

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD  
Anniversary Communion Sunday 2022 08 21

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August.

**Announcements**

Welcome special musical guest **Martha Lawrance**. We are delighted that she is sharing her musical talents with us on this Anniversary Sunday.

**Mission Moment:** Many issues have surfaced since the Taliban took control of Afghanistan in August 2021. They are struggling with rapidly spreading hunger and restrictions to education. International sanctions make it challenging to provide assistance in Afghanistan. When possible, PWS&D provides emergency food assistance with the support of Canadian Foodgrains Bank. PWS&D's partner in Afghanistan has established 12 education centres to safely support students while restrictions on education are in place. Your congregational support of PWS&D assist with these initiatives.

Our congregation recently donated 16 jars of peanut butter and 16 packs of rice. Our outreach to the **BAFB** continues with the current focus on coffee and tea.

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, Attiwoonderonk (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 rock, our refuge, our strength.

**All: God is our hope and our trust. Praise the Lord!**

**PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON Jer. 1:4-10**

God is compassionate and merciful. There is nothing we have done, or left undone, that is not already known by God. This gives us confidence, to be fully ourselves, that we can be fully forgiven. Join me in prayer... O God, our strength and refuge, we come together to worship you and praise your loving kindness. In your presence, may we rest from distractions to focus on your truth and goodness. You call us to live in relationship with you. Through the love of Jesus Christ, you repair our lives. Through the power of your Spirit, you engage us to serve you in the world. Receive our prayers and our praise this

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day, Creator, Christ, and Spirit, revive our hope and our energy and make us ready to answer your call.

O God, our judge and our hope, we confess we often turn away from your truth. We ignore your call to do justice. We seek your forgiveness when we say one thing in worship but do another in the ways we live. We seek your forgiveness when we ignore how others are treated and think only of ourselves. May your judgment awaken us and your mercy refresh us.

Assurance of Pardon

God is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Believe the good news of the Gospel. In Christ, God has offered us mercy and love. Receive God's forgiveness this day and share it with each other for Christ's sake.

May the peace of Jesus the Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you. **And also with you.**

**Special Music**

**Martha Lawrance, Harpist**

**To Hear The Word Of God**

**Prayer For Illumination**

God of justice and mercy, by your Holy Spirit inspire us through your word, and shape our lives according to your will. Through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

**Scripture**

<b>Tanakh*</b>	<b>Jeremiah 1:1-10</b>	<b>[B#698/W#776]<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>Tanakh*</b>	<b>Psalms 71:1-6</b>	<b>[B#632/W#588]</b>
<b>Epistle</b>	<b>Hebrews 12:18-29</b>	<b>[B#227/W#244]</b>
<b>Gospel</b>	<b>Luke 13:10-17</b>	<b>[B#76/W#78]</b>

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

**Before you were born**

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.

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<sup>1</sup> Page #'s for pew bibles with Blue or White edged pages

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Today we are marking the 165<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this congregation and the 91<sup>st</sup> year of this physical church building. Anniversaries provide us with an opportunity to look back over the years and reflect on the threads that have held the fabric of the congregation together, the changes that have taken place, and on the things that have remained constant.

With the easing of the pandemic families have begun to gather in larger groups again. When they gather for family re-unions there is often a discussion of family history, their genealogy. Does this sound familiar? A name is mentioned and the history of the family connections begin. The individual is linked to their immediate family, the family is connected to other relations, type of work they did, and geographical locations. Some of the details may be a little fuzzy. The individual becomes a part of the larger context and a fuller picture of who they are might emerge.

The historical reference points in scripture help the reader to place the story in context. This week the first few verses were not part of the original reading, however, it seemed relevant to include the details. The book of Jeremiah begins with historical references noting key people and events ... " Jeremiah son of Hilkiah, one of the priests at Anathoth in the territory of Benjamin. The word of the Lord came to him in the thirteenth year of the reign of Josiah son of Amon king of Judah, and through the reign of Jehoiakim son of Josiah king of Judah, down to the fifth month of the eleventh year of Zedekiah son of Josiah king of Judah, when the people of Jerusalem went into exile."

The divine call to Jeremiah God told him that Jeremiah was set apart from the beginning. The Hebrew Scriptures speak of the recurring reluctance to respond when called as a prophet. When God summoned a prophet they would often flee or deny the calling. There are many examples of this.

Moses was not eloquent. Jeremiah was not wise. Isaiah deemed himself unworthy, noting, "I am a man of unclean lips and I live among a people of unclean lips". Moses attempted to deny God's claim on his future. His final objection was, "Pardon your servant, Lord. I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor since you have spoken to your servant. I am slow of speech and tongue." His objections were met with solutions and Moses was able to follow God's directives. In Jeremiah's words, "Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy". Protests of being inadequate remind us that only God

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creates transformational work. God equips the called, in other words; God does not call the equipped. This can be a difficult concept for us in the 21st century.

God's response to Jeremiah echo through the centuries. "For surely I know the plans I have for you ... Before I formed you in the womb I knew you" There is great comfort with the assurance that we are known. The belief that you are known by God ... known since before you were formed... provides a deep sense of worth.

Looking into the past we witness the struggles, the joys, and how their actions continue to have an impact. History has many layers and there are many sources of information to consider.

Elias Mendes-Gomes, a student minister here in 2015, prepared an in-depth report with an historical account of Knox Bayfield. The earliest accounts of this congregation date back to 1857 when twelve Presbyterians were served communion by the Rev. Alexander MacKid. The congregation met in a grain warehouse owned by James Gairdner, Bayfield's postmaster. James and his brother Robert were the "driving forces in setting up a Presbyterian 'Kirk' in Bayfield." Auld Kirk means old church, a name used by the Gaelic Scots who settled in the area. The Auld Kirk congregation was absorbed into the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) in 1875. The roots of this congregation pre-date the formation of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Eventually the congregation outgrew their meeting place and joined with a portion of the Varna congregation to build a new sanctuary. The larger congregation worshiped at the Bayfield Town Hall until the new church building was opened on August 24, 1902. During the early 1900's there were 59 families, with 130 members. The report prepared by Elias Mendes-Gomes reminds the reader of the impact of the 1925 split within the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The Session minutes note that discussion of joining with the Methodist and Congregational churches began in 1912. In 1925 the Presbyterian Church in Canada split apart with a significant portion leaving to form the United Church. Here in Bayfield, the Presbyterian Church on highway 21 became the United Church in 1925.

A small, dedicated group continued to worship as Presbyterians and they gathered to worship at the Town Hall site. This church was built and financed through the dedicated efforts of the Bayfield congregation along with help from Presbyterian churches in surrounding towns. Included in this small group was a determined fellow by the name of

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George Dewar and his presence continues to be felt in this congregation. George's wife died young and he raised a daughter by the name of Eva Dewar. Eva would marry Bill Talbot and they would name their son Dewar. Dewar would be known by the nickname Bud. Bud married a beautiful young woman named Ruth Harris. Ruth belonged to the Holmesville United Church and became Presbyterian when she married Bud. For this I am very thankful. Ruth continues to be active in this congregation with her warmth and vast knowledge. Ruth and I talked this week so I could gather information about the history of her family in this church. She helped me to understand the history that George Dewar shared with her when she was a young woman. The faithful efforts of George Dewar continue to impact this congregation. Bud and Ruth both served as elders in the church and they both served as treasurers. They shared their passion for faithful service with their daughter Brenda. Brenda currently serves as an elder, Clerk of Session, and Presbytery Rep.

During a tumultuous time of the church and the world George Dewar faithfully worked with a small group to rebuild this congregation. There were likely times of doubt, times of frustration, and times of discouragement. Yet, they persisted in the call to this congregation. Over the years there have been many supporting the mission and outreach efforts of Knox Bayfield. This little church has lived through economic disasters, World Wars, other wars, and the COVID 19 pandemic. The congregation was a two-point or three-point charge from 1931 to 1969. At different points they were linked with the Hensall, Clinton, and Seaforth congregations. When the congregation was struggling and closure seemed imminent a creative Interim Moderator suggested that Bayfield become a summer ministry led by student ministers. It was a radical approach. Thankfully, their risk tolerance and faithful commitment encouraged its ministry to thrive. This congregation has nurtured and trained more than 37 student ministers. Into the 21<sup>st</sup> century this church has been led by a variety of pulpit supply, student ministers, and half-time ministers. The efforts of this little church with a big heart reaches into the hearts of many across this nation and the world.

We look back on 165 years as a continuous, faithful congregation. The history of this little church has been tumultuous, witnessing major wars, pandemics, major economic upheaval, and mind-boggling social change. Throughout the challenges the people bore

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faithful witness to the living Christ. Anniversaries are a a good time to acknowledge the past while moving faithfully into the future. Praise be to God for visions and the movement of the Spirit among us.

**To Respond In Faith**

**Special Music** Martha Lawrance, Harpist

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

**QUOTE** Happiness is not made by what we own. It is what we share. Rabbi Jonathan Sacks – philosopher, theologian, author

From the prophet Isaiah: when you spend yourselves in behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness, and your night will become like the noonday.<sup>2</sup> Offer to God the gifts of your life and labor and come to God with praise.

**Invitation to the Table**

We come to the table to remember our past, to be here in our present, and to be mindful of our future with Christ. We remember Jesus declared that people will come from east and west and north and south to sit at the table in God’s kingdom. Remember – the Risen Christ has spread this joyful feast for you. Taste and see that God is good.

**Hymn** Jesus calls us here to meet him # 528

**Affirmation of Faith**

**The Apostles’ Creed** [in unison] #539

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> Isa. 58:10

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**The Story of the Table**

When we gather at this table, we remember how this meal began, how it has promised hope and new life to those who follow Jesus from one generation to the next. Often, when we gather, we remember bread and wine shared around a table one solemn, holy night. Today we remember another day, the first Easter day, when Jesus appeared to friends along a road. But they were too sad and tired to recognise him. So he came to the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, then they recognised him.

As we break this bread and share this cup in the name of our Risen Christ, may our eyes be opened to recognize Jesus -present with us each day. And as Jesus offered thanks for the gifts of the earth, let us thank God for what we are about receive.

**The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving** [responsive] **#564**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

Holy One, on this joyful Easter day, we offer you our gratitude and praise with hearts full of love,

for we have seen your grace and power, rolling away the stone of sorrow and despair, bursting from the tomb in the gift of new life. And so we join our voices with all your creatures high and low, with all the saints before us and beside us, in heaven and on earth, to celebrate your resurrecting power. Therefore, with choirs of angels and archangels and with those of every time and place, we give you praise and glory. We join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Receive our praise and joy this day, O Christ. Your resurrection promises that there are new possibilities for us and our weary world. Even when we falter in discouragement, even if we hesitate at the news that your great love has come back to embrace us, You will not let us go.



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You call us by name to assure us of your love. You open your arms to welcome us back to your side. You spread this table for us, offering us not only the bread and wine, but your very self, present with us here and everywhere.

In joyful anticipation of sharing these gifts, we proclaim our faith And so, remembering Christ's life, love, death, and resurrection, we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Spirit of Life, rising in us and around us, breathe upon us now and upon this bread and wine. May they be for us Christ's body and blood, gifts of new life, with the power to make us whole. As this bread and wine become a part of us, may we become a part of you, Jesus, united with you and with each other in love. Dare us to live for justice and joy, trusting that all things will work together for good through the power of love that raised you from the dead, the power of the love we share in your name. And all the people say,

**Amen**

We boldly lift our voices to pray: **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.**

**Words of Institution and Invitation**

Jesus, in the night in which he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, 'This is my body, which is for you: do this in remembrance of me.' [eat] In the same way, he took the cup saying, 'This cup is the new covenant in my blood: as often as you drink of it, do this in remembrance of me.' [drink] We break this bread, the communion in Christ's body once broken. We drink this cup, communion in Christ's blood once shed. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

**Prayer after Communion**

Eternal God, we thank you for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us and we praise you for breaking into the world. Send us out in peace for we have seen, have heard, and been fed by your grace. Keep us faithful and alert for signs of Christ's coming and lead us to live lives marked by truth and light, in the name of Jesus we pray.

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Giving, life-giving God, with our gifts this day, receive our thanks and praise for the hope rising within us through the resurrection of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Bless the gifts we offer with your Holy Spirit so that they will bring hope to raise the hearts of those to whom we reach out in Jesus' holy name.

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, and Rob. We lift up all those who are on our hearts as they face immense challenges. 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 voices. Hear our prayers. Let there be joy in Jerusalem and peace among all nations. Let sounds of weeping and cries of distress turn to shouts of joy and laughter. Let infants grow and thrive; let the old dance like children. Let every person find a home and enjoy the fruit of their labor. Let the wolf and the lamb live in peace. We pray all this through Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Hymn**                      **Holy, holy, holy #623**

**To Go Forth In God's Name**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

Jer. 1:4-10; Ps. 71:1-6; Heb. 12:28,29

May the blessing of God, like a mother's love, sustain you. May the peace of God, like a strong fortress, protect you. May the hope of God, like a consuming fire, enlighten 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

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**#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**

**528                    Jesus calls us here to meet him**

Jesus calls us here to meet him As, through word and song and prayer, We affirm God's promised presence Where his people live and care. Praise the God who keeps his promise; Praise the Son who calls us friends; Praise the Spirit who, among us, To our hopes and fears attends.

Jesus calls us to confess him Word of Life and Lord of all, Sharer of our flesh and frailness Saving all who fail or fall. Tell his holy human story; Tell his tales that all may hear; Tell the world that Christ in glory Came to earth to meet us here.

Jesus calls us to each other: Found in him are no divides. Race and class and sex and language: Such are barriers he derides. Join the hands of friend and stranger; Join the hands of age and youth; Join the faithful and the doubter In their common search for truth.

Jesus calls us to his table Rooted firm in time and space, Where the church in earth and heaven Finds a common meeting place. Share his bread and wine, his body; Share the love of which we sing; Share the feast for saints and sinners Hosted by our Lord and King.

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