

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, BAYFIELD

2023 10 08

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

Announcements

Mission Moment In the book of Acts, the disciples traveled far and wide to share the good news of Christ. The Rural and Remote Ministry Fund offers seminary students the opportunity to gain practical ministry experience in rural communities across the country. This summer, Nehemia Neuhisa and Howard Tuwaidan, both seminary students, served as student ministers for the Synod of Saskatchewan. Through the experience, Nehemia and Howard were able to lead worship at 10 different congregations, support Vacation Bible School programs, serve as chaplains at Camp Christopher, and volunteer at Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry. Like the early disciples, their commitment to mission and outreach was a blessing to many.

The incidents of COVID and other infections have been increasing. You are encouraged to use hand sanitizer. Masks are available inside the narthex. Huron Perth Public Health has launched COVID-19 vaccination clinics for high-risk individuals and those age 65+ You can go online to book an appointment or you can call the Provincial Vaccine Contact Centre Their phone number is in the announcements this week.

Yesterday I was texting with my daughter about her outrage over rising food costs. A pound of butter was \$8 at her local grocery store. We are all aware of the impact of the chaotic economy. Foodbanks are facing increased usage of their services. The Bayfield Food Bank needs soup, crackers, peanut butter and jam. Of course, all non-perishable donations are welcome.

The discussion about housing issues continues as we shift our gathering to Sunday following the worship service. We explore the ways in which health, social and economic wellbeing diminish when housing is unstable.

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.

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

1

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, NRSV Bible, sermons.com

HYMN Praise God

#306

CALL TO WORSHIP [responsive]

PRAYER OF ADORATION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON

God of abundant love, when we hunger for fulfillment, you offer us the Bread of Life. When we thirst for your presence, you fill our cup to overflowing. You draw near to us in every place, at any time. O God, Creator, Christ and Spirit, we offer thanksgiving, honour and praise with all your people, here and everywhere, now and always. God of abundant mercy, you see us struggle to love others as you love us. We struggle to love all of our neighbours and struggle to love our enemies as Jesus taught. We seek your forgiveness and ask that you renew in us the courage to love others. Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, believe the good news! Know that you are forgiven and have the courage to forgive one another. May the peace of Jesus the Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you.

And also with you.

Hymn Lord of all power

#626

To Hear The Word Of God

Prayer For Illumination and Scripture¹

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.

Scripture²

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

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.

Thanksgiving ... this weekend celebrates an attitude of gratitude. We express our gratitude together each week with our prayers and offerings. Writer Anne Lamott says her two favorite prayers are, in the morning, "Help me. Help me. Help me," and at bedtime, "Thank you. Thank

¹ Page #'s for pew bibles with Blue or White edged pages

² Page #'s for pew bibles with Blue or White edged pages

you. Thank you." Thanksgiving is an essential element in life, in joy-filled moments in our daily life and during chaotic, challenging periods.

In our culture of self-made women and men many find it difficult to remember from whom we are made and to whom we should give thanks. I am mindful of the ways in which many elite athletes publicly celebrate their success. You may be familiar with the visual image of the triumphant athlete turning toward the heavens to acknowledge God and express appreciation for their athletic gifts.

The passage from Luke demonstrates thanksgiving. We meet a Samaritan. This is a different fellow from the one who helped the stranger on the road. This is a man suffering from leprosy and he understands the concept of gratitude. His life has been filled with agonizing physical pain and extreme social isolation. A Samaritan leper – exiled from a people who were rejected by others. He was a social and religious outcast. And, it is this man who joyfully expressed gratitude to God for his healing. In the passage, we discover that he stopped, turned around, and thanked Jesus. He received wholistic healing - body, mind, and soul. This visual image illustrates the shift of his whole self toward God.

Barbara Brown Taylor wrote, "On the occasions when Jesus praises peoples' faith, most Christians automatically assume that he means their faith in his divinity, which he then rewards by helping them out; but that is just another sorry example of transactional theology. According to this theology, if you believe the right things about Jesus, then he will help you. If you don't, he won't. I am not sure where this idea comes from, but in the first three gospels Jesus seems much more concerned with making people well than with making them believe in him. In Luke's gospel, when Jesus heals the ten lepers and the lone Samaritan among them comes back to say thanks, Jesus does not say, "Rise up and follow me." He says, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well." The faith that helps Jesus do his saving work; the faith that makes people well; is their full-bodied trust that God can act in their lives, both to forgive and to heal.³ Prayers of gratitude are an integral part of healing. We can be grateful for healing and we can be grateful for God's presence as we endure hardship. Even as we lament our pain and discomfort, we continue to speak with God. When we intentionally practice gratitude in our daily lives, a deep shift occurs within us. We discover everyday moments of appreciation for God's presence in our lives. When we practice gratitude as a congregation, a deep shift occurs within our faith

³ p 21, 22 Barbara Brown Taylor, 'Easter Preaching and the Lost Language of Salvation', quoted by Don Fisher, Saving Faith
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community that radiates out into the larger community. Intentional thanksgiving encourages the perspective of seeing the abundant generosity of God at work in our lives. It allows us to recognize the abundance of all that God provides.

Alida van Dijk wrote, "Gratitude is a spiritual practice of seeing and celebrating the good in the world around you. Gratitude acknowledges a Supreme Giver to whom we express our thanks for the good gifts we have been given. When we practice gratitude as a daily habit, it changes our perspective on the day. Our focus shifts from seeing what is wrong in the world and what we do not have (scarcity), to noticing even the smallest positive things around us and seeing what we do have (abundance). We can start practicing gratitude anytime. If you are reading this, then you might notice, "I am thankful that I can read." If gratitude is not your natural attitude, then start small and slowly. Be curious to notice whether even one grateful thought makes any difference in your day."

Many people nurture gratitude by keeping a physical journal. Every day you simply write down at least one thing for which you feel grateful. The physical record is important—this information needs to flow from you onto paper. The things you list can include anything: the beautiful sunrise, a delicious meal, a good conversation, or connection within a treasured relationship. The objective is to make note of the positive and the good emotions connected with it. Read your list and offer a prayer of thanksgiving.

Rabbi Harold Kushner wrote, "Religion is not primarily a set of beliefs, a collection of prayers or a series of rituals. Religion is first and foremost a way of seeing. It can't change the facts about the world we live in, but it can change the way we see those facts, and that in itself can often make a difference." ⁴

May you discover new ways to express your thanksgiving for the many blessings in your life.

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

Hymn Jesus' hands were kind hands #631

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO THE LORD

We give thanks to God for our abundant blessings as we recognize the complicated times we live within. There have been many losses due to fire, storm, and flood. Many harvests have been diminished by drought. Economic pressures are creating hardship for many people. We trust God

⁴ p.19 & 280-1 Who Needs God

can turn what we share into an abundance. Offer what you are able and trust God will bless your gifts.

Quote Give something, however small, to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could. Saint Gregory Nazianzen – 4th Century Archbishop of Constantinople

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 Gifts

Gracious God, we offer our gifts as tokens of gratitude for what we have received. Bless our gifts and our energy so they will bless others in need in our community and around your world, for the sake of Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayers of the People

We give you thanks, O God, for all that is good. We are thankful for the world, for the wonders of earth, sea and sky; for beauty in nature; and for the rhythm of the seasons. We give you thanks, O God, for waters that refresh and sustain life; for soil that is fertile and rich; for those who tend crops and care for harvests; for those who produce, deliver and market our food; and for those who make sure the hungry are fed.

O holy One, we are thankful for physical strength on our productive days; for the diverse gifts and talents you provide; for those willing to take on work that is dangerous and demanding; for those who nurture our communities; and for moments of rest when you restore us.

God, we are thankful for the gift of human life; for talking and thinking together, working on challenges and plans; for burdens and joys shared; for relationships that give life meaning; and for the wisdom exchanged with mutual support.

We give you thanks, O God, for our circle of family and friends; for children and their curiosity and joy; for the insight that comes with patience and experience; and for events shared and memories cherished.

We thank you, Holy One, for your grace in times of anxiety, doubt and grief; for healing in times of illness, confusion, and distress; for rejuvenating strength and renewed purpose; for scientific knowledge and discovery to confront disease and improve health.

We give you thanks, O God, that you hear each prayer and know every need; that you love and care for each soul and body; and that you walk with us through all our days and seasons.

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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. O God of the lonely and sorrowing, in Christ you experienced the loss we know when loved ones die and the pain of betrayal by friends. We ask you to linger with all who mourn Danielle and Warren. God of hope, we ask you to linger with all who are dealing with health challenges: Jim T; Judith & Gerry; Rob, Valerie, Jim & Jane; Carl; Betty Lou; Ruth; Audrey & Grace; Lori and family; and, Don, Phyllis, and Shawn. We lift up all who are on our hearts as they face immense challenges.

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. Give us the courage we need to face our future, assured of your presence and power to sustain us. We offer our prayers, spoken and unspoken, in Jesus' name, with the Lord's prayer...

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 All things bright and beautiful [v 1, 4] #435

To Go Forth In God's Name Commissioning and Benediction

In this season of harvest ... from field and garden and orchard ... walk with thanksgiving in your hearts. Savour the abundance of God's creation. Honour the needs of the earth that it may flourish for seasons to come. May the blessing of God, our Creator, Redeemer and Giver of Life, be with you now and always. Amen.

Postlude

Amen