

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: God said, "Let light shine in the darkness!"

**All: Lord, shine your light into our lives**

One: We see God's glory in the face of Christ

**All: The light of Christ is with us day by day**

One: Let us follow the light of Christ together

**All: Let us worship God with thanks and praise**

Prayer of Adoration and Confession [**Responsive**]

God of grace and glory, you reveal your presence to the world in radiant glory and gentle whispers, on mountain tops and in shadowed valleys, in classrooms and hospital beds, in homes and churches, in the quiet of nature and on busy streets. God your presence calms our fear; your love transforms our doubt. We gather here today to dwell together in your goodness and to offer our praise to you. Holy one we are grateful for all the ways we encounter you.

**God of patience and purpose, we confess we don't expect you to surprise us. We think we know what you expect of us and so we're reluctant to consider new challenges or new opportunities to serve you. Forgive us when we are set in our ways. Work in us by your Spirit to keep us open to new encounters with you in your creation. As the world may you always find us faithful. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

God's amazing love allows each of us to receive his grace and be at peace with God, with yourselves and with each other. 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**

To Hear The Word Of God

Prayer For Illumination and Scripture<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Page #'s for pew bibles with Blue or White edged pages

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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*	2 Kings 2:1–12	[B#332/W#369]
Psalms	50:1–6	[B#519/W#573]
Epistle	2 Corinthians 4:3–6	[B#180/W#190]
Gospel	Mark 9:2–10	[B# 44/W# 45 ]

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.

Today is Transfiguration and Communion Sunday. This week Shrove Tuesday, Ash Wednesday, will give way to the first Sunday in Lent as the season of Epiphany concludes. Epiphany celebrates the realization of God's promise as we celebrate the light of Jesus Christ breaking into the world.

Pausing to reflect on the divine can be challenging when life is filled with distractions that tug on our attention. Some people find it difficult to stay in the present moment as they slip into memories of the past or concerns about the future. Augustine recognized this as a tension between time and eternity. God's presence in history is mysterious and is not bound by the constraints of time. Augustine noted that we are bound by time, a window of time—the present. The past cannot be recovered and the future is beyond our reach.

All the more reason to stay present and recognize the importance of relationships. The importance of relationship is evident in this passage. The covenant relationship between God and the prophets, the nurturing relationship between Elijah and Elisha, and the supportive connections within the group of prophets. We are reminded that the prophets of each time live in the everyday reality of community. They are in relationship with others as they prophesy the word of God. Walter Brueggemann notes the ascension of Elijah is a time of transition reflected in the transition of the prophets.

The importance of relationships within community became highly evident during the pandemic shut downs. Many people continue to suffer from the impact of the isolation

they experienced. Jeffrey K. London wrote, "Isolation is the worst thing that can happen to a human being. Studies have shown that it doesn't take very long for prisoners in solitary confinement to begin losing their minds. Insanity is the end result of true isolation. Isolation leads human beings to talk to volleyballs. What we fear the most, in the deepest recesses of our soul, is being completely alone, abandoned, living in the absence of others. Scripture tells us that we were created to be in relationship. We were created to be in relationship with God and with one another, and it is only in relationship that we grow and prosper, that we grow up and become the people God intends us to be. When Jesus took Peter, James, and John with him to the top of the mountain and was transfigured before their eyes, they had a communal experience that would ultimately help them grow into full faithful discipleship. What happened on top of that mountain could not, cannot, be "explained." But that doesn't make it meaningless. Most of our formative, transformative, life-changing experiences are not "explainable" in the worldly scientific sense.<sup>2</sup>

The gospel account of the transfiguration reveals the timeless relationships of the divine Jesus. High on the mountain, in a moment of awesome splendor, Jesus was covered in the dazzling light of God. The impact on the disciples was significant. Mark writes that Peter was so terrified that he did not know what to say but kept talking. Perhaps we can all have compassion for Peter's reaction. The transfiguration calls to mind Moses at Mount Sinai - images of the high mountain and the heavenly voice from a cloud. The transfiguration is challenging to understand as we continue to be in awe of the gospel accounts of the event. We understand the transfiguration as a theophany ... thee - aa·fuh·nee (thee like fee). The visible manifestation of God.

In his commentary, Duncan shared, "Have you ever been confronted with a message that changed your perspective? One church chose as its Lenten theme, "Forty Days of Love." Each week members of the congregation were encouraged to show their love and appreciation in different ways. The first week they were encouraged to send notes to people who had made positive contributions to their lives. After the first service a man in the congregation wanted to speak to his pastor. The pastor describes the man as "kind of macho, a former football player who loved to hunt and fish, a strong self-made man." The

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<sup>2</sup> Jeffrey K. London, Growin' Up

man told his pastor, "I love you and I love this church, but I'm not going to participate in this Forty Days of Love stuff. It's OK for some folks," he said, "but it's a little too sentimental and syrupy for me." A week went by. The next Sunday this man waited after church to see his pastor again. "I want to apologize for what I said last Sunday," he told him, "about the Forty Days of Love. I realized on Wednesday that I was wrong." "Wednesday?" his pastor repeated. "What happened on Wednesday?" "I got one of those letters!" the man said. The letter came as a total surprise. It was from a person the man never expected to hear from. It touched him so deeply he now carries it around in his pocket all the time. "Every time I read it," he said, "I get tears in my eyes." It was a transforming moment in this man's life. Suddenly he realized he was loved by others in the church. This changed his entire outlook. "I was so moved by that letter," he said, "I sat down and wrote ten letters myself." Receiving that letter was a transforming experience. It came from a mailbox rather than a mountaintop, but the effect was the same - his perspective was changed. God breaks into our lives and we are changed.<sup>3</sup> The ways in which we engage with one another has an impact. A short note of appreciation, a phone call or email can make a significant difference. Are you eager to explore the ways in which Jesus and his way are revealed in relationships within this community, at this time? As we shift from the season of epiphany into Lent, you are encouraged to reflect on and explore your spirituality in relationship with others. Praise be to God for visions and the movement of the Spirit among us.

**Hymn**                      **Lord, the light of your love is shining**      **#376**

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

**Quote**    If we allow a day to pass by without practicing generosity, we are like a blacksmith's bellows: we breathe, but we do not live. *Sanskrit Proverb*

Valentine's Day reminds us of the many ways love has the power to transform lives. Gifts we offer from the heart also transform lives. May your offerings express your love for God and God's love for the world.

**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.

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<sup>3</sup> King Duncan, Collected Sermons

### **Blessing of Gifts**

God of life and love, receive our gifts as tokens of our love. May these gifts work to strengthen the loving efforts we offer neighbour and stranger. May our lives shine with hope in these winter days, as we wait for life to stir in the earth and new life to stir within us through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Invitation to the Table**

We come to the table to remember our past, to be here in our present, and to be mindful of our future with Christ. We remember Jesus declared that people will come from east and west and north and south to sit at the table in God's kingdom.

This meal comes not as a whole loaf and bottle to take away and relish in private. It comes in broken pieces and sips shared. We are reminded that there will always be enough for everyone who seeks a place at this table. So come, you who have much faith and you who have a little, you who have been here often, and you who cannot recall this place. Our Saviour invites all people to share the fruits of the earth. Remember – the Risen Christ has spread this joyful feast for you. Taste and see that God is good.

**Hymn All who hunger gather gladly #534**

**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, on 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.

God of mercy and forgiveness, you call us to live together in peace and unity. We pray for our neighbourhoods, our nation, and the people of this world. Where people are divided and bitterness turns into resentment, help us to work for reconciliation. Where there is conflict and danger in the world, raise up peacemakers and negotiators to bring violence to an end.

Holy One, you created us to live in relationship with each other - with friends and families, in communities and cultures, in neighborhoods and nations. We give you thanks for all the supportive relationships which bring meaning and encouragement to our lives, and help in times of trouble. Help us contribute what we can to sustain the wellbeing of our community for all who call it home. Loving God, by your Spirit, surround us with strength and love. Equip us to offer support for those who are near to us.

Wind of the Spirit, blow through us and give us energy to serve you in Christ's Church. We give thanks for our church family and the years of worship and witness offered here in this

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place. Bless our leaders and our volunteers in their commitment to the mission efforts of this congregation. Open our eyes to recognize needs for ministry and mission, and to equip us to meet new challenges in ways we haven't dared before. Open our hearts to those who are caught up in stressful situations. Open our hands to share in the tasks that need doing and open our lips in prayer and praise. Spirit of Power and Promise, blow through us and renew our faith.

We are thankful for healing and we are thankful for the end of suffering. God of compassion, we ask you to be with all who mourn. God of hope, we ask you to linger with all who are dealing with health challenges: Renee & Jim; 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. Where new life is beginning and hope dawns; where there is laughter and joy, healing and positive change, where there is good news to celebrate, send your Spirit with rejoicing and gratitude. Joined together in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all majesty and honor are yours, Holy One, forever and ever.

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. We pray all of this in the name of Christ, Amen

**Hymn      Now Let Us From This Table Rise      (v 1, 2)      #556**

**To Go Forth In God's Name      Commissioning and Benediction**

This Sunday marks the close of the season of Epiphany. As we enter in Lent God's light continues to break into the world in Christ Jesus. May the light of God lead you, may the light of Christ embrace you, & the light of the Holy Spirit enliven you so that you know hope and peace this day and forever more.

**Postlude                      Amen**