

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD

2022 08 14

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield on the 14th of August .

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]

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON¹

God of majesty and mystery, we gather today with that great cloud of witnesses who have worshiped you in song and service for centuries. Our praise joins theirs as we wait for your Spirit to guide us. We praise you for your great love and mercy, revealed in Christ, at work in us through the Spirit. Holy One, we offer you all glory and honour in our worship, seeking to renew our faith and commitment to serve you in the world that belongs to you.

Attentive God, you care for us like a gardener tends a beautiful vineyard, blessing us with what we need to be fruitful. Yet we confess we fail to live up to your hopes for us. Instead of love and kindness, we produce anger and resentment. Instead of generosity, we produce greed and jealousy. Forgive us, O God. In your mercy, renew in us the fruit of the Spirit through the grace of Christ. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news! Although we have not always been faithful to God, God remains faithful to us. Through the gift of the Spirit, God renews us to live faithfully in Jesus' name. 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

How firm a foundation

#685

To Hear The Word Of God

Prayer For Illumination

Spirit of God, open our minds and hearts to receive God's wisdom in the Scriptures. Show us how to live out that wisdom today and tomorrow, as we follow Jesus, who is for us God's Living Word. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Tanakh*	Jeremiah 23:23–29	[B#726/W#807] ²
Historical	Psalms 82	[B#542/W#599]
Epistle	Hebrews 11:29–12:2	[B#226/W#243]
Gospel	Luke 12:49–56	[B#75/W#77]

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

Unity with conflict?

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.

Conflict is a part of everyday life. Conflict can arise out of different perspectives and experiences. At its best, conflict can help us to resolve problems and allow people to make their way through challenging situations in new ways.

Sometime conflict arises when people focus only on their needs and wants, rather than the good of the larger community. Have you heard of the term ... NIMBY, not in my backyard? The NIMBY syndrome occurs when people oppose a project in their neighborhood because they believe that the development is hazardous or undesirable in their area and they simply want the project moved to a different location. They care only about the impact on their local community.³

In his teachings Jesus draws our attention to God's radical will which is often in conflict with our desire to hold onto the familiar. There can be a sense of sense of safety and comfort in the routines and structures that we create. The familiar routines can be efficient and productive, providing a sense of control in chaotic world.

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

³ <https://study.com/academy/lesson/nimby-not-in-my-backyard-definition.html>

How are we to understand this reading from Luke where Jesus stated that he brings fire to the earth, division and not peace? Does this passage stating that parents will be against their children and children against their parent sit alongside the parable of reconciliation between father and a lost son? In other passages, Jesus blessed the sick with peace when they were healed.⁴ He taught the disciples to offer greetings of peace in their journeys to share the gospel.⁵

Perhaps the tension of this passage can be seen from a broader perspective with the whole gospel story between humans and God. Could we understand this conflict as an integral aspect of what can occur with the changes that take place with Christ's work. The scriptures tell of conflict within families, communities, and nations. Conflict is a constant theme. The story of the Prodigal Son is a parable about troubled relationships. The younger son and his father are in conflict and they are reconciled. When one relationship is healed a rupture occurs in the relationship between the father and the older son. When the father reconciled with the younger son the relationship with the older son was impacted. Jesus speaks to the reality of conflict in relationships. The spectrum of human emotions are explored with jealousy, anger, revenge, and resistance to change. Conflict can be overwhelming and destructive.

In his own community Jesus, known as Joseph's son, would become an outsider⁶. The definition of family was expanded when Jesus told them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it".⁷ This imagery described a collapse of their culture. In the social realities of the first-century the structure of the household was a mirror of the larger culture and society. The individual identity was intricately linked within the hierarchy of the household and was reflected in the larger society. Jesus taught that their identity, allegiance, and social status would no longer be determined by their place within the family of origin. Rather, all are God's children. The hierarchy was flattened, describe in the letter to the Galatians, "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."⁸

⁴ Luke 7:50; 8:48

⁵ 10:5-6

⁶ Luke 4:22

⁷ 8:21

⁸ Galatians 3:28

Jesus clearly stated that he would not recognize the social values and structures that people created when it served injustice and oppression. He identified the problematic issues related to structures that favoured the powerful and the wealthy, often at a high cost to the powerless.

The current issue of the Connections newspaper provides diverse articles related to the August Social Action Spotlight on Conflict and Human Movement. Are you aware that millions of people are forced to leave their homes due to conflict and violence every year? More than 82 million people were displaced at the end of 2020. The war in Ukraine has added more than 12 million people. To put that into perspective the population of Canada is a little over 38 million. The number of displaced people in the world is more than twice the population of our entire country.

Long-term solutions are a challenge, in part, because of intense political conflicts, violence and instability. A significant issue relates to the fact that the majority of the forcibly displaced are helped by low-income countries. This in turn strains the communities and their resources. In response to the complex needs, Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) provides food assistance and humanitarian support in times of uncertainty and distress.

In their website, Kairos notes that “Canada’s foreign policy can be seen to be complicit in human displacement. Migrants flee poverty, often violations of economic, social and cultural rights, at home, only to find themselves in precarious living and working conditions in Canada. Without permanent residency status, migrants have restricted access to social services and few guarantees of their labour rights. Immigration policies, rather than addressing real labour needs, restrict opportunities for residency while encouraging unstable and potentially exploitative migrant work contexts.”⁹

You help to financially support PWS&D through the congregational offering, we learn more about the missional efforts with the Mission Moment, and dig a little deeper with the Connections newspaper. Some of you may be exploring the online materials with the Presbyterian Church and Kairos. I’m curious about your willingness to take a next step. Are you interested in discussing the articles in the current Connections? Could we explore the KAIROS’ migrant justice advocacy initiatives together? In his teachings, Jesus spoke

⁹ <https://www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/migrant-justice>

of the systemic issues that served injustice and oppression. We are called to be aware of our part to recognize the needs within God's creation. Praise be to God for visions and the movement of the Spirit among us.

Hymn **We are One in the Spirit** **#471**

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO THE LORD

QUOTE Giving is always a blessing; generosity is always life-changing. Todd Stocker – author, life coach

Thankful for the good gifts God gives us in Christ and in creation, we present to God the fruit of our labour for God's work in the church and the world.

BLESSING OF GIFTS & PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Let us join in prayer:

God of mercy, through the centuries you have led your people through challenges and hardship. We bring our prayers for the world to you confident of your faithfulness.

We pray for the mission of your church, that it may plant and grow faithful people to serve in love. Faithful God, bless the gifts we offer to you today. Use them to plant seeds of faith, hope and love in the world, so that your goodness will grow among your people, and your name be honoured for Christ's sake.

We pray for the world, that your justice will prevail. We pray for all who suffer, that your healing may be revealed by the actions of those who care. We pray for your creation, that with the guidance of your Spirit we will take action to protect the earth.

We remember before you those who have died and we pray for those who will die today, that they may rest in your divine light. Through Christ, with Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever.

God of hope, we lift up Jim and his family as they travel the long journey of grief. We lift up Ernie and his family as they continue to grieve. 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 Great is thy faithfulness #324

To Go Forth In God's Name Commissioning and Benediction

Christ walked in faith that we might follow in the way of peace. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. May Christ grant you the perseverance and courage to follow him in all justice, righteousness, and peace.

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.

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

We are One in the Spirit #471

We are one in the spirit, we are one in the Lord, We are one in the spirit, we are one in the Lord, And we pray that all unity will one day be restored, And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, And they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand, And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land, And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, And they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side, We will work with each other, we will work side by side, And we'll guard each one's dignity and save each one's pride, And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, And they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come, And all praise to Christ Jesus, who is God's only Son, And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one, and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love, And they'll know we are Christians by our love.

How firm a foundation #685

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in God's excellent word! What more can God say than to you hath been said, To you that for refuge to Jesus have fled?

"Fear not, I am with thee; oh be not dismayed! For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid; I'll strengthen thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand Upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand.

"When through the deep waters I call thee to go, The rivers of woe shall not thee overflow, For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bless, And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress.

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“When through fiery trials thy pathway shall lie, My grace, all sufficient, shall be thy supply: The flames shall not hurt thee; I only design Thy dross to consume and thy gold to refine.

“The soul that on Jesus hath leaned for repose I will not— I will not— desert to his foes; That soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake, I’ll never—no, never— no, never forsake!”