



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

February 26, 2023 – First Sunday of Lent

Worship Leader: Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis
Music Director: Chellan Hoffman **Knox United Church Choir**
Cantors: Pete Dennis, Elissa Cundy **Reader:** Roman Sizer

*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.*

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 Wesley), 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 Wayfaring Stranger arr. Don Hustad

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

***LENTEN HYMN “This Path We Walk” ♥**

Words: S. Curtis Tufts / music: Ron Klusmeier / setting: Chellan Hoffman
For the story behind these lyrics, please see ♥ “Music Notes” on page 4.

**This path we walk, through joy and tears,
A living Way of faith and fears,
Through each step’s risk, each sorrow’s pain,
When walked in love, we’ll rise again.**

Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison, Kyrie eleison.
(Pronounced: Kee-ree-ay-lay-sohn)

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Open our hearts. Open our minds.

All: Turn our hearts to God and one another.

One: For the Lenten journey begins.

All: Walk with us on this journey.

One: Come, all who wish to join us.

All: Let us walk with courage, trusting God's presence.

Let us pray.

God of journeys, God of truth, God of reconciliation, God of hope, God of forgiveness, be present with us this day and in this season. Give us the courage to travel these forty days. Open us to your renewing spirit, your love, and your hope. May we travel these days in faith, knowing you go with us every step of the way. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ, be with you.

And also with you. Amen.

***GATHERING SONG "Open Our Hearts" MV 21**

SCRIPTURE READING Isaiah 40:28-31

REFLECTION "Living into Uncomfortableness" Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis

ANTHEM "Heal the World" words & music: Michael Jackson ♥

There's a place in your heart and I know that it is love;
and this place it was brighter than tomorrow.
And if you really try, you'll find there's no need to cry;
in this place you'll feel there's no hurt or sorrow.
There are ways to get there, if you care enough for the living.
Make a little space, make a better place. **REFRAIN**

**Heal the world. Make it a better place for you and for me,
and the entire human race.
There are people dying – if you care enough for the living,
make a better place for you and for me.**

If you want to know why, there's a love that cannot lie; I
love is strong, it only cares of joyful giving.
If we try, we shall see, in this bliss we cannot feel fear of dread,
we stop existing and start living.

Then it feels that always love's enough for us growing.
Make a better world; so make a better world. **REFRAIN**

And the dream we were conceived in, will reveal a joyful face;
And the world we once believed in will shine again in grace.
Then why do we keep strangling life, wounding this earth, crucifying its soul?
Though it's plain to see, this world is heavenly. Be God's glow!

We could fly so high, let our spirits never die.
In my heart I feel you are all my brothers.
Create a world with no fear, together we cry happy tears.
See the nations turn their swords into plowshares.
We could really get there if you cared enough for the living.
Make a little space, to make a better place. **REFRAIN**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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 quickly, Mother, Father, come;
Come quickly, 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 / OFFERING

You are invited to light a candle 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: Ballad to the East, from Canadiana Suite Oscar Peterson

*CLOSING HYMN “Healer of Our Every Ill” VU 619

*BLESSING

POSTLUDE Hymn to Freedom words: Harriette Hamilton /music: Oscar Peterson♥

When every heart joins every heart and together yearns for liberty, that's when we'll be free.
When every hand joins every hand and together moulds our destiny, that's when we'll be free.
Any hour any day, the time soon will come when all will live in dignity, that's when we'll be free.
When everyone joins in our song and together singing harmony, that's when we'll be free.

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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!

MUSIC NOTES: ♥ LENTEN HYMN “This Path We Walk”

Journeying from Apology towards Reconciliation In 2016, Rev. S. Curtis Tufts wrote hymn lyrics commemorating the 30th Anniversary of the United Church's Apology to First Nations Peoples (1986). We begin our Lenten journey today by singing the first of those five verses. As we journey through each Sunday in Lent, we will sing an additional verse.

Rev. Curtis Tufts says: “I was a commissioner from Saskatchewan Conference at the 1986 General Council in Sudbury and have a vivid memory of the evening when the Apology was brought on our behalf by the Moderator to the waiting Elders. The whole council was gathered in an amazing circle dance around a bonfire as the Moderator and Elders met in a tipi nearby. I remember clearly the strong feeling that we were in the midst of a historic turning point kind of moment. I hope that, as a part of our acknowledging the anniversary of that moment, this hymn will remind us of the need to continue faithfully on the journey that was begun then.”

♥ February is BLACK HISTORY MONTH

<https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/campaigns/black-history-month.html>

Every February, people across Canada participate in Black History Month events and festivities that honour the legacy of Black people in North America, in Canada, and in their communities.

The 2023 theme for Black History Month is: "Ours to tell". Through music in our worship services at Knox, we celebrate and learn about African American and African Canadian musicians and artists, and the stories behind the music.

♥ Anthem: "Heal the World" by Michael Jackson (1958-2009)



Michael Jackson's remarkable 30-year career scaled unparalleled musical, commercial and critical heights. His myriad achievements included being responsible for the best-selling album of all time, pioneering the music-video medium, and virtually redefining the concept of the modern pop star. As a songwriter, he penned more than 150 songs, with more than 20 reaching multi-million performance status on American radio and television.



"**Heal the World**" was released in 1991 and was written by Jackson for his charity organization of the same name – "**Heal the World Foundation.**" Jackson's career was rewarded with 13 Grammy Awards, as well as the Grammy Legend Award, and Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award. He also won 6 Brit Awards, 5 Billboard Music Awards and 24 American Music Awards. Jackson was the youngest artist to ever be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and one of only a few artists to be inducted twice (he was inducted in 1997 as a member of The Jackson 5 and again as a solo artist in 2001).

In 2002, Jackson was inducted into the Songwriters Hall of Fame, and in 2014, posthumously inducted into the Rhythm & Blues Hall of Fame along with his father Joe Jackson. Michael Jackson spent four decades as a songwriter, performer, recording artist and public figure, and will be remembered as a consistent musical innovator and stylistic trendsetter.

♥ Postlude: “Hymn to Freedom” by Oscar Peterson



“The music field was the first to break down racial barriers, because in order to play together, you have to love the people you are playing with, and if you have any racial inhibitions, you wouldn't be able to do that.”

– Oscar Peterson

Oscar Emmanuel Peterson (1925-2007) was a Canadian virtuoso jazz pianist and composer, born in Montreal, Quebec, to immigrants from the West Indies. His mother was a domestic worker; his father worked as a porter for Canadian Pacific Railway and was an amateur musician who taught himself to play the organ, trumpet, and piano. Peterson grew up in the neighbourhood of Little Burgundy in Montreal. It was in this predominantly black neighbourhood that he encountered the jazz culture. He was influenced by Art Tatum, Nat King Cole, and under his sister's tutelage, he expanded into classical piano training by studying scales and preludes and fugues of Johann Sebastian Bach.

Considered one of the greatest jazz pianists of all time, Peterson released more than 200 recordings, won eight Grammy Awards, as well as a lifetime achievement award from the Recording Academy. In 1993 a stroke weakened his left hand, but he continued playing. His friend, Canadian politician and amateur pianist Bob Rae, said, "a one-handed Oscar was better than just about anyone with two hands." In 1997 Peterson received the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award and an International Jazz Hall of Fame Award. In 2022, the Royal Canadian Mint issued a collectable coin celebrating Oscar Peterson's "love of music and lasting legacy." On the coin is Peterson at the piano, with the melody of "Hymn to Freedom" streaming from the keys. ■

Thank You to Knox staff & volunteers:

Sheena Trotter-Dennis (minister)
Sue Forsyth (office administrator)
Jampa Tseten, Stephen Wallace (caretaker)
Carey Barrett/Frank Lam (video operator)
Tenzin Dawa/Steve Miller (sound operator)

Chellan Hoffman (director of music)
Gerald Love (greeter & usher)
Bob Benner (sanctuary preparation)
Murray, Vi, Chuck (coffee crew)
Roman Sizer (social media; IT support)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

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

TODAY after the service

Wednesday, March 1 @ 12:30

Thursday, March 2 @ 7:30 pm

Saturday, March 4 @ 1:00 pm

Sunday, March 5 @ 11:45 am

Wednesday March 15 @ 12:00

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY WORSHIP

CHOIR REHEARSAL

BLANKET EXERCISE

POT LUCK LUNCH

MARTIN ORCHESTRA & CHORALE

Gymnasium

Labyrinth Room

Choir Room

Sanctuary

Labyrinth

Sanctuary

Knox Governance

KNOX ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING (AGM) – Please join us in the Gymnasium for this important meeting and a light lunch (donation basket) to:

- Adopt the 2022 Annual Report,
- Receive the unaudited 2022 Financial Statements,
- Adopt the 2023 Budget,
- Elect Governance Leaders,
- Consider the "Knox Mission, Vision & Values" and Knox Trustees Model Deed proposals and any other upcoming agenda items.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend this very important session in our Governance calendar.

Worship at Knox

Potluck, Labyrinth Room

March 5, after the service

Everyone's invited to our monthly potluck, following the service. Bring a dish to share and stay for the feast of food and fellowship.

Wednesday Worship

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, a reading, 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.

40 Days of Truth and Reconciliation: living into our commitments

During the 40 days of Lent (starting February 22), we will focus on our commitment to the ongoing work of truth and reconciliation and right relations.

Blanket Exercise

Saturday, March 4

1:00 - 3:00 pm Knox United, Sanctuary

The Blanket Exercise is a faith-based cultural awareness tool that presents information about the Residential School Experience in Canada and its impacts on Indigenous communities. This Regional Blanket Exercise is focused on Treaty 7 history and experiences. Rev. Tony Snow will lead this exercise. All are invited.

Maundy Thursday Dinner at Stoney Nakoda (Mni Thni)

Thursday, April 6

3:45 pm - Meet at Knox to carpool to Morley

5:00 - 7:00 pm Morley Gym

We are invited to join our Iyarhe Nakoda relations in this observance and expression of faith on our journey toward reconciliation. All are invited to join in the observance and feast. Please bring a salad or dessert to share.

Community News

Martin Orchestra & Chorale

Please mark your diaries for **Wednesday March 15th at 12:00 noon!** That's when Knox is hosting the Martin Orchestra & Chorale for an hour-long concert of uplifting and inspiring music. Admission is free, but a donation is requested. The Martin Orchestra & Chorale hail from Texas and are performing at Knox as part of the Mountain Spring Festival, also supported by MCM Arts and Arts Canada. It is set to be a fun and joyful mid-week event. We hope you can join us.

Aboriginal Friendship Centre

To support the Aboriginal Friendship Centre, we are collecting men's and woman's jackets, boots, and jeans. Blankets and gift cards are also needed. Please leave any donations in the office.

Bringing Children Home

This information may be traumatic for residential school survivors, families, and community. If you are feeling pain or distress, please call the free 24-hour crisis line: 1-866-925-4419. You can also call the First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line at 1-855-242-3310. It's toll-free and open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Upon hearing the preliminary research findings on deaths and unmarked graves at the Alberni residential institution, The Rt. Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne, Moderator of The United Church of Canada, said: "The church will not look away from the truth that continues to be uncovered. The United Church of Canada continues our commitment to live into our Apologies, to be accountable, and to further the work of truth and reconciliation in concrete acts of justice and reparation."

With deep remorse and grief, The United Church of Canada acknowledges the truth at the Alberni residential institution, which was run by the United Church. This is not new information for Indigenous communities; Indigenous people have been telling the world about deaths and unmarked gravesites for a very long time. We have not always listened to or heard you.

The United Church of Canada offers our deepest sympathies for the children who died at the institution, including those who did not make it home; survivors; the families; communities; and all those impacted by Canada's residential institution system that tore Indigenous children from their families and communities.

The United Church of Canada was an active and willing participant in the operation of residential institutions. We were wrong to participate in this colonial, racist, and oppressive system. In an effort to better live into our faith, we are taking steps to reconcile our legacy as perpetrators in this system. We know that our actions have directly contributed to trauma and death, loss of language and culture, breakdowns of the family unit, and intergenerational trauma. The United Church of Canada, both regionally and nationally, hears the Tseshaht First Nation's specific Calls for Truth and Justice directed to us, and commits to continued conversation with them about specific actions in response.

Every Child Matters.

For other communities impacted by United Church residential institutions, please contact bringingchildrenhome@united-church.ca to learn more about our support for research, identifying graves, knowledge gathering, commemoration, ceremony, and direct provision of archival records and support.

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Please follow us on Twitter at www.Twitter.com/KnoxYYC.