the priority, the real priority of the moment. I try to pause. To sit and to pray and to listen.

Jesus encouraged Martha to reconsider her priorities. I wonder if you might imagine this slightly different perspective with their discussion. Martha was engaged in a role assigned by her culture. She was carrying out the tradition of hospitality demonstrated by Abraham when he welcomed three guests to his tent. In the Genesis passage, Abraham turned to

Sarah to assist with the work of hospitality and Martha expected Mary to do the same. Is it possible that Jesus was encouraging Martha to let go of expectations, her expectations and cultural expectations, to let go of the worry and to focus on the priority of being with Jesus. In this shift of perspective the focus settles on the present moment. In our own lives, this shift into the present moment allows us to be open to the Spirit. Our eyes and ears can become more attuned to the actual work that we are being called to do.

Theologian John Shea wrote, that in English Mary has chosen "the better part,". In Greek the word is translated as "good." Mary chose the "good" part. She chose to connect with God. Perhaps this story of two sisters will encourage us to focus on God with our full attention. James A Wallace wrote, " This same Lord calls us to focus on him when we gather on Sunday, to move from our place of being "worried and distracted by many things" to one where we are in touch with the one thing needed, the good part that will not be taken away. There we will connect with the source that brings both peace and energy to all our undertakings." Perhaps this could help us to gather here, in the sanctuary, on Sunday morning. A place set aside for people to gather to worship God. A place where the distractions of everyday life can be set aside to worship God.

Praise be to God for visions and the movement of the Spirit among us.

**Hymn                      God of the sparrow                      #307**

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

**QUOTE** Money is but one venue for generosity. Kindness is an even more valuable currency. Alan Cohen

The stories of Scripture remind us there are many ways to give in gratitude for God's goodness to us. Whatever we have to give, let us give joyfully and generously, trusting God to do more than we can ask or imagine, in the name of Christ.

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

Let us join in prayer:

Loving God, we trust your Spirit is at work calling goodness forward, supporting love, and creating justice even in situations that seem hopeless to us. God with an open heart, open our hearts to you.

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In your teachings we discover that Martha offered the work of her hands to Jesus and Mary offered her close attention. We bring the gifts we have to offer to you. Bless and multiply them. O holy One, show us how they can best serve your purposes in our church and in your world.

God of the world and all its peoples: we pray today for those who lift up their voices in troubled nations, for those working to bring justice and negotiate peace, for those bringing aid to the vulnerable, and those offering shelter to all who flee violence.

God, we pray for you to inspire the authorities, politicians, and the wealthy to hear the voices that cry out in pain and desperation. We pray for our community and our neighbours through the world. Many lives have been disrupted by the pandemic and by economic realities beyond their control. We lift up those who depend on reliable weather and those who fear fire, flood, and drought. We pray for communities that lack safe drinking water and adequate medical care.

May your Spirit draw near to all in deep need. 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.

God of hope, we lift up Jim and his family as they travel the long journey of grief as they mourn Brenda's death. We lift up Ernie and his family as they mourn Leslie's death. May they sense your Spirit with them.

We ask you 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

Lord of all power

#626

To Go Forth In God's Name

Commissioning and Benediction

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

Go in peace. May the God of reconciliation bless you, may the grace of our Jesus Christ keep you, and may the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen you this day and forevermore.

**Postlude**

**Amen**

**#766**

**64 Be still and know**

Be still and that I am God x3

I am the Lord that health thee x3

In thee, O Lord, I put my trust x 3

**#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.

**307 God of the sparrow, God of the whale**

God of the sparrow God of the whale God of the swirling stars how does the creature say awe how does the creature say praise

God of the earthquake God of the storm God of the trumpet blast how does the creature cry woe how does the creature cry save

God of the rainbow God of the cross God of the empty grave how does the creature say grace how does the creature say thanks

God of the hungry God of the sick God of the prodigal how does the creature say care how does the creature say life

God of the neighbour God of the foe God of the pruning hook how does the creature say love how does the creature say peace

God of the ages God near at hand God of the loving heart how do your children say joy how do your children say home

**637 Take my life, and let it be consecrated**

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Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee; take my moments and my days: let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love; take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice and let me sing always, only for my King; take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold: not a mite would I withhold; take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine; take my heart: it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love; my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store; take myself and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

### **626 Lord of all power**

Lord of all power, I give you my will in joyful obedience your tasks to fulfil. Your bondage is freedom, your service is song, and, held in your keeping, my weakness is strong.

Lord of all wisdom, I give you my mind, rich truth that surpasses our knowledge to find. What eye has not seen and what ear has not heard is taught by your Spirit and shines from your word.

Lord of all bounty, I give you my heart; I praise and adore you for all you impart: your love to inspire me, your word to obey, I walk in your freedom to the end of the way.

Lord of all being, I give you my all. If e'er I disown you, I stumble and fall; but, sworn in glad service your word to obey, I walk in your freedom to the end of the way.