



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

January 7, 2024 - Epiphany

Worship Leaders: Sheena Trotter-Dennis and Keith Murray

Interim Music Director: Ethan Hill

Musicians: Knox Choir **Reader:** Rod Orman

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 - KnoxGuest\$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

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Wayne L. Wold

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

***OPENING HYMN**

"Joyful, Joyful We Adore You"

Voices United 232

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: A light shines in the darkness.

All: A light shines, showing us the way.

One: A light shines in us.

All: Help us to feel its radiant presence.

One: A light shines in others.

All: May we remember we don't own the light.

One: A light shines in the darkness.

All: And, the darkness does not overcome it.

Let us pray.

God of stars and light, show us the way of love in this new year. We give thanks for this time to be together, to sing, to pray, to reflect. God of new beginnings, in these early days of a new year, fill us with your radiance and ground us in your sustaining light. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ, be with you.

And also with you. Amen.

***GATHERING SONG "A Light is Gleaming"**

Voices United 82

Refrain:

**A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.**

**Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.**

SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 60:1-6

ANTHEM "Creator of the Stars of Night"

arr. John Scott

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 2:1-12

REFLECTION "Always in the Light"

HYMN "Bathe Me In Your Light"

More Voices 82

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 the One who is boundless in hospitality and who invites us to the Table.

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, Infinite and Boundless God, who created all things and called them good. 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 one, God of love and majesty, the whole universe speaks of your glory and creativity, your loving embrace.

Blest is the one who comes in the name of the Source of Love and Light.

Holy are you, and blessed is your child, Jesus Christ.

We remember that it was around a table that Jesus gathered his disciples during his last week of life. Jesus reminded them that God's vision was about forgiveness and loving our neighbours as ourselves – encountering each person as God's very own.

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, we are bold to pray God's vision for the world . . .

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.**

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

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

Holy Communion, Candlelighting and Offering

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.

You are invited to light a candle or write a prayer 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: *Light Organ Music*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

**For the bread we have eaten,
For the cup we have shared,
For the prayers we have prayed,
For the strength we have received,
For the assurance we have been given.
We give thanks.**

May we go into the world, strengthened by these gifts. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“Hope Shines as a Solitary Star”

More Voices 220

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

“Little Prelude and Fugue in G Major BWV 557”

J.S. Bach

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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:

Minister: Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis

Office Administrator: Sue Forsyth

Interim Director of Music: Ethan Hill

Sanctuary Preparation: Bob Benner

Social Media: Roman Sizer

Coffee Crew: Murray Songer/Vi Smith

Indigenous Minister, Chinook Winds Region: Rev. Tony Snow

Seminary Intern, VST Student: Keith Murray

Caretakers: Jampa Tseten, Justin Cross

Sound Operators: Tenzin Dawa/Steve Miller

Livestream/Video Operators: Carey Barrett/Rick Hand/

Christopher Denman/Mirko Zatka/Vladimir Bodrug/Frank Lam

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.

Welcome Ethan Hill, Interim Director of Music

We welcome Ethan Hill as Interim Director of Music as Chellan Hoffman takes a renewal leave. Ethan studied composition at the University of Victoria, where he also trained as a liturgical musician at St. John the Divine Anglican Church. In 2019, he relocated to Montreal to study the organ at McGill University, during which time he held an organ scholarship at Christ Church Cathedral. His work in the church sparked his fascination with metaphysics, symbolism and ontology, which he continues to explore today. He works with the Alberta Ballet and the Savridi Singers. He continues to develop his artistry through residencies with the Banff Centre for Art and Creativity, the Domaine Forget de Charlevoix and Continuum Contemporary Music. Ethan also serves as president of RCCO, Calgary Centre and a representative for Alberta & the Northwest Territories with the Canadian League of Composers.

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 @ 11:30 am	Potluck	Gym
Tuesday, January 9 @ 6:15 pm	Book Club	Bd Rm & zoom
Wednesday, January 10 @ 12:30 pm	Connection and Reflection	Labyrinth
Wednesday, January 10 @ 7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Sunday, January 14 @ 9:30 am	Bible Study/Conversation	Library
Tuesday, January 16 @ 6:15 pm	Book Club	Bd Rm & zoom
Wednesday, January 17 @ 12:30 pm	Connection and Reflection	Labyrinth
Wednesday, January 18 @ 7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Friday, January 19 @ 6:30 pm	Naked Faith	TBA
Sunday, January 21 @ 9:30 am	Bible Study/Conversation	Library
Tuesday, January 23 @ 6:30 pm	Book Club	Bd Rm & zoom
Wednesday, January 24 @ 12:30 pm	Connection and Reflection	Labyrinth
Wednesday, January 25 @ 7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Sunday, January 28 @ 9:30 am	Bible Study/Conversation	Library
Sunday, January 28 @ 11:45 am	Discover Knox Tour	Sanctuary

TODAY

Pre-Service Bible Study/Conversation

Sundays, 9:30 am, Library

Join a small group for a conversation on 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.

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.

Monthly Potluck

Today, 11:30 am, Gym

Our monthly potluck returns! Join us for a time of fellowship and delicious food following the worship service. All are welcome!

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

January Sermon Series - More Light

Sometimes the weeks after Christmas are a bit of a let-down. How many of us are just barely getting through our days? Prolonged stress, uncertainty, full schedules, the dark days of January - there's a lot keeping us from a light-filled month. What's a faithful response? What if everyday life activities could become spiritual practices - deepening our experience of a meaningful life and help us add more light to our life and the lives of others. On Sundays in January, join us as we explore the ways music, food, humour and small acts of kindness can be meaningful spiritual practices.

Children's Handbells

Sunday, January 21 during the service, Labyrinth

All children are invited to come and begin learning the art of handbell ringing, using our very own Knox handbells. The sessions are led by Janet Zarka, a ringer with our Knox Re-Bell ringers, and include handbell ringing basic skills and techniques. No previous experience necessary. We will meet in the Labyrinth during the worship service. Questions? Please email Christine at csizer@kxcalgary.com.

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.

Book Club

Tuesdays, 6:15 pm - 7:30 pm, Board Room and Online (starting January 9)

We will be reading "Holy Chaos: Creating Connections in Divisive Times: How to Love Each Other Amid our Religious and Political Differences" by pastor, activist and Interfaith leader, Amanda Henderson. Please contact Sue at sforsyth@kxcalgary.com if you would like to join the group. Meetings are held online via Zoom and in person. All are welcome.

Naked Faith for Youth (Grades 6-12) and Young Adults

Third Friday of the month, 6:30 pm, Location TBA

Naked Faith is a United Church Regional Event which means it brings together youth and young adults from all over Calgary. The evening begins with dinner, followed by an hour-long service. Afterwards, youth from grades 6 through 12 are invited to stay for games and activities until 10:30. Young adults are invited to head to a nearby pub to engage in further discussion about the theme, or to simply enjoy the community. Naked Faith is facilitated and made possible by Regional Youth and Young Adult Ministries, funded by St. Andrew's United Church in Calgary.

Epiphany Explorations

Saturdays in January, 9 am - 12 pm, Hillhurst United Church, Calgary

Hillhurst United Church extends an invitation on Saturdays (9 AM-12 PM) in January for a chance to hear from and be in conversation with professors from the Vancouver School of Theology. Over the four weeks, we'll be taking a fresh look at our biblical stories thanks to Dr. Harry Maier (01/06), Rev. Dr Ross Lockhart (01/13), Rabbi Laura Duhan-Kaplan (01/20), and Dr. Mari Joerstad (01/27). For more details and to register visit:

<https://hillhurstunited.churchcenter.com/registrations/events/2067192>

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. Or, use this QR code.



Discover Knox Tour

January 28, 11:45 am, Sanctuary

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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