

KNOX SUNDAY WORSHIP
FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
May 7, 2023 (10:30 am)

♪↑ Rise to sing, as you are able ♪+ Remain seated to sing

Prelude: “The Gift of Love” trad., Hal Hopson; Setting: John Carter

Welcoming

Lighting of the Christ Candle

In this season of Easter, we light the Christ Candle knowing that Jesus risen, is the light of the world. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. Let this light – each day, each time, each season dispel all the darkness we may know. Christ be our light!

Call to Worship

One: Blessed by the name of God

All: Life bursts forth in the beauty of creation; life erupts from the darkness of despair.

One: Hope abounds in the promises given; joy springs forth and sadness ends.

All: Strength is found to face every tomorrow; God’s wholeness brings healing to all.

One: The world and all that is in it glows with the glory of God.

♪↑ **Hymn:** “We Are Pilgrims” (The Servant Song) VU 595

Gathering Prayer

Gracious God, we gather as your people once again: We come as a praising people, singing your goodness, we come as a praying people, turning to you with our needs, our joys and thanksgivings and we come with our commitments. We come as a listening people, open to your Word. Fill us with your love and empower us to faithfully follow in your way. We pray in the name of Love. Amen.

Prayer of Confession and Words of Forgiveness and Freedom

Come to us God, like fresh water softening the soil of a parched and weary land. We have let hurts and disappointments harden our hearts. We have let frustrations and failures dry us out and shrivel us up. Free us from the legacy of bondage and oppression that we carry with our resentments, our reluctance and our withholding. Remind us of your life-giving power. Enable us to be forgiving that we might be forgiven. Come to us O God, with healing on your wings.

The God who challenges us is the God who encourages us. The God who confronts us is also the God who accepts us. Know that God is ever with us, right now, accepting, guiding and forgiving.

We are a forgiven people. Thanks be to God!

♪↑ **Hymn:** “Kyrie” VU 946

Kyrie eleison,
kyrie eleison,
kyrie eleison.

Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy on us.

Assurance of Pardon

♪+ **Hymn:** “Blest Be the Tie That Binds” VU 602

Scripture: Romans 1:1-17

Chants Encounter: “Victimae Paschali Laudes”
Attrib.: Wipo of Burgundy (c. 1000-1050),
Edited: Daniel Dorff

(medieval Easter sequence – that Christ is truly risen from the dead...)

“Regina Caeli Laetare”
– Four Antiphons of the Virgin Mary (#3) – Easter Even until Pentecost

Sermon: Pen Pals

Meditative Music: “Parce Dómine” – text from Joel 2:17
“Spare, Lord, spare your people....”

♪↑ **Invitation to Offering**

♪↑ **Offering Hymn:** “For the Gift of Creation” VU 538

For the gift of creation,
the gift of your love,
and the gift of the Spirit
by which we live,
we thank you and give you
the fruit of our hands.
May your grace be pro-claimed
by the gifts that we give.

Prayer of Dedication

God of infinite compassion, accept these humble gifts that we offer here today. Teach us to walk and wait and live in faith even when hope seems absurd, may we trust always in your redemptive activity in this world, and may each generous gift, belong to your transformative power. In the Spirit of the Risen Christ. Amen.

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

The Lord’s Prayer (together) VU 914

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

♪↑ **Hymn:** “God, as We Rise to Leave” VU 417

Commissioning and Benediction

God of all grace and love: we have praised you with our lips for the meaning and richness life holds for us in Christ. Now send us forth to praise you with our lives.

May the blessing of the God of joy and justice, the peace of Christ of grace and goodness, and the Spirit of love and liveliness be with you now and always. Go in Peace. Amen.

♪↑ **Benediction Response:** “Halle, Halle, Halle” VU 958

Halle, halle, halle – lujah!
Halle, halle, halle – lujah!
Halle, halle, halle – lujah!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (3 times)

Postlude: “We Are God’s People” Johannes Brahms; Arr. Fred Bock

May 7, 2023, Fourth Sunday After Easter

Title: Pen Pals

Text: Romans 1:1-17

Synopsis: This is the beginning of Paul’s letter to the church in Rome – a significant community in the early days of this new Church. The central theme is the glorious universal scope of God’s redemptive activity in Jesus – now offered to the whole world. As we text, email and snapchat, how do our messages to others encourage and lift up right relationship and faithfulness? How do we lean into the trust and love of a resurrected Jesus and the God who made it so?

Worship Leaders:

Presider & Preacher: Rev. Deb Walker

Prayers of the People: Rev. Sharon Copeman

Scripture Reader: Charles Hou

Guest Choir: Chants Encounter (Director: Colleen Coulter)

Music Director and Pianist: Colleen Coulter

Ministry of Music: Knox Choir

Ushers/Greeters: Mary-Ellen and Mike Flynn, Ed Williams

Livestreaming Recording: Kevin Wong

Webminder: Debra Danny

Chants Encounter

We welcome Chants Encounter, a volunteer choral group, whose repertoire is Gregorian Chant. This choir very much appreciates being able to practise on a bi-weekly basis at Knox. The choir concludes their rehearsals in May, to resume singing in September. Gregorian Chant had a long evolution of change over centuries. The style was named after Pope Gregory the Great, who did not compose chants but collected, reformed and codified the musical liturgy. The genre includes music composed roughly between 500 and 1200. There is no sense of regular pulse in the chants, featuring a free-floating, meter-free meditative line. They are traditionally sung in Latin.

Victimae Paschali Laudes is one of the very few Easter sequences from early 1000 to still be used today. **Regina caeli laetare** is the third in the Four Antiphons of the Virgin Mary, sung between Easter and Pentecost. Chants Encounter sang the first two Antiphons on our visit on January 29. **Parce Dómine**, a prayer, is often sung during Lent but also appropriate for other times.

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"Parce Domine". From Parish Book of Chant, Church Music Association of America

"Regina Caeli" written between the 11th and 13th Centuries. Parish Book of Plainchant.

"The Gift of Love", Traditional/Hal Hopson. Setting by John Carter; from Today's Hymns and Songs for Piano by John Carter. Copyright ©1972, 1995 Hope Publishing Company. All Rights Reserved.

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Land Acknowledgment:

We acknowledge we worship on the unceded territories of the x_wm_əθk_wəy_əm_ (Musqueam), S_kw_x_wú7mesh (Squamish), and Sel_íl_witulh (Tseil-Waututh) Nations. We thank them for having cared for this land and look forward to relating with them as covenant people of God as we continue to care for this land together.

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KNOX UNITED CHURCH

Mission: "We exist to love God and love our neighbours" (Matthew 22: 36-40)

Vision: "We aspire to engage our neighbours through the arts, building a community without loneliness.

KNOX UNITED CHURCH

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