



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

December 10, 2023 - Second Sunday in Advent

Worship Leader: Keith Murray
Music Director: Chellan Hoffman **Reader:** Roman Sizer
Musicians: Knox Choir

*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.*

Wifi password - Knox Guest\$2021

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 Goodstoney), 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.

**Please stand in body or spirit.*

PRELUDE	Prelude on “It Came Upon a Midnight Clear”	arr. Craig Phillips
	Prelude on “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”	arr. James Biery

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

***OPENING HYMN “Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus”** **Voices United 2**

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: In this season of Advent, we come with expectation and wonder.

All: The sudden sense of a larger mystery.

One: A flood of unexpected tears.

All: Some chorus faintly heard.

One: A cherished memory brought to mind.

All: An awesome peace in the midst of a pressing chaos.

One: A holy reverence on a starlit, moon-bright night.

All: An unexplained act of kindness.

One: In many and varied ways, God nudges, tugs, calls and beckons us.

All: We turn and discover God already waiting for us.

(adapted from Larry Peacock, "Sourcebook of Worship Resources," Communication Resources, Inc. Canton, OH: 1994).

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Dennis Ruf and Murray Songer

Candle Lighters: We light the second candle in Advent, a time of preparation and waiting. We kindle the candle of peace as we wait expectantly.

ALL: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

ADVENT SONG "Come, Come Emmanuel"

More Voices 11

(sung seated while the candle is lit)

Come, Come Emmanuel, Come Emmanuel!

Come, Come Emmanuel, Come Emmanuel!

Come, Come Emmanuel, Come Emmanuel!

Let us pray.

God of Peace, in this time of unrest and conflict, help us to kindle peace in our communities and in the world. Stir within us a relentless longing to end war, a spirit of reconciliation and the commitment to mend relationships. May we rededicate ourselves to your vision of all creation flourishing and living peacefully together. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ, be with you.

And also with you. Amen.

***GATHERING SONG** **“O Come, O Come Emmanuel”** **Voices United 1**

Refrain: **Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel**
Shall come to thee, O Israel. *(sung twice)*

SCRIPTURE **2 Peter 3:8-15 (NRSVUE)**

REFLECTION **Keith Murray**

CHOIR ANTHEM **“Peace, Saalam, Shalom”** Pat Humphries and Sandy Opatow
Words: English, Arabic, Hebrew
Ricardo Moraes-Pinto, percussion

Repeated Refrain: Peace, Salaam, Shalom

Verses: 1) We believe in peace . . .
 2) We will work for peace . . .
 3) Jerusalem, Ramallah, in Tel Aviv, in Washington.
 4) In Rafa, in Baghdad, in Bethlehem, in Canada.

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

LORD’S PRAYER - sung *(purple music sheets available in pews)*

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

(ALL) 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 swiftly, Mother, Father, come;
Come swiftly, 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.

CANDLELIGHTING AND OFFERING

During this time you are invited into a time of personal reflection and prayer. You are invited to come forward to light a candle, place an offering, write a prayer or just to sit and listen to the music. Your financial support makes a huge difference in the future of Knox.

Music: “Away in a Manger” W.J. Kirkpatrick
Children’s Handbell Ringers, directed by Janet Zatka
accompanied by Chellan Hoffman

***CLOSING HYMN “It Came upon a Midnight Clear”** **Voices United 44**

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE “Walking in the Air” from *The Snowman* Howard Blake, arr. Robert Gower

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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)	Chellan Hoffman (director of music)
Sue Forsyth (office administrator)	Bob Benner (sanctuary preparation)
Jampa Tseten, Justin Cross (caretakers)	Murray Songer and Vi Smith (coffee crew)
Roman Sizer (social media; IT support)	Tony Snow (Indigenous Minister, Chinook Winds Region)
Tenzin Dawa/Steve Miller (sound operator)	Keith Murray (VST student, seminary intern)
William Brook (VST student, seminary intern)	Carey Barrett/Frank Lam/Mirko Zatka/Richard
Hand/Christopher Denman/Vladimir Bodrug (video operators)	

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

Please see below for a longer description of some of these events.

Today @ 9:30 am	Bible Study/Conversation	Library
Today @ 11:45 am	Bake Sale	Gym
Wednesday, December 13 @ 12:30 pm	Connection and Reflection	Labyrinth
Saturday, December 16 @ 4:00 pm	Feast at Morley	Morley
Wednesday, December 20 @ 12:30 pm	Connection and Reflection	Labyrinth
Thursday, December 21 @ 7:00 pm	Darkest Night Lights	Garden
Sunday, December 24: 10:30 am, 7:00 pm, 11:00 pm	Christmas Eve Services	Sanctuary
Monday, December 25 - Monday, January 1, Church office & building Closed - no events		

Welcome and Information Table

A welcome table is set up in the back of the sanctuary. This is the place to find information about events, sign up to volunteer and find friendly people to answer questions about Knox. Thank you to Karen Harrison and Michael Malolos for hosting.

In Remembrance - Ken Allen

We offer condolences to the friends and family of Knox adherent, Ken Allen, who died on November 24, 2023.

TODAY AT KNOX

Pre-Service Bible Study/Conversation

Sundays, 9:30 am, Library

Join William Brook, a seminary student at Vancouver School of Theology, for a look at the Sunday theme and scripture reading. The time will be interactive and conversational. All are welcome. Please feel free to join one Sunday or all Sundays.

Christmas Bake Sale Ho! Ho! Ho!

Today, 11:45 am in the gymnasium

The Annual Christmas bake sale is here! Head over to the Gym right after the service to purchase your favourite homemade goodies for the holidays!

THIS WEEK

Connection and Reflection - Contemplation and Community

Wednesdays, 12:30 - 1:30 pm, Labyrinth Room

Join us for a time of reflection and conversation. Held in the beautiful Labyrinth Room, framed with music, readings, 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.

COMING UP AND ONGOING

Keith Murray and Rev. Tony Snow

Through a grant from the Community Services Recovery Fund from the Government of Canada, we are pleased to announce that Keith Murray will continue their work at Knox through June 2024. Keith will be providing general ministerial support as well as working with volunteers to enhance our online engagement. Rev. Tony Snow will also be in our community through June 2024. Tony will be working to create opportunities for Knox to be a place of welcome and reconciliation for the urban Indigenous community as well as help us live into our work of reconciliation with all of our neighbours.

Special Children's Time

On the first Sunday of the month, there is a special time for children during our Sunday worship service. Children, ages 3 and older, are invited for a time of story, craft and recreation. The Children will start in the Sanctuary and move to the library. We are deeply grateful for Christine Sizer who is volunteering to lead this program. If you have any questions, please contact sundayschool@kxcalgary.com.

Coloring packets are available every Sunday in the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to help yourself.

Knox Weekly Email

Sign up to receive Knox's weekly email newsletter. The email is sent out on Friday and includes information about the Sunday service and other events. Email office@kxcalgary.com to get on the distribution list.

Indigenous Advent

Sunday, December 10, 5:00 pm, Lantern Church or on Zoom

This year we celebrate the Indigenous Advent series at Lantern Community Church and online (Zoom). Join us for a reflection on our shared journey toward reconciliation through the lens of Episcopal Priest Steven Charleston from the Choctaw Nation and his message of resiliency in "We Survived The End Of The World" (2023). Lantern Church (Inglewood) – 1401 10 Ave SE Calgary or on Zoom:
<https://united-church.zoom.us/j/82830741995>

Christmas Feast at Morley

Saturday, December 16, 12:00 for volunteers, 4:00 feast, Bearspaw Youth Centre

You are invited to volunteer and participate in a Christmas Feast at Morley. Bring a wrapped toy and a side dish to share. Toys, children's clothing and baby items can be dropped off at McDougall United Church, Dec. 3-15th. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Rev. Tony Snow: TSnow@united-church.ca. If you are interested in carpooling to the event, please sign up at the welcome table.

Christmas Giving Tree

Sunday, December 17, sanctuary

This year Knox invites you to participate in our annual Christmas Giving Tree. Each year we provide gifts to families in the Calgary area. **This year we will be asking for gifts for families from Inn from the Cold.** Those needed gifts are listed on the Christmas tree at the front of the Sanctuary. Please take a star and purchase the gift listed. You are invited to bring your unwrapped gifts back during the weekdays, or on Sunday, and place them under the Christmas Giving Tree. Gift cards should be placed in the offering plate during Sunday service, where they will be collected and kept in the church's safe until next Sunday (December 17th). At that worship service, between 11:30am and 12:30 pm, the gift cards and gifts from under the tree will be given to the representative from Inn From the Cold.

Longest Night - Light the Night

Thursday, December 21, 7:00 pm, Garden

Join us on the longest night as we gather in the Knox Garden to light candles and add light to our corner of the world as we await the Light coming. We will have time to write down things we wish to let go and things we wish to birth in this season. Dress warmly. We will gather for about 30 minutes.

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24, 10:30 am, 7:00 pm, 11:00 pm, Sanctuary

Celebrate the Awe and Wonder of Christmas! Three services will be held on Christmas Eve. There will be a 10:30 am service of lessons and carols, followed by two evening services at 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm which will feature special music, candlelight and star. The 11:00 pm service will also include

Communion. Postcards with this information are available on the Welcome and Information table. Please take as many as you would like to give to family and friends to invite them to Christmas Eve services at Knox.

Knox on Amazon

You may begin to notice links to books and products for sale on Amazon on the Knox website or in our weekly emails. These are affiliate marketing links. This means if you click on the link and purchase the item, we will receive an affiliate commission at no extra cost to you. We only recommend products or services we believe honour the values of the church and congregation and carefully vet each product we mention. Thank you for supporting Knox!

Live-Streaming Volunteers Needed

Do you have an interest in getting more involved in Knox? Do you have some technical abilities or are you willing to be taught a new skill? We are looking for people to run and operate our Livestream on Sunday mornings. Training is available. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please email careyabarrett@gmail.com.

Concert Season and Christmas Eve Volunteers

December is a busy time at Knox. Many community choir and church events are scheduled. Almost every event requires us to provide ushers, hosts, fire marshalls. *If you can help, even with just one event, please contact Sue at sforsyth@kxcalgary.com or check with the Information Table.*

Discover Knox Tour

Last Sunday of the Month, 11:45 am, Sanctuary; No tours in December

All are invited to take a behind-the-scenes tour of parts of the building and hear more about the Knox community.

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