



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

December 31, 2023

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

Music Director: Chellan Hoffman

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 “He is Born”

David Lasky

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

***OPENING HYMN “The First Nowell” (verses 1-5)**

Voices United 91

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: A gift of a new day.

All: Unlived, untried, ready to be opened.

One: A new day with surprising miracles.

All: With love to be given,

One: Kindness to be shared,

All: And peace to be enjoyed.

One: A gift of a new day.

All: God's gift to us.

One: Let us receive it with joy,

All: And live it in expectation.

(adapted from Larry Peacock, "Sourcebook of Worship Resources," Communication Resources, Inc. Canton, OH: 1994).

Let us pray.

God of new days and new years, we give thanks for all that has been. We give thanks for the ways we have grown, for the ways we have loved, for the ways we have been given your grace. Give us strength and courage to face whatever comes our way in 2024. May our plans and actions model your hope, peace, joy and love. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ, be with you.

And also with you. Amen.

***GATHERING SONG "A Light is Gleaming"**

Voices United 82

Refrain:

**A light is gleaming, spreading its arms
throughout the night, living in the light.**

**Come share its gladness, God's radiant love
is burning bright, living in the light.**

SCRIPTURE

Luke 2:22-28 First Nations Version

HYMN

"Many and Great"

Voices United 308

REFLECTION

"Tradition, Ceremony and a Time of Healing"

Rev. Tony Snow

PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

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, receive a special blessing with oil, write a prayer or just to sit and listen to the music.

Thank you for your financial support which makes a huge difference in the life and ministry of this congregation.

Music: What is This Lovely Fragrance? French carol, arr. Mark Himmelman (Canadian)

***CLOSING HYMN** **“He Is Born”** **Voices United 50**

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE **Go Tell it On the Mountain** arr. Aaron David Miller

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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.

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

THIS WEEK

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.

COMING UP AND ONGOING

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

Sundays, 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

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 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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