

One: A snowstorm that quiets our hurry,

All: A humble word that opens a heart,

One: A simple dream that sparks new hope,

All: A crackling fireplace fire that unleashes a deep sigh and a warm tear.

One: The ordinary reveals the Holy and we give thanks.

(adapted from Larry Peacock, Sourcebook of Worship Resources, 1994).

***OPENING PRAYER**

Inspiring God, as we begin this new year, we look forward to the days in front of us and give thanks for the days we leave behind. Whether these days are challenging or joyful, we give thanks that you journey with us. Give us vision and hope. Give us perseverance and peace. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ, be with you.

And also with you. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

REFLECTION “Yes!”

Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis

ANTHEM: New Year

Words and music by John Rutter

Sung by Helayna Moll and Sophia Razi-Merani

Turn your eyes to the light;
Cast away the works of darkness, let them go:
Turn your eyes to the light.
Turn your face to the sun:
Feel the warmth, the hope of new beginnings
With each new year.

The light was always there if we could but see it;
And warmth was in the air if we'd known how to feel.

Turn your eyes to the light,
Turn your face to the sun:
New light, new hope, new year.

Turn your ears to the sound;
Somewhere near, a voice is calling:
Hear the news, Turn your ears to the sound.

Turn your heart to the love;
Christ is come to bring the world new life.
The voice is always there, if the world will hear it;
And love is always there, if you search in your heart.

Turn your ears to the sound,
Turn your heart to the love:
New life, new love, new year.
New life and love, and light and hope,
this good New Year.

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: Sussex Carol arr. Matt Hyzer

HOLY COMMUNION

God is with us!

We are not alone!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to 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: **(Sung together; tune SUSSEX CAROL)**

**Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and God of love.
Holy, holy, holy One, God of power and God of love.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory and light,
Ho-san-na in the highest!**

**Blest is the one who comes in the name of our God,
Ho-san-na in the highest!**

Holy are you, and blessed is your child, Jesus Christ, whom you sent to be a light to the world.

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)

Words: Parker Palmer Music: Chellan Hoffman and Steve Miller

Cantor: Heavenly Father
All: Heavenly Father,
Cantor: Heavenly Mother
All: Heavenly Mother,

**Holy and blest is your true name.
We pray for your reign of peace to come,
We pray that your good will be done,
Let heaven and earth become one, let heaven and earth become one.**

**Give us this day the bread we need, give it to those who have none.
Give us this day the bread we need, give it to those who have none.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, from each one to each one.
Let forgiveness flow like a river between us, from each one to each one.
Lead us to holy innocence beyond the evil of our days.**

**Come quickly, Mother, Father, come; come quickly Mother, Father come.
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy,
For yours is the power and the glory and the mercy.
Forever your name is all in one; forever your name is all in one.
A — men; A — men; A — men.**

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: Reflection on *O Little Town of Bethlehem*

Aaron David Miller

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
as we face the new year. Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN “The God of All Eternity” (tune: O WALY WALY)**

The God of all eternity,
Unbound by space yet always near,
Is present where his people meet
To celebrate the coming year.

What shall we offer God today -
Our dreams of what we cannot see,
Or, with eyes fastened to the past,
Our dread of what is yet to be?

God does not share our doubts or fears,
Nor shrinks from the unknown or strange:
The one who fashioned heaven and earth
Makes all things new and ushers change.

Let faith or fortune rise or fall,
Let dreams and dread both have their day;
Those whom God loves, walk unafraid
With Christ their Guide and Christ their way.

God grant that we, in this new year,
May show the world the Kingdom’s face,
And let our work and worship thrive
As signs of hope and means of grace.

THE BLESSING

POSTLUDE *Toccata on O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright* Michael Burkhardt

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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!

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)

In the Bleak Mid Winter – a series of thoughtful gatherings

Beginning January 18th, 12:30-1:30 pm, Labyrinth Room

What happens after the Christmas left-overs are finished, the kids have returned to school and the family has gone home? How do we carry hope, peace, joy and love with us through the long, cold winter days?

Join us for a time of reflection and conversation. Held in the beautiful Labyrinth Room, framed with music, a reading, and a time for silence and quiet reflection, we will come together to listen, to talk and to be in community together.

All are welcome.

Week 1 (January 18 th):	In the Bleak Mid-Winter? Hope after Christmas
Week 2 (January 25 th):	In the Bleak Mid-Winter? Peace after Christmas
Week 3 (February 1 st):	In the Bleak Mid-Winter? Love after Christmas
Week 4 (February 8 th):	In the Bleak Mid-Winter? Joy after Christmas