

OPENING PRAYER

Blessing God,

Whose caring hands cupped beneath the elements of the universe and – like a potter – fashioned the very vessels of our being. Reach out your hand in blessing on us this morning.

As you drew the lines of our palms and shaped the idiosyncrasies of our fingers. Teach us to reach out our hands to others in love.

Hel is not to raise the threatening fist but to warmly grasp the possibilities of new-found reconciliations.

Soften our touch, O God:

For your creation suffers from warring and pollution and your people reach out for help and solace. Encourage and strengthen us with your wisdom.

Until we become like You fashioners of justice and love. Hands open for peace and benediction. Gathering blessing and flouting life for all. Amen.

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PASSING OF THE PEACE**SCRIPTURE LESSONS****First Reading: Philemon 1: 21**

¹ Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To our beloved coworker Philemon, ² to our^[a] sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your^[b] house:

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴ I thank my God always when I mention you^[c] in my prayers, ⁵ because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. ⁶ I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we^[d] share in Christ.^[e] ⁷ I have^[f] indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

⁸ For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, ⁹ yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus.^[g] ¹⁰ I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. ¹¹ Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful^[h] to^[i] you and to me. ¹² I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you.^[j] ¹³ I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, ¹⁴ but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. ¹⁵ Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for the long term, ¹⁶ no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

¹⁷ So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸ If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. ¹⁹ I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. ²⁰ Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹ Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

One: Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 14:25-33 *Jesus warns of the cost of discipleship*

²⁵ Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them, ²⁶ “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. ²⁷ Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. ²⁸ For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? ²⁹ Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, ³⁰ saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ ³¹ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? ³² If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. ³³ So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

One: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

REFLECTION *The challenge of discipleship*

HYMN My Love Colours Outside the Lines MV 138

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

In the many silences of the heart, O God, when feeling is beyond saying,
Your faithful people everywhere wait upon your Spirit.

In the silence of joy – when a baby is born, when a sunset blazes, when a loved one is restored to health, when peace replaces strife:

In our joy, we wait upon you, O God.

We give you thanks and praise.

In the silence of sorrow – when love is lost, when pain is too constant a companion, when time brings change that is hard to bear, when death seems victorious

In our sorrow, we wait upon you, O God.

You alone are our rock and our refuge.

In the silence of anger – when justice is postponed until tomorrow, when violence shatters body and soul, when prejudice sets neighbor against neighbor, when no one will listen.

In our anger, we wait upon you, O God.

Teach us the ways of justice and mercy.

Let us put our trust where it belongs, not in our positions or power or wealth, for such things are lighter than breath.

In our joy, our sorrow, our anger, we trust in God's unfailing love and guidance. We rely upon the blessing of being a community of faith, a Church universal. Siblings of many colours, ages, sexual orientations, and abilities, we are one in Christ! Together, let us wait upon the God of our salvation!

Lord's Prayer (see purple sheet)

CANDLELIGHTING / OFFERING

You are invited to light a candle and to take a moment to make a donation in person (offering plates are beside candles) or online. Your financial support makes a huge difference in the future of Knox United Church, Calgary.

Music: Somewhere Over the Rainbow/What a Wonderful World on Sunday
Israel Kamakawi'ole's

HYMN Draw the Circle Wide MV 145

THE BLESSING

POSTLUDE

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Please stay for coffee, tea, and conversation!

Thank You to Knox staff & volunteers:

Holly Smith (greeter & usher)
Marco Rojas (sound operator)
Steve Miller/Carey Barrett (video operator)
Bob Benner (sanctuary preparation)
Murray, Vi, Chuck (coffee crew)

Sue Forsyth (office administration)
Jampa Tseten (caretaker)
Chellan Hoffman (director of music)
Maegan Neufeld (communications)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship at Knox

- September 11 - Creation 2 - the Rev. Tom Melvin
- September 18 - Creation 3 - *to be named*
- September 25 - Creation 4 - Reception of New Members - the Rev. Bob Mutlow

Knox Town Hall Forums

Fall Stewardship Program - Tuesday, September 6, 10:00 am - If you are interested and available to plan a Fall Stewardship Campaign at Knox, please contact rwmutlow@shaw.ca for the zoom link. It would be great to have you take part!

Mission & Visioning Team - "Kick-Off" meeting - Wednesday, September 14th - in person at Knox with Tom Melvin. If this is an area that interests you, please come to the initial meeting.

Governance at Knox - Begin the conversation of what kind of governance should Knox consider for the future? Meet on Sunday, September 18, following worship with the Rev. Roslyn Campbell who has served the United Church in a variety of roles including Minister, Conference Executive Secretary and as a lawyer.

Reception of New Members - Sunday, September 25th - Contact the Church Office if you would like to become a "Voting Member" of Knox United. If you have been part of Knox for a long time or are a new-comer, consider becoming a member. To serve on Church Council, Ministry & Personnel - the United Church Manual requires leaders to be "Voting Members." Rev. Bob Mutlow will be leading this worship service.

Congregational Meeting - tentatively planned for Sunday, September 25th. Watch for more information.

Knox Newsletter – A Knox Newsletter was mailed out by email and Canada Post Thursday. If you do not receive one there will be some printed copies available next Sunday or you can contact Sue in the office for a copy at office@kxcalgary.com

A big "Thank You" to everyone who submitted an article and our Newsletter team of Church Administrator Sue Forsyth and Karen Harrison.

Community News - We are contacting you for your assistance in finding Homestays for Ukrainian evacuees. As you may know, Calgary is the preferred city of choice for arrivals from the war in Ukraine. The flow of evacuees to Calgary does not appear to be slowing. If anyone in your organization can host Ukraine arrivals in your home, we would very much like you to register your home at:
<https://refugeeshousedhere.ca/registration/register-as-a-host/>

You can also email the Centre for Newcomers at: n.shen@centrefornewcomers.ca



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SEASON OF CREATION 2022