



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

December 24, 2023 - Christmas Eve, 10:30 am

Worship Leaders: Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis, Rev. Tony Snow and Keith Murray

Music Director: Chellan Hoffman **Reader:** Mirko Zatka

Musicians: Knox Choir

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 **“Variations on *In Dulci Jubilo*”** arr. Denis Bédard (Canadian)

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

***OPENING CAROL** **“Good Christian Friends, Rejoice”** **Voices United 35 (vs. 1-2)**

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Rev. Tony Snow

CHOIR ANTHEM "Before the Marvel of this Night"

music and words: Vajda and Schalk

*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!*

*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!*

*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!*

CENTERING PRAYER

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

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you.
And also with you. Amen.

CAROL "Oh, How Joyfully" Voices United 57 (vs. 1-2)

READING: Isaiah 9:2, 6

CAROL "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Voices United 48

READING: Psalm 98

CAROL: "Joy is Now in Every Place" Voices United 45

READING: "Christmas is Waiting to be Born"

Howard Thurman (1899-1981)

Where refugees seek deliverance that never comes,
And the heart consumes itself, if it would live,
Where little children age before their time,
And life wears down the edges of the mind,
Where the old man sits with mind grown cold,
While bones and sinew, blood and cell, go slowly down to death,
Where fear companions each day's life, And Perfect Love seems long delayed.
Christmas is waiting to be born:
In you, in me, in all of humankind.

CAROL: "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"

Voices United 58

READING: Luke 1:46-55

CAROL: "What Child Is This?"

Voices United 74
choral arr. Antony Baldwin

READING:

Larry Peacock

Beloved God, you create a space for us to discover your love:
Trees, to stretch our eyes to the heavens;
Tulips, to see the beauty within;
Waves, to hear the constant flow of grace;
Grass, to dance in barefooted delight;
Stars, to carry us into awe;
Each other, to point out the blessings
And to make music of praise.

CAROL: "Like a Mighty River Flowing"

Voices United 267 (vs. 1, 2, 4)

READING: Luke 2:1-7

CAROL: "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

Voices United 64

READING: Luke 2:8-20

CAROL: "Angels We Have Heard on High"

Voices United 38

READING: “A Blessing for Love to Come at Christmas” Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie

God, we are waiting for love,
not the simple kind or the sweep-you-off-your-feet kind, but the absurd kind.

The kind wrapped in rags,
resting in a bucket of animal feed. Love enough to save us all.

Blessed are we who look for Love
deeper, fuller, truer—than we have ever known, than we could have ever hoped for.

Blessed are we who seek You, the light that dawned so long ago in that dark stable.
Love given.
Love received.

Receive this gift, dear one. Love has come for you.

(From The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie)

ANTHEM: “A Child is Born” Carolyn Keirstead

Trio: Elissa Cundy, Karen Harrison, Pat Place
David Westwick, mandolin; Chellan Hoffman, piano

*A child is born, another life begins. A child is born, and nothing is the same.
A child is born, a child of grace. A child is born, with a beautiful, wonderful face.
And God has giv’n another gift. The light will shine through. A child is born.*

*Just like a child, we’re born into God’s church. Just like a child we find our place on earth.
Just like a child, our road is long. Just like a child, we come running home looking for love.
And God has said, and we believe: “That I will comfort you.” Just like a child.*

READING: Matthew 2:1-12

CAROL: “The First Nowell” Voices United 91 (vs. 1-4)

PRAYER

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.

CANDLELIGHTING AND OFFERING

During this time you are invited into a time of personal reflection and prayer. You are invited to come forward to light a candle, place an offering, write a prayer or just to sit and listen to the music. Your financial support makes a huge difference to the work and ministry of Knox.

Music: Gesu Bambino

Pietro Yon

***CLOSING CAROL**

“Joy to the World”

Voices United 59

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

“Carillon on *Joy to the World*”

Mary Beth Bennett

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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

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

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.

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

Christmas Eve Services at Knox

7:00 pm and 11:00 pm

Join us as we celebrate the awe and wonder of Christmas! The Foothills Brass Quintet begins playing at 6:30 pm and 10:30 pm. Come for candle lighting, the star and beautiful music. Communion will be served at the 11:00 pm service.

FREE PARKING at Barclay Centre (across from Knox) compliments of Dream Realty.

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 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 Zatka, 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.

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

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.

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.

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 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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