

Prayer of Approach

O God how great you are. On the first day of the week we commemorate your creation of the world and all that is in it. Thank you for the light which wakes us morning by morning, and for the greater light which shines in Jesus Christ. On the first day of the week you raised Jesus from the dead. Raise us with him to a new quality of faith and life. On the first day of the week you sent your spirit on your disciples. Renew the spirit in us day by day Amen. May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield on the 31st 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 God of mercy God of grace #39

CALL TO WORSHIP [responsive]

One: We are children of God, learning to walk

All: Day by day, we are learning to be the church

One: God is a loving parent, teaching us to walk

All: God loves us, leads us, and feeds us

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON¹

Almighty God who rules over all and makes all things new we confess in thy presence, our sinful nature prone to evil and slothful in good, and all our shortcomings and offences against thee. Thou alone knowest how often we have sinned, in wandering from thy ways, in wasting thy gifts, in forgetting thy love. O Lord have pity upon us, who are ashamed and sorry for all wherein we have pleased thee. Teach us to hate our errors cleanse us from our secret faults, and forgive our sins for the sake of our dear son and Saviour.

¹ PCC Worship Planner Advent December 2021 Year C

Father send thy purifying grace into our hearts, that we may live in thy light and walk in thy ways Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Let us receive the promise of grace and the assurance of pardon given to all who believe and repent: This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Praise be to God. May the peace of Jesus the Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn Great is thy faithfulness #324

To Hear The Word Of God

Prayer For Illumination

O Lord our God, who has given thy word to be a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path grant us grace to receive thy truth in faith and love, that by it we may be prepared unto every good word and work, to the glory of thy name: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Tanakh*	Genesis 1:24-31	[B#1/W#1] ²
Epistle	Romans 8:1-4	[B#157/W#164]
Gospel	John 3:16; 5:22-24	[B#94/W#96]
Gospel	John 5:22-24	[B#96/W#99]

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

Hymn Blessed Assurance #867

Message... Marten Dykstra

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.

This morning I would like to speak on a very well-known verse in the Bible, a popular verse, a favorite verse, and really the basis of our Christian faith. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only son, that whosoever believes in him shall not die but have everlasting faith. So let's take a look at the dynamics of each of these phrases.

1) For God so loved the world:

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

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In Genesis 1 after the sixth day of creation it says, and God was well pleased ya think- have you ever seen pictures of all the other planets Mercury Venus Mars Jupiter Saturn Uranus Neptune Pluto they consist of gas, rocks, craters dust, and then there is earth. Snow capped mountains, rivers waterfalls, land to grow grasses, grains, fruits, vegetables, trees of green and bright colors in the fall. Oceans full of fish, and land to support animals and man and women.

For God so loved----How much is so much? How many descriptive words can we come up with? If you remember the story of Jesus preaching on the shores of Galilee to the 5 thousand, and their might have been more since unfortunately the didn't count women and children and the crowd is getting hungry, and a boy is spotted with a basket of 5 loaves and 2 fishes. Jesus says bring the food unto me. And this miracle, this miraculous event takes place where enough food is created to feed the entire crowd. There was more, it was overflowing, it was continual it was replenishing, more and more, And so it is with God's love. For God is the source of Love. He does not need to be mandated he is Love

2) 2nd phrase: That he gave his only begotten Son

Right from when the angel sang out to the shepherds; For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ the Lord, all were welcomed to come and worship. Sometimes I think born in a stable, laid in a manger, our King, our Savior, should have been in a palace with Kings and Queens, Monarchs and royalties. But you see there was to be no intimidation with palace gates and security guards, All can come freely and worship. Not just Wise Men but shepherds also. All of us our encouraged to come and worship.

Truck drivers, Pilots, Teachers,

Farmers, Stay at home Moms Retailers. It matters not your vocation, but all our encouraged to worship God's gift to Mankind. He gave his only begotten Son. Not to judge us, or criticize, but to show us and teach us how to live.

3) 3rd phrase That whosoever believes in him;

Now we really get to the climax of the verse. In the 4 gospels Matthew writes about a promised Savior -A great teacher, Sermon on the mount, The Beatitudes. Mark and Luke write about Jesus as the son of Man healing the sick, feeding the hungry, blessing the poor, talking to crowds as we mentioned on the shores of Galilee, but also to individuals, the woman at the

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well, Zacheus in the tree and so on. Where John were this verse is found emphasizes Believe, Believe, Believe. There is said to be 133 verses with the word believe in the book of John. If we look back at John 5:24 it says for those who believe there is no judgement. Romans 8:1 says there is no Condemnation for those who are in Christ. Yet I recall Billy Graham a great evangelist saying you will stand before the Lord and you will be judged. and he is right . So just to clarify this and show there is no contradiction, we will be judged do you believe (that Christ died on the cross for our sins. So for those who believe in Christ shall not be judged on our earthly mistakes, when repenting and asking for forgiveness sort of a 2 part thing. Do you believe, then the opportunity of salvation with our sins being washed away.

Just a few remarks on Billy Graham who was great evangelist. When being in North Carolina I saw him interviewed on a local TV channel were he was asked what's your greatest fear, and his head bowed down I thought he might say the famine in the world. And again he was asked Mr Graham what is your greatest fear, still no response. I thought maybe he will say how people have drifted away from the Lord. And again he was asked Mr Graham Bill what is your greatest fear, and his head came up and their is a tear streaming down his cheek--My greatest fear is that I haven't done enough for my Lord. Another instant at his funeral where his daughter spoke of all the difficulties in her life, her Mom and Dad invited her to spend some time to come home. She drove across 5 states tearful and nervous. Its not easy when you Dad is Billy Graham she said. When I pulled into the driveway I started to cry and getting out of the car here I was a 50 year old shaking with nerves and Mom and Dad came down to meet with arms spread saying we Love you Kind of like the story of prodigal son.

4) 4th phrase ; Shall not perish

I'm sure many of us have had a difficult time in losing a family relative, friend, fellow worker and definitely not an easy time. Even in my own case very emotional My younger sister before passing said Mart Am I going to die. My response was not likely your eyebrow will make it, or your fingernail or that silly little pimple behind your ear. But your spirit, your person that will go on. When you talk to me or to others or to your self when you sing in the choir or to yourself that's what carries on . And she looked at me and said

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so what's wrong with that silly little pimple behind my ear. And we both laughed. It's our soul, our spirit, that shall not perish.

5) And the 5th phrase Have Everlasting life

Not much to expand on really It's a time frame that goes for ever It doesn't finish. It continues forever in the glory of the Lord, What a gift What a opportunity What a reward Salvation forever For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son that who so ever believes in him shall not perish but have everlasting life Amen

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO THE LORD

QUOTE For it is in giving that we receive. Francis of Assisi – friar, deacon, mystic
When God made us in his own image, He gave us a mind that we may know, a will that we may decide, and a heart that we may desire and love. What great potential for good.

BLESSING OF GIFTS & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us join in prayer:

O God in whom we live and move and have our being We come to you in prayer in midsummer, thankful for the occasions we have enjoyed so far to catch up with family and friends; to travel for recreation and restoration; to enjoy the beauty of nature in landscapes we love. Thank you for every moment of joy we treasure.

Abundant God, we bring you our gifts in gratitude for your generosity. Bless and multiply these gifts in Jesus' name, so that they can spread your goodness in the world and touch lives of those in need, for Christ's sake.

Today we remember those for whom this summer is difficult: for communities cleaning up after storms or worried about wildfire; for areas facing drought or the effects of flooding; for those worried about uncertainty in the economy and the impact of the climate crisis.

May each one find courage to face tomorrow in your company,

O God, Jesus faced demanding crowds as he traveled, and the pressure of critics, whatever he did. We pray for all those who have not found rest this summer: Those

juggling more demands and fewer resources at work or at home Those whose work or plans for the future are uncertain Those fleeing conflict and seeking new homes in despair and hope. May they know your strength and assurance day by day,

O God, we need the embrace of your presence, each in our own way.

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Bring healing and peace to our lives and to this world you love. 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 through their grief. 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.

Open our eyes and our hearts so that we may offer healing and peace to others in the name of Christ Jesus who taught us to pray together

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 Onward Christian soldiers #487

To Go Forth In God's Name Commissioning and Benediction

May your joys be as deep as the ocean And your troubles as light as the clouds
May Gods face shine upon you give you health and safety In the week to come Amen.

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.

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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.

God of mercy, God of grace #39

God of mercy, God of grace, Show the brightness of your face. Shine upon us, Saviour, shine; Fill your world with light divine, And your saving health extend Unto earth's remotest end.

Let the people praise you, Lord; Be by all that live adored. Let the nations shout and sing Glory to their gracious King; At your feet their tribute pay, And your holy will obey.

Let the people praise you, Lord; Earth shall then its fruits afford. Unto us your blessing give; We to you devoted live, All below and all above, One in joy and light above.

Great is thy faithfulness #324

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**

Blessed Assurance #687

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh what a foretaste of glory divine! Heir of salvation, purchase of God, Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain This is my story; this is my song: praising my Saviour all the day long;
this is my story; this is my song: praising my Saviour all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, Visions of rapture now burst on my sight; Angels descending bring from above, echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **Refrain**

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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

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Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Saviour am happy and blest, Watching and waiting, looking above, Filled with his goodness, lost in his love. **Refrain**

Onward Christian Soldiers #487

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war, With the cross of Jesus going on before!
Christ the royal Master, leads against the foe; Forward into battle, see his banners go.

Refrain Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war
with the cross of Jesus going on before!

Crowns and thorns may perish, kingdoms rise and wane, But the Church of Jesus constant will remain;
Gates of hell can never 'gainst that church prevail; We have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail. **Refrain**

Onward, then, ye people! Join our happy throng; Blend with ours your voices in the triumph song:
"Glory, laud and honour unto Christ the King!" This through countless ages we with angels sing. **Refrain**