

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

Announcements

HYMN Praise God #306

CALL TO WORSHIP [responsive]

One Let us sing of God's steadfast love.

All We will offer our praise in songs of joy.

One God's faithfulness is as vast as the heavens.

All We will proclaim God's faithfulness to all generations.

One Let us worship God in our prayers and our praise.

All We will give God glory now and always!

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON¹

Almighty, Loving God, how majestic is your name in all the earth. From north and south, from east and west, drawn by your majesty, we come to worship you. For the gift of this new day, a gift from you, we rejoice. For the renewal we know through relationship with Christ, we praise you. For the Spirit's energy in each moment, we honour you. Loving God, all of life is your gift. We pray for glimpses of your splendor and love in this time of worship. Accept our praise offered in word and action, here and everywhere, now and always. God of all life we confess we can forget that life is your gift, especially when we face struggles. We confuse our desires for your will and stop listening for your guidance. Forgive any hurt we have caused by action or inaction and show us how to make amends. May we live with you and with each other in reconciling grace through the mercy of Jesus Christ. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, Jesus knows when we fall short of his intentions for us. Yet in his great mercy, he welcomes us back into his embrace. Thanks be to God that we are forgiven, refreshed and restored for ministry by God's grace. May the peace of Jesus the Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you. **And also with you.**

Hymn God forgave my sin #774

To Hear The Word Of God

¹ PCC Worship Planner

Prayer For Illumination and Scripture

Your Word, O God, comes to us in the translation of ancient scripture. God of wisdom, sometimes your Word seems so clear to us, yet at other times it is a puzzle or a challenge. Send your Holy Spirit to guide us as we listen to the Scriptures today. Help us hear your Word for our times and our lives through the grace of Christ, your Living Word. Amen

Scripture

Tanakh*	Jeremiah 28:5–9	[B#730/W#812]
Psalms	Psalms 89:1–4	[B#545/W#603]
Epistle	Romans 6:12–23	[B#156/W#163]
Gospel	Matthew 10:40–42	[B#11 /W#11]

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

HYMN MEDLEY

Jan Searle, Flautist

Message

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.

This passage reminds us to reach out with compassionate welcome with one another. This includes people who are known to us and those who are not. This includes those who are easy to get along with and others who are more difficult, perhaps even abrasive. Shared hospitality allows us to experience new insight when our stories are shared. This may help us to develop deeper understanding of the counter cultural message of the gospels. Jeremiah faced hostility and rejection from his people when he spoke the prophetic message against the actions of Jerusalem. The prophet struggled with the realities of a prophet who was not welcomed by the people of Jerusalem. Jeremiah's prophetic task took him to the edge of despair. It was there that he discovered the depth of God's loving grace. Today's passage took place during the reign of Judah's last king. Zedekiah, the third son of Josiah, had been set on the throne by Nebuchadnezzar after the Babylonian armies took Jerusalem in 597 BCE. King Zedekiah replaced his nephew, Jehoiachin, who was deported to Babylon with other officials and warriors. Zedekiah would be responsible for maintaining order and collecting annual tribute for his Babylonian overlords.

In this midst of this upheaval Jeremiah, with his self-imposed "yoke of straps and bars" around his neck, called the people to be centered in God alone. The yoke symbolically connected Jeremiah to King Nebuchadnezzar and the Babylonian army, for they were being used to change the hearts and wills of God's people. Relentlessly, Jeremiah urged the people to repent-to turn and look around- and return to YHWH. He prayed for transformation within God's people as he warned against denying the reality of God's truth. DM Bailey shared an impactful quote, "There are two great pathologies in our culture today. One of them is denial. The only antidote for denial is radical truth-telling. The other great pathology is despair. The only antidote for despair is radical hope, grounded in community."² Jeremiah shared his message of hope rooted in the truth of the prophetic message to look to God for salvation.

How do we welcome the teachings of Christ? In her commentary, Diana Butler Bass wrote, "When Christians think of Jesus and welcoming, we usually think of "I was a stranger and you welcomed me." We position ourselves as the host in the exchange, the one who opens the door. But today's text "whoever welcomes you welcomes me" places us in the story differently — we are the stranger, a potential guest, not the host. That makes this gospel reading a bit harder to take. We might enjoy welcoming, but perhaps feel awkward being welcomed."

Compassionate welcome means approaching each other through God. This is how genuine relationships emerge within the grace-filled hospitality of God's love. God's hospitality teaches us that close, loving, enduring relationships are to be valued along with distant, occasional, and abrasive ones.

Although Jesus speaks of rewards in this passage, it is not the expectation that something will be returned to us. Love is not always met with love. Jesus is clear with his disciples that being his followers will be difficult at times and that they will suffer persecution. Hospitable welcome is rooted in spiritual discipline. We discover that by offering and receiving hospitality we are able to welcome the new, unfamiliar, and unknown into our lives. In doing so we may discover the diversity of God's gifts within people. We are encouraged to open our hearts and souls along with our worldviews and perspectives. Jesus describes the love that families hold for one another, the tenderness with which we care for parents and for children. That tenderness and compassion is the structure into

² Douglass M. Bailey commentary, unknown source for quote

which we welcome others in Christ's name. When we welcome the stranger, we welcome the Christ. When we extend hospitality to others, we hear new stories of faith that enrich our perceptions and develop new insight.

In his commentary William Goettler wrote, 'now Jesus arrives and says, "Take that love for family, that love for your closest community, and extend it, extend it further and further still. Welcome in the stranger. Welcome in the one whose life you hardly understand. Not to change them, but simply because they too are God's."

In closing, we are encouraged by Jeremiah and Jesus to turn toward God for direction. In living out the ways of Christ we take our love of God and extend that to our family, our community, and then extend that love further still. We are to welcome in the one whose life we hardly understand. Not to change them, not to make them like us, or us like them. We are to love the unique aspects of all God's people. Praise be to God for visions and the movement of the Spirit among us.

Special Music Jan Searle, Flautist

Sebastian Bach: Air From Suite #3 In D Major and Arioso From Cantata #156

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO THE LORD

Quote Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries.

1Cor4:1 Jesus teaches that the gift of a simple cup of water is a gift worthy of his disciples. Friends, whatever we give to God this day can bless the world in Jesus' name. So give with confidence that your gift matters. Our lives overflow with the goodness of God. Sharing what we have so abundantly received, we bring our offerings of time, talent, and financial resources to share within God's creation with gladness and gratitude.

Offertory Jan Searle, Flautist

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.

Prayer of dedication

Generous God, we return to your care a portion of the gifts received from you. Bless what we offer so that those in need may taste your abundance which we know already in Christ, our Living Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD

2023 07 02

God of heaven and earth, with joy and thanksgiving we praise you for you create and sustain all things. We give you thanks for you made us in your image to love one another and to care for your creation.

Strengthen us in this challenging time to show your love to others. We pray for the Church to find new ways of reaching out to share the good news . . .

We pray that we may learn to revere and care for all aspects of your creation. Holy One, we ask that your Spirit linger with those who suffer from wildfires, floods, tornados and hurricanes. Bless the emergency responders and relief efforts provided to those in need. We pray for the leaders of nations. May they work for the wellbeing of the vulnerable and seek peace within the world

We pray for the decision makers responsible for health care, education and social services in this time of intense demand

We pray for the poor, the hungry, and those who struggle to find safe, affordable housing. We pray for all who struggle with illness, addiction, disability, despair; and for the powerless and the oppressed.

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.

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.

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. May their memories be a blessing. 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:

Stephani, Judith & Gerry; Rob, Valerie, Jim & Jane; Carl; Betty Lou; Ruth; Audrey, & Grace; Don, Phyllis, and Shawn; and, Warren & Lori.

Keep our eyes open for your Spirit at work among us. Give us the courage we need to face our future, assured of your presence and power to sustain us. 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 Blessed assurance Jesus is mine #687

To Go Forth In God's Name Commissioning and Benediction

Keep your eyes open as you walk in God's world, alert for the opportunity to share God's love. And may the God who made us, the Christ who mends us, and the Spirit who gives us life walk with you each and every day. Amen

Postlude

Jan Searle, Flautist