

KNOX SUNDAY WORSHIP
November 12, 2023 (10:00 am)

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

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

Prelude: “Vesper Voluntary” Edward Elgar

Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle and Opening the Bible

Call to Worship

ONE: God says: Love your God with all your heart, all your soul and all your mind.

ALL: **We come to worship God who is love. We come to learn how to love God.**

ONE: God says: Love one another.

ALL: **We come to worship God. We come to learn how to love one another and all of creation.**

ONE: Let us sing praise to God and live in love.

ALL: **Let us worship our God of love and let us worship God together as ‘one’ in love. Amen.**

♪↑ **Hymn:** “Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love” VU 574

Prayer of Approach (Adoration and Confession) *(together)*

Eternal God, you are the light and joy of our hearts, our souls, and our minds and we want to love you. You are the strength of our will, and we want to serve you. Open our hearts to your love and teach us your ways of love. As we journey, we are not always loving to those we meet and to all of creation. Forgive us for our errors and omissions we pray. Touch our lives with your love to overflowing and be with us as we learn of your abundant, unending, uncompromising, and unconditional love for us and creation. Transform us into beings of love in action. Be with us as we struggle to live out your call to love in our broken and fragmented world. Be with us as we strive to love all of creation and bring light into darkness. Amen.

Time of Silent Reflection

Words of Assurance

♪↑ **Hymn of Response:** “Halle, Halle, Halle” VU 958

WE ENGAGE THE STORY

♪+ **Hymn of Illumination:** “Open Our Hearts” MV 21

**Open our hearts, open our minds,
open our lives to you O loving God.
Open our hearts, open our minds,
open our lives to you O loving God.
Open our hearts.**

Scripture Readings: Deuteronomy 6: 4-9
Psalm 90: 12-17 (adapted) - see insert
Matthew 22: 34-46

ONE: Hear what the Scripture is saying to the church.

ALL: **Thanks be to God**

Anthem: “A Heartsong Blessing” Words: Mattie J.T. Stepanek
Music: Joseph M. Martin

Reflection: “Love, Loving and Action”

Meditative Music: “Meditation on Ubi Caritas” Douglas E. Wagner

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

♪↑ **Offering Hymn:** “Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands” VU 537

Prayer of Dedication

Prayers for Ourselves and Others

♪+ **The Lord’s Prayer *(sung)*** VU 960

**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 them
that 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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

♪↑ **Hymn: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" **** VU 333

WE GO FORTH

Commissioning and Benediction

♪↑ **Benediction Response: "Walk with Me" (Chorus x2)** VU 649

**Walk with me, I will walk with you
and build the land that God has planned
where love shines through. (repeat)**

♪↑ **Closing: "Threefold Amen"** VU 967

Amen, amen, amen.

Postlude: "Fantasia in G Minor" Johann Pachelbel

** Favourite Hymn Survey request

The words for **A Heartsong Blessing** were written by 11-year-old Mattie Stepanek. He was dedicated to the cause of Peace and wrote 6 volumes of Heartsongs poetry. Mattie died on June 22, 2004 when he was only 13 - of a genetic condition. All four children in the family suffered from the same genetic condition. Joseph Martin set the poetry to music and it was performed at Carnegie Hall. Mattie is being considered by the Catholic Church to have him canonized as a saint.

Worship Leaders:

Presider & Preacher: Rev. Diane Halkett

Scripture Reader: Sandra Trueman

Music Director: Colleen Coulter

Organist: Madelene Klassen

Ministry of Music: Knox Choir

Usher/Greeters: Dave Cass, Ed Williams

Webminder: Debra Danny

November 12, 2023

Title: "Love, Loving and Action"

Text: Deuteronomy 6: 4-9; Psalm 90: 12-17 (adapted; bulletin insert);
Matthew 22: 34-46

Synopsis: What a wonderful title for a church message! Our faith is based on the mystery of divine love and the call to 'be love' and to make God's love alive and well in our lives each and every day. Jesus proclaimed that all peoples must love God with all that we have and all that we are; with the divine love which constitutes the core of our being. Jesus also proclaimed that out of a complete love for God, we are to love our neighbours; that love of neighbour is part of loving God. We are called to claim this first love, this divine love as our own and make it come alive in our lives.



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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Land Acknowledgment:

We acknowledge we worship on the unceded territories of the x_ʷm_əθk_ʷəy_ʔəm__ (Musqueam), S_kw_x_wú7mesh (Squamish), and Sel_íl_witulh (Tsleil-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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Psalm 90: 12-17

12. **It's not how long we live that matters.
But how well.**
13. Do not leave us alone in the dark, Lord.
Take pity on our pathetic emptiness.
14. Light up our days with love,
and let us frolic in the sunshine of your smile.
15. Make our summers as long as our memories;
make our winter nights as brief as a whisper.
16. Let us see your inner nature;
lead us into the warm circle of your arms.
17. Shape our attitudes as a potter forms clay.
**Help us become what you envisioned,
when you first thought of us.**