

May the grace of Jesus Christ be with you ... **and also with you.** Welcome to worship at Knox Presbyterian Bayfield. We gather to worship together as we celebrate the 166<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this congregation.

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.

As we gather to worship, we remember and repent of the role the Presbyterian Church in Canada played in colonization and genocide with the doctrine of discovery and the residential school system. The word repent means to turn around – and we ask for the strength to turn around and see the harm done and the path forward. We make this acknowledgement, knowing it is incomplete and inadequate. May we listen, learn, and repent.

### **Announcements**

**HYMN Praise God #306**

### **CALL TO WORSHIP [responsive]**

One: Welcome, friend and stranger

**All: Welcome, honoured guest**

One: We gather as a community to worship God

**All: We are reminded of God's goodness**

One: We are reminded to be embody God's goodness

**All: Let us worship God**

### **Special Music**

**Martha Lawrance**

### **PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON<sup>1</sup>**

Holy and magnificent God, you offer overflowing love and infinite kindness. You are incomparable in glory. Your presence breaks into our lives in the beauty of each season. You refresh us like a gentle breeze on a still day. You renew us as we meet the challenges of life with you. In this time of worship, we offer you thanks in our prayers, we praise you with love, and we honour you with our lives.

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<sup>1</sup> PCC Worship Planner Advent December 2021 Year C

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Wise and patient God, you offer us peace, yet we confess we often feel frustrated and unsettled. You offer us courage, yet we are resentful when life is challenging. You offer us a mission with meaning and purpose, but we are preoccupied with our own plans and desires. We do not always welcome the new life you offer, for you overturn our notions of power and protocol. You offer us rest and we hesitate to trust in you. Forgive us, O God, and draw our attention back to you. Help us bend our lives toward your life of self-giving by filling our homes and churches, the whole world, with the abundant love of Christ until all are made new. We lift up our prayers in the name of Christ. Amen.

### **Assurance of Pardon**

Jesus said, Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Trust that peace and forgiveness are God's gifts to you. May the peace of Jesus the Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you. **And also with you.**

**Hymn Through all the changing scenes of life #18**

### **To Hear The Word Of God**

### **Prayer For Illumination and Scripture<sup>2</sup>**

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<sup>3</sup>**

Tanakh*	<b>Isaiah 43:10-21</b>	<b>[B#672/W#745]</b>
Psalm	<b>Psalms 103:1-14</b>	<b>[B#554/W#613]</b>
Epistle	<b>Philippians 3:2-14</b>	<b>[B#198/W#211]</b>

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

**MESSAGE Fuhgedaboudid! Rev Dr Stephen Farris**

**Hymn We praise you O God #425**

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

**Quote** It is more blessed to give than to receive. Acts 20:35

Scripture tells of God's command to 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbor' We are encouraged to give generously, to open wide our hands and our hearts.

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<sup>2</sup> Page #'s for pew bibles with Blue or White edged pages

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2023 08 20

**Offering Special Music**

Martha Lawrance

**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.

**BLESSING OF THE GIFTS**

Holy and abundant God you caused water to flow in the desert and provided abundant food to feed thousands on a mountainside. Your generosity astounds and humbles us. We come before you in gratitude and awe, asking you to receive our response. May our gifts of time, talent, and financial resources be a pleasing offering, for the sake of your world. We pray in your holy name. Amen.

**Prayers of the People**

O God in whom we live and move and have our being, we come to you in prayer trusting that you are with us in this challenging time. We give you thanks for signs of your presence among us. We are thankful for unexpected kindness, for words of comfort and encouragement, for courage in the face of injustice, for progress towards reconciliation, and healing in the face of disease and danger. We thank you for your presence with us in all things.

In this unpredictable world, we pray for those whose lives are caught in terror and oppression. We pray for those who live where they are afraid to walk freely. We lift up all who are overwhelmed and discouraged by the uncertainty of this time.

O holy One, we lift up all who are living with the extremes of this world. The horror of war and the impact of wildfires and flooding. We pray you will linger with those who are living in the turmoil of destruction. God, we are thankful for those who walk toward danger to provide care for your people and all of your creation. May they be strengthened by your Spirit in their efforts.

We remember those who suffer with the despair of chronic pain, sorrow, and critical illness. We pray for all who are exhausted as they deal with increased demands and fewer resources in their work. We pray for all who struggle with mental illness. May they be strengthened by your Spirit of love and mercy.

O God of the bruised and broken, we are grateful that, in Christ, you know by heart all that causes suffering and pain. Before we call, you answer, God. Before we speak, you know our voices. Loving God, by your Spirit, surround us with strength and love. We remember before you those who grieve the loss of their beloved and those who are lonely.

