



506 4 Street SW, Calgary, Alberta T2P 1S7 kxcalgary.com

## December 4, 2022 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent

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**Worship Leader:** The Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis  
**Music Director:** Chellan Hoffman **Knox United Church Choir**  
**Cantors:** Pete Dennis, Karen Harrison **Reader:** Karen Harrison

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*We extend a warm welcome to our Knox community – to those who are tuning in to the livestream service from home or away, and to those who are gathered in our sanctuary.  
You are all an integral part of this community. Thank you for being here.*

We acknowledge that we live, work, play and worship on the traditional territories of the Blackfoot Confederacy (Siksika, Kainai, and Piikani), the TsuuT'ina, the Stoney Nakoda Nations (Bears paw, Chiniki, and Wesley), the Métis Nation (Region 3), and all people who make their homes in the Treaty 7 region of Southern Alberta.

All are welcome in our faith community, regardless of age, colour, ethnic, religious or linguistic background, gender, gender identity, social or economic circumstances, sexual orientation and physical or mental capabilities. Knox has been a proud member of Affirm United since 2007.

### PRELUDE

**“Quem Pastores”** *Whom the Shepherds Praise* (German carol) arr. by Helmut Walcha

**“Lo Desembre Congelat”** *Cold December Flies Away* (Catalonian carol) arr. by Keith Kolander

### WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

**\*HYMN “Angels We Have Heard On High” VU 38**

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Today is the second Sunday of Advent – a time of preparation and waiting.

**All: We wait expectantly for peace to reign.**

One: We light the second candle.

**All: May peace be kindled in our hearts and may peace be the way of the world.**

One: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel!

**All: O Come, O, Come, Emmanuel!**

## **LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE – PEACE**

### **ADVENT SONG “Hope is a Star” VU 7 (sung and seated while the candle is lit)**

Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,  
Giving a promise of safety and worth.  
When God is a child there’s joy in our song.  
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,  
And none shall be afraid.

### **OPENING PRAYER**

**God of the darkened night, God of the morning light, come to us again. Come to us in the breaking of the bread and the harmony of our songs. Come in the sound of silence and the laughter of friends. Come in our faithful waiting and hopeful watching. Come to us in the cry for peace and the smile of forgiveness. God of the darkened night, God of the morning light, come to us; be with us. Amen.**

*(Larry Peacock, Sourcebook of Worship Resources, 1994)*

### **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ, be with you.  
**And also with you. Amen.**

### **THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (see insert)**

Violet Louise Hadley Campbell

Parents: Heather Robertson and Johnathan Campbell

### **RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBER**

Kathryn MacGregor

### **HYMN “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks” VU 75**

### **SCRIPTURE READING Luke 2:8-15**

### **REFLECTION “The Songs of Christmas: The Shepherds’ Song”**

**Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis**

## **CANDLELIGHTING / OFFERING**

You are invited to light a candle at the front of the Sanctuary. Candles are lit as a symbol of remembrance, celebration, gratitude, prayer. Please take this opportunity to make an offering online or in person at the candle table. Your financial support makes a huge difference in the future of Knox.

**Music: Ready My Heart** Soloists: Steve Miller, Pete Dennis; Knox Choir; David Westwick, mandolin; Ricardo Moraes-Pinto, djembe; Karen Harrison, rainstick; Chellan Hoffman, piano

MUSIC & LYRICS BY LOIS SHUFORD

*Ready my heart for the birth of Immanuel. Ready my soul for the Prince of Peace.*

*Heap the straw of my life for His body to lie on; light the candle of hope, let the child come in.*

***Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, Christ the Saviour is born.***

*Mine is the home that is poor and is barren; mine is the stable of cold and stone.*

*Break the light to each corner of doubt and of darkness.*

*Now the Word is made flesh for the birth of me.*

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your child, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be a light to the world. Jesus came to live among us, Emmanuel, your presence with us.

We remember that it was around a table that Jesus gathered his disciples during his last week of life. Jesus reminded them of the work that he had done – how he had fed the hungry, included the outcast, challenged the status quo. He reminded them that God’s vision was about forgiveness and loving our neighbours as ourselves.

And, as they sat and ate and remembered, Jesus took the bread that they were eating – and he gave thanks, he broke the bread, gave it to everyone gathered around the Table, and said, “take and eat – this is my body, broken for you. Whenever you eat of this bread, remember me.”

And then he took the wine that they were drinking – and he gave thanks for the wine, gave it to those gathered around the Table and said, “this is my cup – poured out for you - whenever you drink this, remember that you are loved and you are forgiven.”

As we remember and give thanks, we pray we might also join God’s work of reconciliation and forgiveness, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died,  
Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here today, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us signs of God’s love and forgiveness. Transform our lives that we may also be a sign of that love and forgiveness in our homes, in our neighbourhoods, and in the world. Amen.

And now, with the confidence of children of God, we are bold to pray...

**The Lord’s Prayer (sung)**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The cup of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

## **Holy Communion**

*All are invited to come forward to receive the bread and juice. Bread will be offered and then you are invited to dip the bread into the cup, and receive the elements together. Individual packets of juice and wafer are also available as a gluten-free option.*

**Music during Communion:** *“Angels We Have Heard on High” arr. by Phillip Keveren*

## **Prayer After Communion**

**For the bread we have eaten.**

**For the cup we have shared.**

**For the strength we have received.**

**We give thanks.**

**May we go into the world in the strength of these gifts,**

**To dare to hope, to work for peace, to seek joy, to live in love. Amen.**

**\*CLOSING HYMN “Hark the Herald Angels Sing” VU 48**

## **THE BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE “Rise Up, Shepherd” (African American spiritual) arr. by Karl Osterland**

*\*Please stand in body or spirit.*

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***Thank you for spending time in community worship at Knox United Church, Calgary.***

***May you feel God’s peace, care, energy, and blessing  
within you and around you this coming week.***

***Please stay for coffee, tea, and conversation!***

# **TODAY**

***Please stay for***

## **The Knox United Church Foundation AGM – *Sunday December 4 @ 11:45***

This is the Annual General Meeting of the Knox Foundation. It will be a hybrid in person / online meeting. Financial results will be presented, and directors elected. The meeting will last about 15 minutes. Members of Knox United Church (KUC) and the community are encouraged to attend.

The Knox Foundation is a registered Canadian charity. Its sole beneficiary is Knox United Church.

The mandate of the Knox Foundation is to receive, manage and grow funds from endowments. Income or other capital from these funds are used to support the ongoing ministry of KUC and for the maintenance of the historical building, Casavant organ, and the Memorial Garden. The Foundation provides sustaining income annually to KUC as well as needed funding for large capital projects at the Church.

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### **Thank You to Knox staff & volunteers:**

Sheena Trotter-Dennis (minister)  
Sue Forsyth (office administrator)  
Jampa Tseten, Stephen Wallace (caretaker)  
Carey Barrett/Frank Lam (video operator)  
Tenzin Dawa/Steve Miller (sound operator)

Chellan Hoffman (director of music)  
Gerald Love (greeter & usher)  
Bob Benner (sanctuary preparation)  
Murray, Vi, Chuck (coffee crew)  
Roman Sizer (social media; IT support)

**Weekly Security help:** Jim Smith, Ricardo Moraes-Pinto, Rosalee Morrison, Holly Smith

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# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **CALENDAR**

Advent Wednesdays at 10 am - Coffee Break in the Sanctuary with Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis  
Tuesday December 6 @ 7:00 pm- Book Study - discussion on “Speaking Christian” by Marcus Borg  
Thursday December 5 @ 7:30 pm - Choir Rehearsal in the Labyrinth Room  
Wednesday December @ 7:00 pm-Mission & Vision Working Group will meet  
Sunday December 11 @ 11:45 am - Christmas Bake Sale.  
Sunday December 11 @ 11:45 am - The Finance/Stewardship Team Meeting  
Wednesday December 21 @ 7 pm Blue Christmas: Join us in the Labyrinth for a quiet, reflective service of music and readings  
Saturday December 24 @ 7 pm Christmas Eve: Carols, Candles,  
Saturday December 24 @ 11 pm Christmas Eve: Carols, Candles, Communion  
Sunday December 25 @ 10:30 am Carols and Readings - come in your PJ's or Ugly Christmas Sweaters  
Sunday January 1 @ 10:30 am - A time to ground ourselves for the new year in music and reflection

## **KNOX EVENTS**

### **Ushers and Volunteers Required – *Numerous occasions***

Volunteer ushers for a number of concerts and also for the Christmas Eve Service are urgently needed.

Most rental agreements we host require that we supply ushers.

As a result, we need volunteers. We can't do it without you!

Please support Knox in this important way.

Please go to the Knox website and sign up for the many events and the position of your choosing.

### **Advent Wednesdays at 10 AM - Coffee Break in the Sanctuary**

Come join the discussion! On Wednesday mornings at 10 am during Advent, you are invited to drop in for a weekly discussion on the week's theme and text (November 23, 30, December 7, 14). We will meet for 1 hour. Come once or come every time. No preparation necessary - just come open to engage with the text and with one another. For more information, you can email Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis at [strotterdennis@kxcalgary.com](mailto:strotterdennis@kxcalgary.com).

## **The Mission & Vision Working Group will meet on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**

All are welcome to attend the meeting either in person in the Church board room or on Zoom. Use this link to join the meeting from your computer

: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82739261760?pwd=Mms2bWRYN0dpZjh3ZzErT3N0NnImdz09>.

To join the meeting by phone, call (587) 328-1099 and use Meeting ID: 827 3926 1760 and Passcode: 599908. If you have thoughts about the future direction of Knox but can't attend the meeting, please talk to any one of the group members: Bob Benner, Doug Chandler, Chuck Curry, Kay de la Ronde, Karen Harrison, Holly Smith, Tony Vliet, Gerrit Voordouw, Susan Wood and our Commissioner, Reverend Tom Melvin.

## **HO, HO, HO: *The Christmas Bake Sale!!***

The Christmas bake sale will be held on **December 11@ 11:45 am** It is time to start planning what "holiday goodies" you want to contribute to this all important Knox fundraiser.

## **The Finance/Stewardship Team Meeting – December 11**

The Finance/Stewardship Team will meet again **AFTER** the Knox Bake Sale on December 11, 2022 @12 noon in the Boardroom. The Agenda will include the Stewardship Campaign Evaluation, a review of the Nov-Dec Financial budget (if available), and next steps from the Congregational Town Hall Meeting held in late November. Bring your baking and enjoy it while we meet!

## **COMMUNITY EVENTS**

The second annual ***All is Calm, All is Bright Advent Music Concert*** is back this year by popular demand! Our Knox Choir will be singing Advent music, alongside multiple church choirs from Calgary. The event is FREE, FAMILY-FRIENDLY, and open to all. There is a free-will offering at the door to cover the costs of the concert.

**Time and Date: Saturday, December 10 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Location: Grace Presbyterian Church, 1009 15 Ave SW**

**Register at: [www.GraceChurchCalgary.com/events/](http://www.GraceChurchCalgary.com/events/)**

## **Join us for our January Book Study**

Dear Friends, join us on zoom this coming January to discuss Brian McLaren's new book *Do I Stay Christian? A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned*.



Wisdom Centre member, the Rev. Christine Conkin (Victoria, BC), will lead a three part online study of this provocative new book from Brian McLaren. Whether you are wrestling with this question or not, all of us can relate to times of doubt, disappointment and disillusion! He concludes with a question that is important and relevant for all of us, "How are we going to live?"

*Do I Stay Christian? A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned by Brian McLaren*

An Online Book Study in 3 Parts

**January 11, 18, 25 | 7:30 to 9:00pm MT**

Join us on zoom this coming January to discuss Brian McLaren's new book *Do I Stay Christian? A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned*.

The book delves into contemporary Christian identity, combining "his own experience with that of thousands of people who have confided in him over the years to help readers make a responsible, honest, ethical decision about their religious identity." He offers 10 reasons to decide "no"; 10 reasons to decide "yes"; and then turns to wonder about "how?" "Whatever we decide... how can we do so in a good, honest, and loving way?" How are we going to live?

Each session will include a video introduction and time for discussion.

January 11: Introduction & Part 1 - "No"

January 18: Part 2 - "Yes"

January 25: Part 3 - "How?"

If you are interested in hearing more about this book, here is a link to an introductory video by Brian McLaren:

**[Brian McLaren intro to his book, "Do I Stay a Christian?"](#)**

**Registration** for this event is free. Click the link below to register and once you do you will receive a confirmation email with the Zoom info for the online sessions.

**[Register for Book Study](#)**

**About our study leader:** The Rev. Christine Conkin has served in ordained ministry since 2006 in both Calgary and Victoria. Her spiritual life is grounded in dance and a variety of active outdoor activities, which combine with her biblical and theological studies to inform her interest in the transformation of today's church. She is currently Incumbent of St. George, Cadboro Bay in Victoria, BC

