

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield on the first Sunday of Advent November 27th.

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. There is much for us to learn as 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]

Insert

Hymn Hope is a star (v 1) #119

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON¹

Almighty and everlasting God, you hold all our days in your hands and embrace us in your everlasting arms. In a tired and violent world, you are hope. In a hectic and busy world, we are at peace with you. In a cold world, we find comfort in you. In Jesus Christ, your love shines into this world. You call us to embody his love in all we do and say. We offer our love and loyalty in our worship of you. Make us one in worship and service, so that the world will see your hope at work in us and through us, making all things new.

God of hope, we confess that we find ourselves accepting half-truths rather than your challenging word. We turn away from your wisdom as we exploit others for our benefit. In your mercy, forgive us and help us amend our choices so that we may live in the ways of Jesus Christ.

Assurance of Pardon

Receive the Good News in hope. With great mercy, God forgives what we confess and offers us new life in Christ. Trust in the hope that you are forgiven. With God new things are possible. 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

To Hear The Word Of God

Prayer For Illumination

O God of our people, let your Word ring out from the mountains and your Spirit shine forth in the earth, so that all may hear your teaching and all may do your will; through Jesus Christ our peace. Amen.

SCRIPTURE

Tanakh*	Isaiah 2:1-5	[B#631/W#700]
Tanakh	Psalms 122	[B#571/W#633]
Epistle	Romans 13:11-14	[B#162/W#169]
Gospel	Matthew 24:36-44	[B#27/W#28]

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

Glimmers

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.

In the gospel passage, Jesus speaks of living with hope in the promise of God. He steers us away from catastrophic worries into the reality that there is not good purpose in worry. This text calls us to be mindful of how we are living into our relationship with God and our neighbours. Some of you may be familiar with the serenity prayer, attributed to Reinhold Niebuhr. The prayer speaks of accepting the things that we cannot change, of acknowledging the things we cannot know; and of taking action on things we can change. The prayer leads to a sensitive serenity. We are encouraged to let go of our yearning to control that which is beyond our grasp and to do what we can. Our hope is grounded within our faith in God. We are reminded that when the power of God is forgotten, when we turn away from the goodness of God, we are lost.

Jesus spoke of the importance of living in the ways of God. He shared that in the time of Noah people were living ordinary lives, of two women going about their daily tasks, and the need to be alert. There is no way to forecast when Christ will return. We are to live in good relationship with God and one another.

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When we study the sacred texts we discover the ways in which God continues to be in our lives. David L. Bartlett, in his commentary on this passage, wrote, "Part of the power of Scripture is that it provides the stories that are foreshadowing (not blueprints) for what God is doing in our own time and will do. Part of the power of community is that we can look back together at the moments in our past where God was present to chasten and to bless, and find there hope and admonition for the future."

We pause during Advent to consider the many ways in which God weaves throughout the history of creation, within the present time, and within our individual lives. This passage from Matthew encourages us to be alert to the ways in which we respond to God's presence in our lives. Matthew reminds us—Jesus will appear just around the corner ... like a hungry person, a neighbor in need, or the sick, oppressed, or imprisoned. We are encouraged to be aware and to take thoughtful action. We are reminded of the peril of complacency, inattentiveness, and inaction.

In closing, I would like to share the Serenity Prayer with you. Let us pray... God grant me the serenity To accept the things I cannot change; Courage to change the things I can; And wisdom to know the difference. Living one day at a time; Enjoying one moment at a time; Accepting hardships as the pathway to peace; Taking, as He did, this sinful world As it is, not as I would have it; Trusting that He will make all things right If I surrender to His Will; So that I may be reasonably happy in this life And supremely happy with Him Forever and ever in the next. Amen²

Praise be to God for visions and the movement of the Spirit among us.

Hymn

People in darkness (v 2)

#124

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO THE LORD

QUOTE To give without any reward, or any notice, has a special quality of its own.

Anne Morrow Lindbergh – aviator and writer

Come with gratitude and joy to the table. Bring the works of your hands and the gifts of your lives as an offering of praise.

² Serenity prayer attributed to Reinhold Neibuhr, 1892-1971. Read more at: https://www.lords-prayer-words.com/famous_prayers/god_grant_me_the_serenity.html

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

This is the Lord's table which is open to all. You are welcome to share in the feast which God has prepared. We remember Jesus declared that people will come from east and west and north and south to share at the table in God's kingdom. 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.

We give you thanks and praise, O God, that you have built us up in faith and bound us together in love. By your grace, may all that we do honour you and serve the good of your people. Giving, life-giving God, with our gifts, receive our thanks and praise for the hope rising within us through Jesus Christ. Bless the gifts we offer with your Holy Spirit so that they will bring hope to raise hope in 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 ask you to linger with Lyle, Deb and family; Stephani, Judith & Gerry; Rob; and, Grace & Rudy. 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

Go in hope this day. Stay alert for the signs of God at work around you and within you.

Look for opportunities to serve others in the name of Jesus. May the God of hope fill you

with joy and peace. May you abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit and the grace of Jesus Christ. 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.

124 People in darkness

1. People in darkness are looking for light. Come, come, come, Jesus Christ. People with blindness are longing for sight. Come, Lord Jesus Christ. These days of adventure when all people wait are days for the advent of love.
2. People with sickness are praying for health. Come, come, come, Jesus Christ. People in poverty want to have wealth. Come, Lord Jesus Christ. These days of adventure when all people wait are days for the advent of hope.
3. People in trouble would like to be free. Come, come, come, Jesus Christ. People with arguments want to agree. Come, Lord Jesus Christ. These days of adventure when all people wait are days for the advent of peace.
4. People in sadness are trying to sing. Come, come, come, Jesus Christ. Bells in the steeple are waiting to ring. Come, Lord Jesus Christ. These days of adventure when all people wait are days for the advent of joy.

119 Hope is a star v1

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1. Hope is a star that shines in the night, leading us on till the morning is bright.

Refrain When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

2. Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth, giving a promise of safety and worth. **Refrain**

3. Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn, telling the world that the Saviour is born.

Refrain

4. Love is a flame that burns in our heart. Jesus has come and will never depart. **Refrain**

530 I come with joy

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

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.

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.

