

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

Announcements

HYMN Praise God #306

Call To Worship [responsive]

One: All creation will give thanks to God.

All: We lift up our voices in praise.

One: The Lord is near to all who call upon God.

All: We sing of God's loving kindness.

One: Let us worship God who is faithful in all things.

All: Let us praise God's holy name forever.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession [responsive]

Gracious and generous God, we gather with grateful hearts. We are amazed by the abundance of your creation; abundant food, abundant friendship, and abundant faithfulness. We gather with hopeful hearts, seeking comfort in your love for us. Your love is both mysterious and miraculous, O God, with the power to transform lives that hunger for hope. By the power of your Spirit, we yearn for you to move among us. Open before us the new possibilities you create in Christ, the Bread of life.

Generous God, we gather to be fed by your love, trusting that you will embrace us. We confess we are not always generous with our love. We are often suspicious of others, fearful of what we might lose. We criticize others, but rarely question our own motivations. Forgive us, O God, and awaken our generosity toward others. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon The Letter to the Ephesians declares that Christ dwells in our hearts through faith, for we are being rooted and grounded in his love. The forgiveness he offers is a gift of this love that is wider and deeper than we can ever imagine. Receive God's forgiveness and be at peace with God, with yourself

and with one another. May the peace of Jesus the Christ, which surpasses all understanding, be with you. **And also with you.**

Special Music

Martha Lawrance, Harpist

To Hear The Word Of God

Prayer For Illumination and Scripture

Speak to us through the Scriptures this day, O God. By the power of your Holy Spirit, may we hold a deeper understanding of your Word for our lives and our times, through Christ, the Living Word. Amen

Scripture

Tanakh*	2 Kings 4:42-44	[B#336/W#372]
Psalms	Psalms 145:10-18	[B#581/W#644]
Epistle	Ephesians 3:14-21	[B#193/W#206]
Gospel	John 6:1-21	[B#97 / W#100]

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.

The scripture readings this morning focus our attention on miracles. The disciples participate in feeding thousands with a small amount and observe Jesus walking on water. The stories tell of the abundance provided by God, an abundance that nurtures and feeds the people. The stories speak of trust and sharing. The stories demonstrate the ways in which great change can occur.

Imagine for a moment that it was you in the crowd following Jesus that day. Sitting on the mountainside Jesus turned to Philip and asked him where they could buy bread to feed the crowd. The other gospel accounts tell us that there were about 12,000 people gathered. Some of you may be thinking of the last time you had unexpected visitors and you were not prepared to feed them. The leadership in the congregation may be thinking of discussions about caring for this

congregation with a deficit budget. You may be thinking of the last trip to the grocery store with the high cost of food and limited income. My thoughts turned to the ongoing needs of the local community and the vital importance of the FoodBank. Depending on where we are in the story impacts our perspective and our actions. I wonder what the young boy with the five small barley loaves and two fish was thinking. A boy who carried his lunch with him through the long walk in the heat. Imagine being hungry and hot as he was asked to share what little he had. Then, he watched as his small contribution grew into massive abundance and provided for so many.

Sometimes it can be difficult to understand that our contributions make a difference. In his commentary R W Patt shared, "A minister was making a home visit to families in his parish. A five-year-old boy answered the front door and told the minister his mother would be there shortly. As they waited, the minister asked the boy what he would like to be when he grows up. The boy immediately answered, "I'd like to be possible." "What do you mean by that?" the puzzled minister asked. "Well, you see," the boy replied, "just about every day my mom tells me I'm impossible!"

Our lives are shaped by the stories we hear and the ways in which the stories impact us. It may be that you doubt your ability to make a difference. And, your actions have an impact ... in one way or another. What seems to be impossible? Perhaps it would be helpful to ask ... what is possible?

Perhaps the traditional folk tale, Stone Soup, demonstrates the importance of our sharing our gifts and resources.

Once upon a time, a wise old man decided to go on a journey. So he packed a small bag, said goodbye to his family, and set off. He traveled all day without meeting anyone. When it was evening, he came to a small village and decided to stop for the night.

Near the centre of the village, he met a group of people. He introduced himself as a simple traveler looking for a safe place to sleep and a hot meal.

"We'd be glad to offer you a place to sleep," the villagers told him, "but we have very little food. Our crops were very poor this year, and there's not much to eat in the whole village. Most of us are just barely getting by."

"I'm sorry to hear that," the old man said. "But you needn't worry about feeding me. I already have everything I need. In fact, I was thinking of making some stone soup to share with all of you."

"Stone soup?" the villagers asked. "What's that? We've never heard of stone soup."

"Oh, it's wonderful," said the old man. "Best soup I've every tasted. If you bring me a soup pot and some water, I'll make some for all of us."

Some of the villagers offered to help with one bringing a large soup pot, another had wood for a fire, and others brought water.

When the fire was going and the water had begun to boil, the old man took out a small silk pouch. He reached in and pulled out a small stone. He carefully dropped the stone into the boiling water. The villagers watched eagerly. The old man began to slowly stir the pot, sniffing the aroma and licking his lips in anticipation. "I do like a tasty stone soup," he said. "Of course, stone soup with cabbage—now that's really special."

"I might be able to find a bit of cabbage," one villager said. And off she went to her house, returning with a small cabbage she had stored away in her pantry.

"Wonderful!" said the old man, as he added the cabbage to the pot. "This reminds me of the time I had stone soup with cabbage and a bit of salted beef. It was unbelievably good."

After a moment of silence, the village butcher spoke up. "I know where there's a bit of salted beef," he said. And off he went to his shop to get it. When he returned, the old man added the beef to the soup pot and continued to stir.

"Can you imagine what this soup would taste like if we had a bit of onion...and perhaps a few potatoes...and a carrot or two...and some mushrooms. Oh, this would be a meal fit for royalty."

And before he knew it, the soup pot was filled to the brim with vegetables of all kinds— carrots and potatoes, mushrooms and onions, turnips and green beans, beets and celery—all brought by the men and women and children of the village. Not only that, but the village baker came out with some fresh bread and butter. And as the soup simmered slowly over the fire, the wonderful aroma began to waft over the villagers. And they began to relax and talk together, sharing songs and stories and jokes.

When the soup was done, the old man ladled it out into bowls, and they all shared a delicious meal together. There was more than enough for everyone to eat their fill. Afterward, they all declared that it was the best soup they had ever tasted. The mayor of the village pulled the old man aside, and quietly offered him a great deal of money for the magic stone, but the old man refused to sell it.

The next morning, he woke early and packed up his belongings. As he was leaving the village, he passed by a group of children playing at the side of the road. He quietly spoke to the children, "It was not the stone that performed the magic. It was all of us together."

When we work together, following in the ways of Christ, sharing our gifts and resources the impossible becomes possible. Praise be to God for visions and the movement of the Spirit among us.

SPECIAL MUSIC Martha Lawrance, Harpist

A Service of Ordination

One: There are varieties of gifts

All: and the same Spirit

One: There are varieties of services

All: and the same Lord

One: There are varieties of activities

All: and it is the same God

One: To each one is given a gift by the Spirit

All: to use it for the common good

One: Together we are the body of Christ

All: and individual members of it

One: We have different gifts and together we are called to be the church with a ministry in the world led by the risen Christ.

APOSTLE'S CREED [Unison] #539

A Service of Ordination

Stand, if able

One: There are varieties of gifts

All: and the same Spirit

One: There are varieties of services

All: and the same Lord

One: There are varieties of activities

All: and it is the same God

One: To each one is given a gift by the Spirit

All: to use it for the common good

One: Together we are the body of Christ

All: and individual members of it

One: We have different gifts and together we are called to be the church with a ministry in the world led by the risen Christ.

APOSTLE'S CREED RESPONSIVE

Let us confess our faith together in the words of The Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.

NARRATION OF STEPS

The Narration of Steps describes the events leading to this elder ordination.

Due to ongoing discussions through 2023 and 2024 the Session concluded that an increased number of elders were needed to share in the spiritual oversight of the church.

Early in 2024 Rev Dolson prepared a sermon series that focused on educating the congregation about the role of the elder, the work of Session, and the process of electing elders.

In May 2024 the Session of Knox Bayfield called for an elder election. The Roll was reviewed and the members eligible to stand for election were determined. The ballot and explanatory letter were prepared and distributed. The completed ballots were gathered and the elected individuals were approached. Several individuals declined to accept. However, they indicated a willingness to reconsider serving in the future. On June 24th, after prayerful discernment, Judith Roy accepted the call to be a Ruling Elder with the Knox Bayfield Session.

Brenda: Moderator, on behalf of the Session and the people of this congregation, I present to you Judith Roy and request that you now proceed to ordain her as an elder and admit her to the Session.

Listen to what The Presbyterian Church in Canada believes concerning the ministry of ruling elders.

PREAMBLE Approved, 1971 Revised, 1992, 1998.

All ministries of the Church proceed from and are sustained by the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is our Prophet, Priest and King, the Minister of the covenant of grace. By the operation of God's Word and Spirit, the Church is gathered, equipped, and sent out to participate in this ministry. All members of the Church are called to share the Gospel with the world, and to offer to the Father the

worship and service that are due to the Creator from the creation, through Christ, the only Mediator, until he comes again. That the Church may be continually renewed and nurtured for ministry, Christ furnishes the Church with pastors and teachers. He requires and enables the Church to discern and to confirm by ordination those whom he calls to this pastoral and teaching office. The standards of his Church he entrusts in a special degree of responsibility to their care.

The Form of Presbyterial Church Government of the Westminster Assembly reminds us that Christ has furnished some in the Church, beside the Ministers of the Word, with gifts for government and with commission to execute the same, when called there-unto, who are to join with the Minister in the government of the church, which officers of reformed churches commonly call Elders.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada is bound only to Jesus Christ, the Church's King and Head. The Scriptures of the TaNaKh¹ and New Testaments, as the written Word of God, testifying to Christ the living Word, are the canon of all doctrine, by which Christ rules our faith and life. We acknowledge our historic continuity with the Holy Catholic Church and our doctrinal heritage in the ecumenical creeds, and the confessions of the Reformation. Our subordinate standards are the Westminster Confession of Faith as adopted in 1875 and 1889, the Declaration of Faith Concerning Church and Nation of 1954, Living Faith (Foi Vivant) as adopted in 1998, and such doctrine as the Church, in obedience to Scripture and under the promised guidance of the Holy Spirit, may yet confess in the Church's continuing function of reformulating the faith.

Duties of Ruling Elders

The tradition of elders in leadership goes back to the time of Moses². Elders of the church, according to their specific gifts and skills, provide pastoral care, guidance, and oversight to the congregation. There are many matters that come before Session, including: responsibility for establishing good order, providing for the

¹ *Tanakh, an acronym derived from the names of the three divisions of the Hebrew Bible: Torah (Instruction, or Law, also called the Pentateuch), Nevi'im (Prophets), and Ketuvim (Writings).

² Exodus 18 and Titus 1:5-9

pastoral care of the congregation, and oversight of groups within policies of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The elders respond to questions about Christian faith and what is being done at Knox Bayfield.

THE VOWS

Judith, that your faith in God and your integrity of purpose may be declared before God and all people, you are required in terms of this pre-amble to answer the questions appointed for all who would enter the office of the Ruling Elder.

1. Do you believe in God the Father, made known in his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom the Holy Spirit witnesses in the Scriptures of the TaNaKh and New Testaments? **I do.**
2. Do you accept the subordinate standards of this Church, promising to uphold its doctrine under the continual illumination and correction of the Holy Spirit speaking in the Scriptures and to be guided thereby in fostering Christian belief, worship and service among the people? **I do.**
3. Do you accept the government of this Church by sessions, presbyteries, synods, and general assemblies, and do you promise to share in and submit yourself to all lawful oversight therein, and to follow no divisive course, but to seek the peace and unity of Christ among your people and throughout the Holy Catholic Church? **I do.**
4. In accepting the office of Elder, do you promise to perform your duties in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, striving to build up his Church and to strengthen its mission in the world? **I do.**

May the Lord bless you and give you grace to keep these vows.

Please stand as you are able.

The ordination of elders in a congregation, if their leadership and ministry are to be fruitful, involves responsibilities for both the elders and the people of the church. These questions therefore I direct to you, the members and adherents of this congregation, so that you may renew your obligations to this shared ministry.

1. Do you confess your faith in God as creator and ruler of the world, in Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and in the Holy Spirit as your inspiration and strength? **We do.**
 2. Do you receive Judith as an elder, chosen by God through the voice of this congregation to lead you in the way of Christ? **We do.**
 3. Do you agree to encourage her, to respect her decisions within Session as they guide you, serving Jesus Christ, who alone is head of the church? **We do.**
- May the Lord bless you and give you grace to keep these promises. **Amen.**

ORDINATION PRAYER

Judith stands or sits before the moderator as the moderator leads in prayer, saying:

We praise and glorify you, Lord God Almighty, for you have created us and called us; you have redeemed us in Jesus Christ your Son; you sustain our lives and our works through the presence and power of your Holy Spirit.

Almighty God: in every age you have chosen servants to speak your word and lead your people. We thank you for the men and women whom you have called to serve you as ruling elders.

By the power of your Spirit, develop in them the gifts of ministry; may they have the same mind that was in Christ, serving you in the world as long as they shall live; through Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

God of Grace, who baptized us into a common ministry as ambassadors of Christ; who called us to be a priesthood of all believers; who entrusted to us the message of reconciliation; we pray for courage and discipline to follow where your elders rightly lead us, that together we may declare your mighty acts and show your love to the world; through Jesus Christ who is ruler of all. Amen.

DECLARATION

In the name of Jesus Christ, the only king and head of the church, and by the authority vested in me by the Presbytery of Huron-Perth, I now declare you to

have been ordained as a ruling elder and admit you to the Session of this congregation. Whatever you do, in word or action, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God through him. **Amen.**

THE RIGHT HAND OF FELLOWSHIP

THE OFFERING OF OUR LIFE AND LABOUR TO THE LORD

QUOTE Gratitude doesn't send you out shopping to find satisfaction; it comes as a gift rather than a commodity, subverting the foundation of the whole economy... That's good medicine for land and people alike." Robin Wall Kimmerer – author

SPECIAL MUSIC Martha Lawrance, Harpist

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

God of abundant love, we bring our offerings with joyful hearts to share your abundance with the world. Our contributions seem so small in a world with great need. We seek your blessing to multiply them in your love. Surprise us with your power, working in us and through us, to accomplish worthy things in the name of Jesus Christ, the Bread of Life. Amen.

Prayers of the People

God of mystery and miracle, you offer calm when we encounter storms. We give you thanks for all the ways we have tasted your abundance, in friendship and fellowship, in food on our tables and protection on our streets. In the midst of our comfort help us to be mindful of those who lack the necessities of life and those who find each day unpredictable and filled with stress. Come near to us, and overcome our fear.

O holy One, we struggle with increased divisiveness and hatred in this world. The atrocities of war and upheaval has become reality for many. In the unrest around us, call out to us to overcome our fear.

God, we are aware of our privilege within a world where many suffer in their need for the basics of life. We see uncertainty In our communities, congregations, and families. We hope for leaders who are wise and trustworthy.

Holy God, there are many who suffer with depression and anger, anxiety and despair. We pray that you will calm the turbulence within and around us.

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. Draw near to those who must confront illness, loss, and changing circumstances. 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 and your Spirit to linger with Jim, Jane and family as they mourn Valerie; with friends and family as they mourn the loss of Dave. May their shared memories be a blessing. God of hope, we ask you to linger with all who are dealing with challenges: Renee & Jim; Judith & Gerry; Rob, Jim & Jane; Carl; Betty Lou; Ruth; Audrey & Grace; Courtney, Gayle & family; and, John, Brian, and family. O holy One, guide the caregivers and medical staff in their efforts to bring healing. 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 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 the living God #400

To Go Forth In God's Name Commissioning and Benediction

Go in peace, with Christ as your companion. May the peace of Christ be with you day by day. May the power of the Spirit provide the strength you need. May you find comfort knowing you walk in the grace of God.

Postlude Amen