



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

**December 24, 2023 - Christmas Eve, 11 pm**

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**Worship Leaders:** Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis and Keith Murray  
**Music Director:** Chellan Hoffman **Reader:** Karen Harrison  
**Musicians:** Foothills Brass Quintet, Knox Choir, Knox ReBell Ringers, Kat Hammer (guitar)

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*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.*

### **10:30 pm PRELUDE**

<b>ORGAN</b>	<b>"A Christmas Flourish"</b>	arr. Charles Callahan
<b>BRASS/ORGAN</b>	<b>"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"</b>	arr. Howard Cable
<b>BRASS</b>	<b>"Carol Fantasy"</b>	arr. John Iveson
<b>CHOIR</b>	<b>"What Child is This?"</b>	arr. Antony Baldwin
<b>BRASS</b>	<b>"Il Est Né/He is Born"</b>	arr. Keith Snell
<b>CHOIR</b>	<b>"Still, Still, Still"</b>	arr. Mack Wilberg
<b>BRASS/ORGAN</b>	<b>"I Wonder as Wander"</b>	arr. Keith Snell
<b>BRASS</b>	<b>"March of the Kings"</b>	13 <sup>th</sup> c. French carol, arr. Guy Bergeron
<b>ORGAN</b>	<b>"Der Tag der ist so Freudenreich"</b>	J.S. Bach

**WELCOME**

**Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND**

**Rev. Tony Snow**

**\*PROCESSIONAL CAROL: "O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL"**

Music: J.F. Wade, arr. Willcocks  
Words: Frederick Oakeley

**1. O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,  
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.  
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;**

**REFRAIN:**

**O COME, LET US ADORE HIM,  
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM,  
O COME, LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST THE LORD.**

**2. God of God, light of light,  
Lo he abhors not the virgin's womb;  
Very God, begotten, not created: REFRAIN**

**3. Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,  
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;  
Glory to God, in the highest: REFRAIN**

**4. See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,  
Leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;  
We too will thither bend our joyful footsteps; REFRAIN**

**5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning,  
Jesus, to thee be glory given;  
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: REFRAIN**

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**Rev. Tony Snow**

**One:** We remember the awe and wonder of Christmas.

**All:** **The light of hope—unrelenting and inexplicable.  
The light of peace—strong and unafraid.  
The light of joy—persistent and unpredictable.  
The light of love—extravagant and inclusive.**

**One:** On this holy night, we light the Christ candle.

**All:** **The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it.**

*(adapted from Spacious Faith by Joanna Harader)*

## CHORAL ACCLAMATION

music/words: Jacques Berthier

**“Gloria, gloria! In excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria! Alleluia, Alleluia!”**

## CENTERING PRAYER

**Keith Murray**

**God of wonder and awe, new beginnings and tender moments, we gather tonight remembering the power of love in the world. As we sing and light candles and reflect on this holy night, may our hearts be warmed, may our spirits be strengthened, may the vision of peace be made clear before us. On this night, may love and light shine brightly, and kindle within us hope, peace, joy and love. Amen.**

## CAROL: “JOY TO THE WORLD”

words: Isaac Watts; music: Handel/Mason, arr. Wilberg

- 1. Joy to the world! The Lord is come: let earth receive her King!  
Let every heart prepare him room,  
And heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
And heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**
- 2. Joy to the earth! The Saviour reigns: let all their songs employ,  
While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
Repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- 3. No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground:  
He comes to make his blessings flow  
Far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
Far as, far as the curse is found.**
- 4. He rules the earth with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove  
The glories of his righteousness  
And wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
And wonders, wonders of his love.**

## FIRST READING

**Isaiah 9:2, 6**

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders, and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

**CAROL: "HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING"**

Music: Mendelssohn, arr. David Willcocks  
Words: Charles Wesley

- 1. Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King.  
Peace on earth, and mercy mild; God and sinners reconciled."  
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;  
With angelic hosts proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem."  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**
- 2. Christ, by highest heaven adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
Late in time behold him come, offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the God-head see; hail, the incarnate deity,  
Pleased with us in flesh to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**
- 3. Hail, the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all He brings, risen with healing in His wings.  
Mild He lays His glory by, born that we no more may die.  
Born to raise us from of earth, born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"**

**SECOND READING**

**John 1:1-5**

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overtake it.

**CHOIR ANTHEM: "Before the Marvel of This Night"**

words: J. Vajda; music: C. Schalk

- 1. Before the marvel of this night, adoring, fold your wings and bow,  
Then tear the sky apart with light, and with your news the world endow.  
Proclaim the birth of Christ and peace, that fear and death and sorrow cease:  
Sing peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace, sing peace, sing gift of peace!*
- 2. Awake the sleeping world with song, this is the day the Lord has made.  
Assemble here, celestial throng, in royal splendor come arrayed.  
Give earth a glimpse of heav'nly bliss, a teasing taste of what they miss:  
Sing bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss, sing bliss, sing endless bliss!*

3. *The love that we have always known, our constant joy and endless light,  
Now to the loveless world be shown, now break upon its deathly night.  
Into one song compress the love that rules our universe above:  
Sing love, sing love, sing God is love, sing love, sing God is love!*

### **THIRD READING**

**Luke 2:6-16**

While Joseph and Mary were in Bethlehem, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!" When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

**CAROL: "ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH"** Words: French trad., transl. James Chadwick  
Music: French carol, arr. E. Shippen Barnes

**1. Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
And the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.**

**REFRAIN: GLORIA, IN EXCELSIS DEO! GLORIA, IN EXCELSIS DEO!**

**2. Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
What the gladsome tidings be, which inspire your heav'nly song? REFRAIN**

**3. Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King.**

**4. See Him in a manger laid, Jesus, Lord of heav'n and earth!  
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, sing with us our Savior's birth. REFRAIN**

**REFLECTION****“Awful to Awe-Filled”****Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis****CHOIR ANTHEM:****“Sing till Sundown”**

Spinelli/Bretzius; arr. Chellan Hoffman

1. *Sing till sundown, hum your joy, dress in starlight, girl and boy.  
Man and woman climb the hill, warmed beyond December’s chill,  
Reeling, clapping, touch the air: is that fragrant music there?  
Come the glory, gone the gloom: in a wondrous huddled room.  
Christ the Word we’ve longed to know calls us dancing through the snow.*
  
2. *Gladness deepens into grace, weaves its light on every face.  
Let us wake the sleeping earth, celebrate the sweetest birth,  
Pierce the night with festive cry, bloom in colours of the sky.  
Bring the flute, the tambourine, wave the branch of evergreen.  
Lost we were a grief ago, now we’re dancing through the snow.*

**OFFERING**

*Please consider placing a gift in the offering plates at this time or make an online donation through the QR code located on the pew cards. Your gifts will help Knox continue to be a place of welcome, worship, music, and community for years to come.*

**Music: “O Holy Night”**

music: Adolphe Adams

Dave Reid, euphonium; Chris Morrison, trumpet; Chellan Hoffman, organ

**PRAYER****CAROL:****“O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM”**

Words: Phillips Brooks Music: L.H. Redner

1. **O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
Yet in they dark streets shineth the everlasting light;  
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**
  
2. **For Christ is born of Mary; and gathered all above,  
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love.  
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
And praises sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.**
  
3. **How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is given!  
So God imparts to human hearts the blessed gift of heaven.  
No ear may hear his coming; but in this world of sin,  
Where meek souls will receive him, still the dear Christ enters in.**

4. **O holy child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;  
 Cast out our sin, and enter in; be born in us today.  
 We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
 O come to us, abide with us, our Lord Emmanuel.**

## COMMUNION

**God is with us!**

We are not alone!

**Lift up your hearts.**

We lift them up to God.

**Let us give thanks to God.**

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

God of all times and places, we gather at your table of grace to recall your vision of hope for all people and for your world . . . *(the minister continues)*

We remember Jesus, the adult, the One who blazed a new and risky path of extravagant generosity and of passionate concern: temple-shaker, world-maker, rule-breaker, risk-taker; the author and finisher of our faith.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### SANCTUS

(repeat line 1)

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One, God of pow - er and God of love.

Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry and light, \_\_\_\_\_  
 Blest is the One who comes in the name of our God, \_\_\_\_\_

Last time (repeat lines 2 & 3)

Ho - san - na in the high - est! \_\_\_\_\_

Tune: Sussex Carol; Sanctus from *A Simple Mass for Christmas Morning*. Setting by Jason D. Locke, 2015.  
 Words adapted by Sheena Trotter-Dennis and Chellan Hoffman, 2022.

We remember Jesus' self-giving love and the offer of himself for others, even those who gave him over to death . . . *(the minister continues)*  
Let us pray . . . *(the minister continues)*

We pray these things, trusting in God's faithfulness.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Come to us, life-giving Spirit of God. Bless us, these gifts, and what we do here, so that we might sing your song of love for your people and for your world.

The body of Christ, **the bread of life.**

The cup of blessing, **the cup of forgiveness.**

The gifts of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### **Holy Communion**

*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.*

**Music: "O Come, O Come Emmanuel"**

arr. David Marlatt

Foothills Brass Quintet; Kat Hammer, theorbo

**"What is This Lovely Fragrance"**

French carol, arr. Mark Himmelman

Chellan Hoffman, organ

### **Prayer after Communion**

**God of shepherds and kings, of doubters and truth-seekers, you gather us by the light of the star of promise. You lead us to hope for the future and to trust in your presence. Guide us this night. Lead us to your renewing and transforming love and give us courage to be that love in the world. Amen.**

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**\*CAROL:**

**“SILENT NIGHT”**

Words: Joseph Mohr; Music: Franz Gruber

*At this time, lights are dimmed, the congregation lights candles, and the Christmas star appears*

1. **Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
Round yon virgin Mother and child.  
Holy infant so tender and mild,  
Sleep in heavenly peace; sleep in heavenly peace.**
  
2. **Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight:  
Glories stream from heaven afar,  
Heavenly hosts sing Hallelujah,  
Christ the Saviour is born; Christ the Saviour is born.**
  
3. **Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light  
Radiant beams from thy holy face,  
With the dawn of redeeming grace,  
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth; Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.**

**\*BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

**“Sussex Mummer’s Carol”**

**Percy Grainger**

Foothills Brass Quintet

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**+++**

*We thank you for sharing Christmas Eve with us.  
We wish you hope, peace, joy, and love this holiday season.*

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## **THANK YOU TO OUR MUSICIANS!**

### **FOOTHILLS BRASS QUINTET [www.foothillsbrass.ca](http://www.foothillsbrass.ca)**

Chris Morrison (trumpet), Dave Foley (trumpet), Rosalee Morrison (horn),  
Dave Reid (euphonium/trombone), Jean-François Cotnoir (tuba)

### **KNOX CHOIR**

Elissa Cundy, Karen Harrison, Pat Place, Helayna Moll  
Chuck Curry, Pete Dennis, John Hall, Steve Miller  
William Gaskarth, Ian Kennedy, Ricardo Moraes-Pinto, Leslie Smith, David Westwick

### **KNOX REBELL RINGERS**

Kat Hammer (guitar/theorbo), Steve Miller, Chris Morrison, Rosalee Morrison,  
Pat Place, David Westwick, Janet Zatka

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### **Thank You to Knox Staff & Volunteers:**

**Minister:** Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis

**Office Administrator:** Sue Forsyth

**Director of Music:** Chellan Hoffman

**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/Richard Hand/

Christopher Denman/Mirko Zatka/Vladimir Bodrug/Frank Lam

*A special thank you to Dream Realty  
for providing complimentary parking at Barclay Centre.*

## **CALENDAR AT A GLANCE**

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

Today @ 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm <i>December 26 - December 30</i>	Christmas Eve Services <i>Office Closed - No Events</i>	Sanctuary
Wednesday, January 3 @ 12:30 pm	Connection and Reflection	Labyrinth
Thursday, January 4 @ 7:30 pm	Choir Rehearsal	Choir Room
Sunday, January 7 @ 9:30 am	Bible Study/Conversation	Library
Sunday, January 7 @ 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
Thursday, January 11 @ 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
Thursday, 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
Thursday, 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

### **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.

### **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.

## **Monthly Potluck**

**Sunday, January 7, 11:30 am, Gym**

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

## **Children's Handbell Ringers**

**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](mailto:csizer@kxcalgary.com).

## **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.

## **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](mailto:sforsyth@kxcalgary.com) if you would like to join the group. Meetings are held online via Zoom and in person. All are welcome.

## **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](mailto:sundayschool@kxcalgary.com).

## **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.

## **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](mailto:office@kxcalgary.com) to get on the distribution list. Or, use this QR code.



## **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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