



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

December 3, 2023 - First Sunday in Advent

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

Music Director: Chellan Hoffman **Reader:** Holly Smith

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 - Knox Guest\$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 Veni Emmanuel”***

arr. David Lasky

WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

***OPENING HYMN “O Come O Come Emmanuel” (verses 1,2,6,7)**

Today, as we experience a deeply divided world that is marked with violence and fear, we remember the ancient words that call us into a reorientation. We sing "Come Emmanuel" (meaning "God with Us"), as a prayer for peace, and the need for God's presence. When we are held captive by our fears, and ideas that keep us divided, we enter into Advent, awaiting the birth of Love and Light.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Listen. Deep in the darkest night is the sound of hope.

All: Deep in the midst of despair is a message of new life.

One: Listen. It's coming closer.

All: A bell in the distance,

One: A sound of joy,

All: An echo of love.

One: A note of promise,

All: A melody of praise.

One: Listen. Deep in the darkest night is the sound of hope.

All: O Come, O Come Emmanuel!

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

LIGHTING THE ADVENT CANDLE

Rayssa Foizer and Fabricio Pereira

Advent Lighters: We light the first candle in Advent, a time of preparation and waiting. We kindle the candle of hope as we wait expectantly.

ALL: O Come, O Come Emmanuel.

ADVENT SONG “Come, Come Emmanuel”

More Voices 11

(sung seated while the candle is lit)

Come, Come Emmanuel, Come Emmanuel!

Come, Come Emmanuel, Come Emmanuel!

Come, Come Emmanuel, Come Emmanuel!

Let us pray.

Holy and Surprising One, in this season of waiting and preparation, quicken our anticipation of hope, peace, joy and love. Still our anxious worry. Hush the frantic tone in our voices. Slow the rush of our busy feet. Open us to Your every day awe and wonder. Amen.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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

***GATHERING SONG "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" Voices United 1**

Refrain: Rejoice, rejoice, Emmanuel
Shall come to thee, O Israel. *(sung twice)*

SCRIPTURE Matthew 24:36-44

REFLECTION "A Season for Awe and Wonder" Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis

HYMN "Teach Me, God to Wonder" Voices United 299

HOLY COMMUNION

(liturgy adapted from Alydia Smith, AdventUnwrapped.ca)

God is with us.
We are not alone.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift our hearts in prayer.
Let us give thanks to God.
It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Breath of peace, Giver of all life,
Source of love that knows no boundaries.
Your song of wisdom rang out before the world began;
throughout the ages, your song of liberation has given us hope for a world
where: those considered last and least are first and most; violence is overcome
by the power of your ancient love; and, all work together for peace.

You bring our longings to birth, and send prophets to awaken us to your approaching Advent among us.

We thank you for those who, like Mary, have the strength and courage to give birth to your love in the world; for those who, like the shepherds, dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem; for those who, like the wise ones, actively challenge violent and oppressive powers. We praise you that your everlasting light is shown to us. As we wait and watch for your coming among us, we proclaim your goodness and join in the Advent prayer of all your people,

O, come, O come, Emmanuel!

We remember all with whom you would have us share your feast.
We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain...
all who are ill or alone...
all who are close to our hearts...
all who live with fear, oppression, or hunger...
all whose lives have been blighted by violence, racism, or poverty...
for all whom the world counts as last and least.

**God of hope, make this bread the means of our rebuilding,
this wine, the medium of our transformation,
this table, the foundation of our renewal,
and this community, the place of our rebirth. Amen.**

We remember Jesus gathered his friends around a table. And, as they sat and ate and remembered, Jesus took the bread that they were eating – and he gave thanks, he broke the bread, gave it to everyone gathered around the Table, and said, “take and eat – this is my body, broken for you. Whenever you eat of this bread, remember me.”

And then he took the wine that they were drinking – and he gave thanks for the wine, gave it to those gathered around the Table and said, “this is my cup – poured out for you - whenever you drink this, remember that you are loved and you are forgiven.”

Gracious God, Breath of peace,
Source of love, we pray for your Spirit.

**Make us, while many, one.
Make us, though broken, whole.
Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

And now, we are bold to pray God's vision for the world as we sing together....

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.**

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The cup of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

Holy Communion, Candlelighting and Offering

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.

You are invited to light a candle or write a prayer 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: Lo, How a Rose is Blooming trad. German chorale, arr. by Lloyd Larson

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

**For the bread we have eaten,
For the cup we have shared,
For the prayers we have prayed,
For the strength we have received,
For the assurance we have been given.**

We give thanks.

May we go into the world, strengthened by these gifts and dare to hope, to work for peace, to seek joy, to live in love. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN**

“All Earth is Waiting”

Voices United 5

***BLESSING**

POSTLUDE

“Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme”

J.S. Bach

Sleepers, wake, a voice is calling!

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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:

Sheena Trotter-Dennis (minister)	Chellan Hoffman (director of music)
Sue Forsyth (office administrator)	Bob Benner (sanctuary preparation)
Jampa Tseten, Justin Cross (caretakers)	Murray Songer and Vi Smith (coffee crew)
Carey Barrett/Frank Lam (video operator)	Roman Sizer (social media; IT support)
Tenzin Dawa/Steve Miller (sound operator)	Tony Snow (Indigenous minister)
Keith Murray (VST student)	William Brook (VST student, seminary intern)

CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

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

Today @ 9:30 am	Bible Study	Library
Today @ 10:45 am	Children's Time	Library
Today @ 11:30 am	Potluck	Gym
Today @ 7:00 pm	Carol Fest	Sanctuary
Monday, December 4	Carol Fest	Sanctuary
Wednesday, December 6 @ 12:30 pm	Connection and Reflection	Labyrinth
Sunday, December 10 @ 9:30 am	Bible Study/Conversation	Library
Sunday, December 10 @ 11:45 am	Bake Sale	Gym
Wednesday, December 13 @ 12:30 pm	Connection and Reflection	Labyrinth
Saturday, December 16 @ 4:00 pm	Feast at Morley	Morley
Sunday, December 17 @ 9:30 am	Bible Study/Conversation	Library
Sunday, December 17 @ 10:45 am	Children's Handbells	Labyrinth
Wednesday, December 20 @ 12:30 pm	Connection and Reflection	Labyrinth
Thursday, December 21 @ 7:00 pm	Darkest Night Lights	Garden

Sunday, December 24: 10:30 am, 7:00 pm, 11:00 pm	Christmas Eve Services	Sanctuary
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Monday, December 25 - Friday, December 29 Church office & building Closed - no events

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.

TODAY

Pre-Service Bible Study/Conversation

Sundays, 9:30 am, Library

Join William Brook, a seminary student at Vancouver School of Theology, for a look at 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.

Potluck Lunch

Today @ 11:45 am, Gym

Our monthly potluck returns! Join us for a time of fellowship and delicious food following the worship service. 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.

Annual Carol Fest

December 2, 3, 4, 7:00 pm, Knox Sanctuary

Join us for the Annual Carol Fest celebration. Celebrate the season with beautiful choral music provided by local community, religious and school choirs. Knox is a proud host of this event and partner with the Calgary Food Bank. Admission is by donation of canned food. Last year the event raised more than \$8,000 for the Food Bank and donated over 1000 lbs of food.

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

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.

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.

Christmas Bake Sale Ho! Ho! Ho!

Sunday, December 10, 11:45 am in the gymnasium

It is time to start planning what "holiday goodies" you want to contribute to this all-important Knox fundraiser. The Annual Christmas bake sale will be held on **December 10 at 11:45** after the service. Start your planning and your cooking as soon as possible (remember: fruitcake takes time to 'mature'!).

Christmas Feast at Morley

Saturday, December 16, 12:00 for volunteers, 4:00 feast, Bearspaw Youth Centre

You are invited to volunteer and participate in a Christmas Feast at Morley. Bring a wrapped toy and a side dish to share. Toys, children's clothing and baby items can be dropped off at McDougall United Church, Dec. 3-15th. For more information, or to volunteer, contact Rev. Tony Snow:

TSnow@united-church.ca.

Giving Tree

Sunday, December 17, sanctuary

This year Knox invites you to participate in our annual giving tree. Each year we provide gifts to families in the Calgary area. This year we will be asking for gifts for families from Inn from the Cold. There are stars with needed gifts on the Christmas tree at the front of the Sanctuary. Please take one and purchase the gift listed. Gifts will be collected on December 17.

Longest Night - Light the Night

Thursday, December 21, 7:00 pm, Garden

Join us on the longest night as we gather in the Knox Garden to light candles and add light to our corner of the world as we await the Light coming. We will have time to write down things we wish to let go and things we wish to birth in this season. Dress warmly. We will gather for about 30 minutes.

Christmas Eve Services

Sunday, December 24, 10:30 am, 7:00 pm, 11:00 pm, Sanctuary

Celebrate the Awe and Wonder of Christmas! Three services will be held on Christmas Eve. There will be a 10:30 am service of lessons and carols, followed by two evening services at 7:00 pm and 11:00 pm which will feature special music, candlelight and star. The 11:00 pm service will also include Communion. Postcards with this information are available on the Welcome and Information table. Please take as many as you would like to give to family and friends to invite them to Christmas Eve services at Knox.

Knox on Amazon

You may begin to notice links to books and products for sale on Amazon on the Knox website or in our weekly emails. These are affiliate marketing links. This means if you click on the link and purchase the item, we will receive an affiliate commission at no extra cost to you. We only recommend products or services we believe honour the values of the church and congregation and carefully vet each product we mention. Thank you for supporting Knox!

Live-Streaming Volunteers Needed

Do you have an interest in getting more involved in Knox? Do you have some technical abilities or are you willing to be taught a new skill? We are looking for people to run and operate our Livestream on Sunday mornings. Training is available. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, please email careyabarrett@gmail.com.

Concert Season and Christmas Eve Volunteers

As we move into Fall, we see the Event calendar at Knox filling up. This is a very important time for us, where we can both welcome our neighbors into our building and earn essential funds to help keep it open. Almost every event requires us to provide ushers, hosts, fire marshalls. *If you can help, even with just one event, please contact Sue at sforsyth@kxcalgary.com or check with the Information Table.*

Discover Knox Tour

Last Sunday of the Month, 11:45 am, Sanctuary; No tours in November or December

All are invited to take a behind-the-scenes tour of parts of the building and hear more about the Knox community.

Sanctuary Hosts

Monday-Friday, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm, Sanctuary

We want to rebuild our presence as a church in downtown Calgary by opening the sanctuary and labyrinth for those seeking a quiet space during the week. We're looking for volunteer hosts who can open the 6th Avenue doors and stay to greet visitors for a couple of hours. We're initially targeting Tuesday at lunchtime but would appreciate volunteer hosts any weekday between 10 am and 2 pm. This is an important and rewarding way to engage in the life and work of our church. If you would like to inquire about this project, contact Doug Chandler (dchandler1@shaw.ca) or the church office (office@kxcalgary.com).

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