

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield on the 2nd day of October – World Communion Sunday .

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 (v 1-3) #727

CALL TO WORSHIP [responsive]

One We come as guests invited to a table

All We come to celebrate. We gather with his friends around the world

One Come and worship with hearts full of God's praise

All We worship God in gladness, for God's faithfulness endures forever.

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON¹

Gracious and Generous God, you spread a banquet table and make room for all to come: friend and foe, healed and sick, hopeful and hopeless. You feed our desires with goodness and fill our longing with steadfast love. We worship you with grateful praise, together with all your people, here and everywhere, who break bread at your table and who share the cup. We celebrate our life together in Christ and offer our love and loyalty to you, O God. God of mercy and mystery, when you invite us to your table, you ask us to come with clean hands and open hearts. You ask us to come in peace, seeking reconciliation with you and with each other. In this silence, we hand over to you the broken relationships, disagreements, and disappointments that keep us from living in your peace. Free us from the burdens we carry which we share in this silence so that we may be a source of peace in this troubled world:

silence

Amen.

¹ PCC Worship Planner Advent December 2021 Year C

recognize the severity when we live in abundant prosperity. Yes, I recognize the impact of inflation on our household and church budgets. When I was at the grocery store this week the prices were shocking. It seems most things have at least doubled in cost. Yet, in the midst of my shock at the impact on my personal finances I wondered how others were coping. It is within this context that I re-read the passages for today.

In our reading from the gospel of Luke, the disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith. They are responding to his recent teachings to love your enemies, bless those who curse you, forgive even when it's not deserved, to give without expecting anything in return, and be ready to take up your cross.

He responds with 2 parables. First, he shares that faith in the smallest amount has the power to perform miracles. Secondly, he tells of an incident with a master and servant. It is important to note that this passage has been used to oppress people without recognition of its original message. With ancient history in mind, we must recognize the people to whom Jesus was speaking. The context in which they lived within a hierarchy that restricted people to specific roles and duties.

This passage seems to contradict other teachings. Last week we heard of the rich man and Lazarus, where a beggar is assigned higher honor than his rich neighbor. Jesus often compared the kingdom to a banquet in which all are invited—slave and free, rich and poor alike. Jesus spoke against hierarchies and power structures so what is he saying with this passage?

Rachel Held Evans wrote, "We have to keep in mind that, throughout the gospels Jesus reserves his harshest criticisms for the proud and saves his most biting satire for the folks who need to be brought down a peg. From the beginning, Jesus' ministry was about lifting up the humble and humbling the proud, of challenging those in authority and giving voice to the marginalized, so it's safe to assume that there must have been an element of pride or entitlement at work in the disciple's request to warrant this sort of response."

With that said, who among us does not want more faith? Most of us are likely not surprised by the disciples' request. They want more faith and they trust that Jesus could provide what they asked. The scriptures teach us that faith is a gift from God, a gift that we do not earn or deserve. Faith is given by God's grace and generosity. Is this what they were asking about? We are left to wonder about several questions. Were the disciples

being demanding? How did Jesus respond? Did he patiently explain? Or was he irritable with his response? The condemning, scolding tone pushes people away-away from us, away from the church, away from God. These perceptions are barriers between them and a God who loves them.

I wonder, What if Jesus was not scolding the apostles? What if he is not clucking his tongue and shaking his head over their lack of faith, but speaking these words in a voice of encouragement and love? What if his tone was encouraging and supportive. If we listen again, we hear Jesus answer the disciples with kindness, and maybe even a bit of a smile. "Why, you do not need more faith," he says. "Even this much faith (his thumb and forefinger pinching together again) is enough!" If we hear Jesus speak with the voice of love, we hear him telling the apostles that, in fact, they already have enough faith to do whatever is required of them. Jesus moved from "How much faith is enough?" to "What is faith for?" He told them, "You already have the faith you need. Now fulfill its purpose: live it."

Then Jesus shifted into the parable about a master and a servant or slave. We have trouble comprehending what he meant because we live in the 21st century Western context, in the middle of Canada. Perhaps we could consider the story in the context of that society. People worked as servants or slaves, usually for a number of years and then they were freed. When Jesus describes this relationship between the slave and the master, he asks whether the servant deserves to be rewarded for doing what is expected? The master expects the servants to perform their duties, and the servants, in turn, expect that when their work is done, they will receive nourishment, rest and protection. Is this an analogy for God and humanity? We serve God with a sense of duty and delight, living a life according to God's commandments. We serve God and one another, not to save up bonus points, and not because God expects it. We do so because we know that God provides an abundant life.

Perhaps the issue is more about how we choose to live, individually and together. A community living out their faith is courageous ... they do not live in fear of questions. They are able to express their doubts and show their weakness and vulnerability. They are courageous in their efforts to value mercy over fairness. Most of all, they forgive one another's failings ... even when patience wears thin.

This passage in the gospel of Luke teaches the important lesson... faith the size of a mustard seed is capable of astonishing things. A mustard seed is a tiny seed. Great things have been done by people of faith, people who believed in a dream. People who experienced doubt, dismay, severe challenges, and major setbacks. Remarkable, profound change happens through people of faith. We can look to the apostle Paul and his letter to Timothy.

Paul's letter reinforces faithful courage for Timothy in the midst of loss and grief. Paul is grateful for the gift of faith within Timothy's grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. He gave thanks for Timothy's faith. He is also grateful that he ordained Timothy.

In the midst of Paul's struggles, as he was persecuted and in prison, he expressed gratitude to a friend who missed him. Although he may have been discouraged, he was also aware that his deep faith and gratitude would help others. His letter would help others to recognize that they were not alone, that they were part of the ministry of Christ. His words could help Timothy and the many who would read this letter through the centuries, to recognize the impact of gratitude in their lives. Gratitude changes our perspective. It can be easy at times to lose our sense of gratitude. When this happens, we need to remember Paul's words and stir up the gifts of grace, mercy, love, and the gift of praying and listening for God.

In closing, Rachel Held Evans wrote, "Theresa of Lisieux famous "little way" has inspired generations of Christians to honor God by being faithful in the little things....by taking this faith thing one step at a time. Theresa talked often about the smallness of her own faith. But she never questioned God's goodness or fairness in giving her what she had. She never demanded more because she knew she had been given enough to be faithful. She'd been given enough to obey. "God would never inspire me with desires which cannot be realized," she said, "so in spite of my littleness, I can hope to be a saint." Theresa (who indeed became St. Theresa), Peter and Paul, Mary Magdalene, St. Francis, Dr. King, Tessa of Calcutta, Nelson Mandela, you and I—we all share the same Master. And that master has given us all the faith we need to be faithful." The gifts God has given – these gifts call us into relationship with God and with one another. Praise be to God for visions and the movement of the Spirit among us.

Hymn

Breathe on me, breath of God

#389

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO THE LORD

QUOTE The Earth is what we all have in common. Wendell Berry – novelist, poet,
environmental activist

Before us is a world in great need, waiting in hope. we participate in God's steadfast love and mercy, when we share the treasures we hold: the good news of Christ; resources of time, talents, and money.

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 **I come with joy #530**

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.

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. We gather and we remember bread and wine shared around a table one solemn, holy night. We share in the elements provided whether bread and wine, grape and wheat, crackers and water. As we share in the elements 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 World Communion Sunday, 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.

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.

Giving, life-giving God, with our gifts this day, receive our thanks and praise for the hope rising within us through the resurrection of 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. May they sense your Spirit with them. We ask you to linger with Jenni, Stephanie, Judith & Gerry; Lois; Adam & Christina, Audrey, Grace & Rudy; 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 in the name of Christ, Amen

Hymn Now Let Us From This Table Rise #556

To Go Forth In God's Name Commissioning and Benediction

Fulfill your holy calling by serving God and serving neighbor without thought of reward. And hope always in God, through whom all things are possible. May God restore the path before you that leads to grace, mercy, and peace. May Christ fill you with the treasure of faith and love. May the Holy Spirit help you to live in hope. Now and forevermore. Amen

Postlude Amen

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.

Breathe on me, breath of God #389

Breathe on me, breath of God; fill me with life anew, that I may love what thou dost love and do what thou wouldst do.

Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure, until with thee I will one will to do and to endure.

Breathe on me, breath of God, till I am wholly thine, until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.

Breathe on me, breath of God, so shall I never die, but live with thee the perfect life of thine eternity.

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.

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.

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: 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.

I come with joy #530

I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved and free, the life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me, In love laid down for me.

I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed, the new community of love in Christ's communion bread, in Christ's communion bread.

As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud division ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends, and strangers now are friends.

The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near, is in such friendship better known, alive among us here, alive among us here.

Together met, together bound by all that God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Now Let Us From This Table Rise # 556

Now let us from this table rise Renewed in body, mind and soul; With Christ we die and live again, Whose selfless love has made us whole.

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD

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With minds alert, upheld by grace, To spread the Word in speech and deed, We follow in
the steps of Christ, At one with all in hope and need.

To fill each human house with love, It is the sacrament of care; The work that Christ
began to do We humbly pledge ourselves to share.

Then give us grace, companion-God, To choose again the pilgrim way, And help us to
accept with joy The challenge of tomorrow's day.