

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD

2022 08 07

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield on August 7<sup>th</sup>.

**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: Praise the Lord! The Lord will never leave us alone.

All: Let the name of the Lord be known throughout the earth, now and forever.

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

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. 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

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

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*	Proverbs 11 24-31	[B#594/W#658] <sup>2</sup>
Tanakh	Psalms 92	[B#548/W#607]
Epistle	2Corinthians 6-15	[B#181/W#191]
Gospel	Mark 12: 41-44	[B#50/W#50]
Gospel	John 12: 1-7	[B#106/W#109]

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

**Hymn Brother Sister ,let me serve you #635**

**Message...**

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.

**Generosity Resulting in a Life of Joy**

What is generosity? Generosity is not what is in your bank account to give, it's what is in your heart, and when there is goodness in your heart it will manifest itself in generosity. We think of generosity with financial giving, because that catches our attention, and what is asked of us. But generosity has a much fuller definition. Respect, courtesy, patience and love are all things which express a goodness from the heart (a generous spirit). Each day we are given a opportunity to exercise generosity of the spirit. To respond to impatience with patience, to reply to a hurried or thoughtless comment, with an expression of understanding, to overlook what you don't like in someone so you can seek and find what you do like. This doesn't mean you tolerate every thing that comes your way. As children were fiercely protective of our toys. As teenagers we're more interested in fairness than benevolence. As adults were often so weighed down with financial worry that we find it difficult to be openhanded.

The apostle James said every good gift and every perfect gift is from above the father of light, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning James 1:17. Our God is a generous God(John 3:16). Since we are made in his image generosity is within our reach. In our first story Mark 12 Jesus is sitting near the temple treasury observing the people as they give their offerings. Each treasury had a large horn coming out of the top so when people placed their

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<sup>2</sup> Page #'s for pew bibles with Blue or White edged pages

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money and it funneled down into the receptacle, some would place many small coins so that when going through the brass horn the sound would be heard all through the temple.

On this particular day Jesus watched many people cast in large amounts of money to be seen and heard by others. But then a poor woman came in and quietly made her meager offering. In spite of her poverty this woman wanted to give. She did not hide her poverty but out of Love for her God she gave what she had. In the story Jesus tells specifically what the poor widow gave. The two coins is significant. She could have kept one for herself but she does not. And verses 43 and 44 Jesus points out to his disciples, this poor widow has put in more than all those who have given to the treasury. For the others put in out of their abundance, but out of her poverty she put in all that she had.

We should not read into this that all wealthy donors of the day were evil. Some come with the right heart and gave for the right reasons, to honor God and contribute to the upkeep of the temple but Jesus saw that day those who gave for show, motivated by pride and a desire to be recognized and applauded. In God's eyes the total was less valuable than the 2 coins. Jesus indicated that the thing of most importance is not how much is given, but the extent of which is given is sacrificial. What we give sacrificially were putting ourselves (at least in the eyes of the world's perspective) in jeopardy. We're giving what we need, so then we become more like the widow lady.

Our second story in John 12 takes place in Bethany, the town where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead. On this occasion a supper was hosted in the house of Simon the leper, no doubt a man the Jesus had healed from leprosy and Jesus was the guest of honour. Matthew Mark and John all record how during dinner a woman interrupted this in a act of generosity. According to John's account Lazarus's sister Mary took a very costly oil and anointed Jesus feet and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with fragrance of the oil (John 12:3) The disciples murmured about the extravagance of this generosity since the oil would be worth 25,000 in today's finance. Remember though God's math defies anything we know about numbers. It's the sacrifice that is noted. A sure story of extravagant generosity. And all this generosity leads to Joy. And there is a difference between Joy and happiness. Happiness is external. It's about what happens to you depending on circumstances, behaviors and attitudes. Things we think will make us happy, we never have enough of. We want to be thinner, prettier, richer. We want a good job, than we want a better one. Our culture permeates the greed for more will never make us happy fulfilled or thankful. The good news is that the joy of Christ is something

we have access to and we must choose. A true joy is forming active relationships with other Christians as we care for each other in friendship.

I remember as a young boy when entering the church, the holy temple, we where to be quiet and reverent. Over the years people would complain about members behaving irreverently when they entered the worship centre prior to the service. Referencing to greeting, visiting, chatter and laughter--destroying the somber atmosphere for authentic worship. I humbly disagree. The chatter and laughter is the joyful noise of connection and which binds the church together.

Romans 12:15 says Rejoice with those who rejoice. God wants us to be joyful. When we are in a right relationship with God, he rejoices. Jesus was completely comfortable with joyous events In fact the first miracle of Jesus took place at a wedding celebration. One day he healed a crippled woman, and she stood up and praising the Lord, Luke 13;13. The Samaritan Leper healed by Jesus returned to thank him praising God with a loud voice. Luke 17:15. When the Lame man at the beautiful gate was healed, he got up and went into the temple walking, leaping and praising God. Acts 3:8. Describing these moments in the life of Jesus, Paul writes, for the kingdom of God is --- righteousness and peace and joy in the holy spirit Romans 14:17 We have the righteousness and peace down but need to express the joy. John 5:11 says These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may remain in you and that your joy may be full. Generosity resulting in a life of Joy.

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

**QUOTE** Like good stewards of the grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. 1 Peter 4:10

The sacrifice that honours God is a thankful heart. So let us present our offering today with thankful hearts, grateful for all God's goodness to us.

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

Let us join in prayer:

Living God, we give you thanks for life and breath to follow you all our days. Thank you for the gift of faith that gives us courage when things are difficult, and for the encouragement we find in the faith of others we meet. Inspire us to remain loyal to you as our true Source of life and hope.

God of all creation, through your goodness we have these gifts to share. Bless what we offer for your purposes. Give us courage to offer ourselves more fully to you, so that our lives bring you honour and glory through Christ our Lord.

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Faithful God, thank you for guiding us when we cannot see the path ahead. Thank you for showing us a way through our challenges when we cannot see a solution on our own. Renew our trust in you in these days when so much is confusing and uncertain.

We pray for those who wonder if they can rely on you, and for those who are afraid for the future. Give them courage to listen for your call and follow your leading. We pray for those who doubt. Give them courage to explore those doubts and questions and so discover renewed trust in your promises. We pray for those who are impatient. Bless them in times of waiting for what comes next and fill them with kindness.

We pray for those who have chosen a path that has led to trouble. Turn their hearts towards you and lead them in ways of goodness, justice, and generosity. We pray for your Church in these days when so much is changing. Give us wisdom to discern ways to reach out to our community, and faithfulness to keep following Jesus into the future you hold in your hands.

We lift up all those who are on our hearts as they face immense challenges. 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.

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**

**To God be the glory**

**#350**

**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 God's 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 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.

**357 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds**

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer's ear It soothes his sorrows heals his wounds  
And drives away his fear

It makes the wounded spirit whole And calms the troubled breast 'Tis manna to the hungry soul  
And to the weary rest

Dear name the rock on which I build My shield and hiding place My never-failing treasury Filled  
with boundless stores of grace

Jesus my shepherd brother friend My Prophet Priest and King My Lord my life my way my end  
Accept the praise I bring

Weak is the effort of my heart And cold my warmest thought But when I see Thee as Thou art  
I'll praise Thee as I ought

Till then I would Thy love proclaim With every fleeting breath And may the music of Thy name  
Refresh my soul in death

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**635 Brother Sister ,let me serve you**

Brother, sister, let me serve you; Let me be as Christ to you; Pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey, And companions on the road; We are here to help each other  
Walk the mile and bear the load.

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I will hold the Christ-light for you In the night-time of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you,  
Speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping; When you laugh I'll laugh with you; I will share your joy and  
sorrow, Till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, We shall find such harmony, Born of all we've known together  
Of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you; Let me be as Christ to you; Pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

### **350 To God be the glory**

To God be the glory, who great things has done! God so loved the world!—freely sending the  
Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in.

**Refrain** Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear God's voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!

Oh come to the Father through Jesus the Son,

and give God the glory, who great things has done.

Oh perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God, that when  
the offender, repenting, believes, through Jesus' atonement, full pardon receives! **Refrain**

Great things God has taught us, great things God has done and great our rejoicing through  
Jesus the Son, but purer and higher and greater will be our wonder, our gladness, when Jesus  
we see! **Refrain**