

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD
2023

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

Announcements

Mission Moment

Winnipeg Inner City Missions (WICM) is an outreach ministry supported by gifts to Presbyterians Sharing that welcomes and embraces all people living in downtown Winnipeg, Manitoba. WICM works towards healing and reconciliation and provides temporary housing, employment services, as well as programming for children and youth. The staff and volunteers of WICM work tirelessly to provide a safe, inclusive space that inspires lifelong learning and building social and personal well-being for all people in the community. WICM recently welcomed Beverly Burkard as its new executive director. Beverly is a welcome addition to WICM, bringing with her an extensive background working with charitable and non-profit organizations, including Sage Journey, Agape Table and Red Road Lodge.

The **Dates to note** in your bulletin includes upcoming events

The people of Knox Bayfield acknowledge with gratitude the territory upon which we live, work, play and worship. We live on the traditional lands of the Chippewa and Haudenosaunee, 'People of the Longhouse,' Anishinabewaki, Attiwonderonk (Neutral), and Mississauga peoples within Treaty 29, of 1827. We are all treaty people. We recognize the harm incurred through colonization and we acknowledge that The Presbyterian Church in Canada was a part of the residential school system. We affirm the 94 Calls to Action, refute the Doctrine of Discovery, and accept the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. There is much for us to learn. We commit to growing in healthy relationship, one based in truth, respect, and reconciliation, with the First Nations of this land.

HYMN Praise God

#306

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CALL TO WORSHIP [responsive]

One Holy and generous is God

All God, the Creator of all things

One Loving and gracious is Christ

All Christ, the Bearer of healing and hope

One Gentle and wise is the Holy Spirit

All The Holy Spirit, the Breath of new life

One Trinity of grace, we call on you

All Let us worship the God who made us & loves us all!

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON¹

Creator God, You made a world with unique living things that we cannot number! We praise you for such wonder. You have created amazing diversity in humankind – through culture and language, custom and community, with express remarkable creativity and compassion. You show your love of creation and the many ways we can live by your love. By the power of your Spirit, give us new eyes to behold your wonders and teach us how to love your creation with humble, grateful hearts.

Creator God, we confess we often prefer what seems familiar and struggle with difference. We'd like everyone to speak our language, hold our values, and shared our customs. Yet, we fail to see how our preferences affect others and the earth itself in harmful ways. Forgive us and teach us to listen to others tell with open minds and hearts. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

The prophet Micah declared that God requires three things of us: to do justice, to love kindness, and walk humbly with our God. To all who seek reconciliation with God and neighbour in kindness and humility, God offers forgiveness and peace. May the peace of Jesus the Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn God is love: come heaven adoring #314

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To Hear The Word Of God

Prayer For Illumination and Scripture

Your Word, O God, comes to us in the translation of ancient scripture. Send your Holy Spirit to open our minds with understanding and our hearts with wisdom in the name of Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

Scripture

Tanakh	Exodus 19:1–8a	[B#65/W#72]
Psalm	Psalm 100	[B#552/W#611]
Epistle	Romans 5:1–8	[B#155/W#162]
Gospel	Matthew 9:35–10:23	[B#9 /W#10]

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

Messengers

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.

The scriptures share the many stories of people who discover their purpose within God’s creation and the ways in which they respond to God’s call. Stories that tell us that from the beginning of time God has reached out to individuals and to entire communities.

Stories of people who have been reluctant, afraid, confused, eager and willing.

The scriptures share the diverse experiences of the people across time. The Psalmist wrote, ‘For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.’ The book of Exodus tells of Moses leading a reluctant and frightened people away from brutal slavery in Egypt into the wilderness toward the promised land. The gospel of Matthew tells of Jesus sending the apostles into the wilderness to share their faith ‘like sheep into the midst of wolves’. In the letter to the Romans, Paul wrote of the resiliency that develops when “endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”

During the exodus the Israelites travelled through the desert. They did not hesitate to complain about the living conditions and the lack of food and water. In our passage today,

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the Israelites have travelled from Rephidim where they questioned God and Moses. It was a place where people wondered if God knew what God was doing and whether they could trust the leadership of Moses. The Jewish Virtual Library describes Rephidim as “a place of both pain and provision. The people were called to move beyond both the memory of the pain and the security of the provision. They were to move on to new experiences, new challenges, and new revelation. They were to move on carrying with them the lessons of history, the lessons of Rephidim. In their life as the people of God, they would be asked to remember these lessons.” And, God provided for their needs as they continued their journey to Mount Sinai.

Exodus 19:1-8a **[B#65/W#72]**

Moses went up to the mountain where he heard God's instruction. God spoke to Moses. Moses spoke to the people. The people were chosen by God if they obeyed and kept the covenant. How do we define our covenant with God? The congregational mission statement that drew me to this congregation provides a wonderful description of your faith commitment: Alive by the Breath of God in worship, nurture, outreach, and mission. We are made alive by our commitment to our faith. In living out our purpose within God's creation. Keeping these promises in mind, we gather in community to be fed spiritually as we live our lives in service to God's creation.

The stories of scripture have been dramatized in many different ways. I have just started to watch The Chosen, a series which conflates the gospel stories. It begins with the statement that the series is based on the true stories of the gospels with some locations and timelines combined or condensed. Backstories and some characters and dialogue have been added for dramatic purposes. I heard about the series from several people and you may find the adaption interesting. The series depicts Matthew, also known as Levi, was a tax collector who is troubled by his profession and his place in the culture. Matthew will be called to be one of the disciples and will provide the image of Jesus as a shepherd caring for his sheep.

Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23) **[B#9 /W#10]**

In this passage Jesus selected twelve apostles from his followers, which symbolically represents the twelve tribes of Israel. The apostles were sent out to continue his work. Jesus told them, "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves". This

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echoes the warning he gives his disciples in the Sermon on the Mount when he said, "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves". The prophet Ezekiel condemned "the shepherds of Israel" who abused, oppressed, and scattered many of the Jewish people, creating sheep without a shepherd. Jesus comes as a shepherd to rescue the lost and scattered sheep of Israel. Matthew's gospel is the only one with the specific instruction to go only to the people of Israel. This restriction would be removed by the resurrected Jesus, when he commanded the disciples, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations.

The apostles' will proclaim a message which follows that of John the Baptist and Jesus for they were instructed to preach the good news that God's kingdom has arrived - the deliverance of the oppressed—the sick being cured, the dead being raised, lepers being cleansed, and demons being cast out.

The imperfect, human apostles were commissioned to do service in the world. The good Shepherd empowered and equipped them. The Gospel stories remind us that we are called to do live out our faith and follow in the ways of Christ. We will likely not solve the problems of the world. We will not meet the needs of all people. We are called to do our part, as God calls us and prepares us to do so. God does not leave the church alone in her mission but equips the saints for ministry in the world. When there is need, Jesus shows compassion and sends out his followers to serve those in need. God provides the way to serve and the Spirit will guide us to meet the diverse needs of this world with compassion. Praise be to God for visions and the movement of the Spirit among us.

Hymn Spirit of Gentleness (v 1-2) #399

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO THE LORD

Quote It is easy to get sucked into the vacuum of owned things, and end up finding out that they own you. *Gordon and Gladis DePree –authors*

The Spirit equips the followers of Jesus to bring healing and hope to God's creation. The gifts we offer are tangible signs of that healing and hope at work in us and through us, for the sake of Christ.

Doxology We give Thee but Thine own, What e'er the gift may be; All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

Prepared for Knox Presbyterian Church, Box 565, Bayfield, ON N0M 1G0

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Minister: Rev. Lisa Dolson 519-955-2158 revlisa dot knoxbayfield@icloud dot com

Resources include: PCC Worship Planner, <https://www.workingpreacher.org/> Feasting on the Word: Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary, and Feasting on the Word Companion, NRSV Bible

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Prayer of Dedication

God of grace and goodness, you provide abundant gifts that sustain our lives. We offer our gifts in gratitude. Bless them and make them signs of your presence at work in the world, touching lives in need with your love and strength in Jesus' name. Amen.

Prayers of People, Blessing of Gifts

God of all creation, in Jesus Christ, you proclaimed the good news that life and peace are found in you. Guide your church to proclaim this good news that brings the reconciling love of Christ to divided communities.

Shine your light into the darkness to expose violence, exploitation, and racism. Reveal dehumanization of the vulnerable and degradation of your creation. God of the earth and all its peoples, let your light shine!

On this National Indigenous Sunday, we pray for Indigenous communities across this land, and all around the world. We thank you for Indigenous leaders who advocate for the needs of their people. Bring healing to those who confront painful experiences, and build bridges of understanding among us all. We pray for the Rev Mary Fontaine, our first moderator of Indigenous descent, as she leads the Presbyterian Church in Canada. We pray for the National Indigenous Ministry Council. Bless the leaders and participants with the resources they need to serve their communities effectively. Teach the wider church what is being learned through these communities and deepen the bonds of faithful friendship we can share with each other.

We pray for Presbyterian World Service & Development and its partners as they work to bring healing and hope to places of strife and deprivation. May the mission we share in Jesus' name shine the light of your love into desperate lives.

God of the faithful, bless this community of faith and guide us as we live in this moment and plan for the future. Bless students and teachers as the school year ends. Grant us all time to rest and replenish our energy and hope to serve in your world.

O God of the bruised and broken, we are grateful that, in Christ, you have taken up the cross and know by heart all that causes suffering and pain. We pray today for all those in need of healing and comfort, whatever the source of their pain. We pray for all those who are anxious and discouraged, for those facing death or the loss of their beloved, and for those struggling to make ends meet in these uncertain times.

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We lift up all 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. Loving God, by your Spirit, surround us with strength and love. Equip us to offer support for those who are near to us. We are thankful for healing and we are thankful for the end of suffering. God of compassion, we lift up families who travel the long journey of grief. We ask you to linger with all who mourn Rudy and Danielle.

God of hope, we ask you to linger with all who are dealing with health challenges: Ruth; Stephani, Judith & Gerry; Rob, Valerie, Jim & Jane; Carl; Betty Lou; Audrey & Grace; Don, Phyllis, and Shawn; and, Warren & Lori.

O God of hope and new possibility, in Christ you opened the way into the future for us through the power of your redeeming love. We offer all that we are and all that we hope for through Jesus Christ who taught us to pray together as his people:

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 Spirit of Gentleness (v 3-4) #399

To Go Forth In God's Name Commissioning and Benediction

Walk gently on the earth God has entrusted to us all and cherish God's amazing creation. May the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the Spirit's peace be with you, this day and forever more. Amen

Postlude Amen