



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

## November 26, 2023 - Hanging of the Greens

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

**Music Director:** Chellan Hoffman **Reader:** Ann Farebrother

**Musicians:** Knox Choir

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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 - Knox Guest\$2021*

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*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 (Bearspaw, 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** “Comfort, Comfort Now My People” **arr. Egil Hovland**

**CHORAL INTROIT** “People, Look East” (verse 1) **Voices United 9**

**WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND**

**\*OPENING HYMN**            **“People, Look East” (verses 2-3)**            **Voices United 9**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

ONE: Make ready a pathway for our God.

**ALL: Clean out the debris in our hearts and our closets.**

ONE: Clear out a space in our calendars.

**ALL: Put aside any sense of unworthiness**

ONE: And focus on the One who comes to love us.

**ALL: Prepare a place in our homes and hearts.**

ONE: Set the table, put up the tree, light the candles,

**ALL: For Christ is coming.**

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

Let us pray.

**God of the darkened night, God of the morning light, come to us again.**

**Come to us in the preparation of our homes and our hearts. Come to us in the harmony of song and the sound of silence. Come in our faithful waiting and hopeful watching. Come to us in the cry for peace and the smile of forgiveness.**

**God of the darkened night, God of the morning light, come to us; be with us.**

**Amen.**

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**\*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)***

**A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS**

**Isaiah 9: 2,6**

*During the next hymn, the paraments will be changed from green to blue, symbolizing a change in the church season. Blue symbolizes the hope of the season of Advent as we await the birth of Jesus. The Advent wreath is placed at the front of the church. Candles are lit each week as more light is added as we approach Christmas.*

**HYMN      "Wait With Us" (Tune: "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus" VU 2)**

1. **Wait with us, this Holy Advent. Wait for Jesus to appear.  
Wait for incarnation's moment. May the Spirit soon draw near.**
2. **Wait with us, with hopeful yearning. Clear the clutter of our days.  
Free us from our anxious churning; Fill our hearts and lift our gaze.**
3. **Wait with us; let peace live in us. Draw us in, and make us whole.  
Sons and daughters of your promise, Heal our lives and calm our souls.**
4. **Wait with us for joy's surprises. Light and gladness all around.  
God our Wellspring, wonder rises. Spirits primed, let joy astound.**
5. **Wait with us for love's fulfillment. Word made flesh, God's gift profound.  
Lead us to the life abundant, Jesus comes, may grace abound!**

*(Written by members of First Congregational Church in Winchester, MA)*

ONE: We enter a new season, full of anticipation and longing.

**ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, Come.**

ONE: We long for peace to come into our world.

**ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, Come.**

ONE: We look for hope in this season of waiting.

**ALL: Come, Holy Spirit, Come.**

ONE: We anticipate a new baby, love incarnate.

**ALL: Be with us in our waiting. Come, Holy Spirit, Come.**

**REFLECTION**

**Keith Murray**

**HYMN      "Veni Sancte Spiritus"**

**Voices United 208**

**REFLECTION**

**Rev. Sheena Trotter-Dennis**

**HYMN      "Veni Sancte Spiritus"**

**Voices United 208**

**ANTICIPATING THE LIGHT**

**John 1:1-6**

*During the following hymns, the Christmas tree lights will be illuminated. And, the candles will be placed in the windows. You are invited to place a candle in a window on the edge of the sanctuary or sit and enjoy the music.*

<b>HYMN</b>	<b>“Hope is a Star”</b>	<b>Voices United 7</b>
<b>HYMN</b>	<b>“A Candle is Burning”</b>	<b>Voices United 6</b>

**ONE:** Bless these lights, as we await the Light of Life, Holy One.

**ALL:** **May your light shine hope into our lives and in your world and remind us of your living presence in all things.**

## **PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

**LORD’S PRAYER** - sung (*purple music sheets available in pews*) Steve Miller, piano

*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 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.*

**Choir Anthem: “Sing Till Sundown”**

**Lyrics: Voices United 78**

**Choral arrangement by Chellan Hoffman**

**\*CLOSING HYMN**

**“People, Look East” (verses 4-5)**

**Voices United 9**

**\*BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

**“Prepare the Way, O Zion”**

**arr. Paul Manz**

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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!***

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### **Thank You to Knox staff & volunteers:**

Sheena Trotter-Dennis (minister)

Rev. Tony Snow (Indigenous minister)

Keith Murray (VST student, seminary intern)

William Brook (VST student, seminary intern)

Roman Sizer (social media; IT support)

Carey Barrett/Frank Lam (video operator)

Sue Forsyth (office administrator)

Jampa Tseten, Justin Cross (caretakers)

Chellan Hoffman (director of music)

Bob Benner (sanctuary preparation)

Murray Songer and Vi Smith (coffee crew)

Tenzin Dawa/Steve Miller (sound operator)

## CALENDAR AT A GLANCE

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

Today @ 9:30 am	Bible Study/Conversation	Library
Today @ 12:00 pm	Knox Foundation Meeting	Sanctuary
Today @ 11:45 am	Sanctuary Decorating	Sanctuary
Sunday, November 26	CANCELLED: 'Discover Knox' Tour	
Monday, November 27 @ 5:15 pm	Yoga	Sanctuary
Tuesday, November 28 @ 6:00 pm	Book Study	Board Room and online
Wednesday, November 29 @ 12:30 pm	Connection and Reflection	Labyrinth
Thursday, November 30, @ 1:00 pm	English Language Learning	Theatre
Saturday, December 2 @ 7:00 pm	Carol Fest	Sanctuary
Sunday, December 3 @ 9:30 am	Bible Study/Conversation	Library
Sunday, December 3 @ 11:45 am	Potluck	Gym
Sunday, December 3 @ 7:00 pm	Carol Fest	Sanctuary
Monday, December 4 @ 7:00 pm	Carol Fest	Sanctuary
Sunday, December 10 @ 11:45 am	Bake Sale	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

### 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.

## **Knox Foundation Annual General and Special Meeting**

**Today, 12:00 pm, Labyrinth**

There will be an Annual and Special General Meeting of the Knox Foundation in the Sanctuary following the worship service. We are aiming to start at 12:00, to allow time for coffee and conversation after the service. Meeting materials will be distributed at the meeting. The agenda will include a special resolution in order to update the bylaws of the Knox Foundation. As is our tradition, cake will be served following the meeting. All members and adherents of Knox United Church are encouraged to attend and participate in the discussions. However, per the Knox Foundation's existing (adopted in 1999) bylaws, only members of the congregation will be permitted to vote.

This will be a hybrid meeting, with remote participants connecting on zoom:

Meeting ID: 944 6693 7817

Passcode: 361435

## **Sanctuary Christmas Decorating**

**Today, 11:45, Sanctuary**

Join us in decorating the Sanctuary for the Christmas season after the service. Everyone welcome!

## **THIS WEEK**

### **Giving Tuesday - Give to Knox**

**Tuesday, November 28, all day**

Join the millions of Canadians giving a special gift to their favourite charities on Tuesday, November 28. Knox United is pleased to be listed as one of the charities on [GivingTuesday.ca](http://GivingTuesday.ca). Encourage friends and families to give a special gift on this day that will go to the ministries of this church. It's an easy way to make a big difference in the life of this congregation. Thank you!

### **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.

### **Book Club**

**Tuesdays, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm, Board Room and Online**

This fall, a small group, including friends from Central UCC on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, have already decided to read and discuss "Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others" by Barbara Brown Taylor. We welcome anyone who would like to join us. Please contact Sue at the office on [sforsyth@kxcalgary.com](mailto:sforsyth@kxcalgary.com) if you would like to join the group, you will be very welcome.

## **Yoga in the Sanctuary**

**November 27: 5:15-6:15 pm; Knox Sanctuary**

Join us in the sanctuary for an hour of Yoga with instructor Melanie Batycky. Bring your own mats and blocks. Free admission thanks to a generous grant from the City of Calgary Neighbourhood Grant. Sign up at the class or by emailing [sforsyth@kxcalgary.com](mailto:sforsyth@kxcalgary.com).

## **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](mailto:office@kxcalgary.com) to get on the distribution list.

### **Monthly Potluck**

**Sunday, December 3, 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!

### **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.

### **Christmas Bake Sale Ho! Ho! Ho!**

**Sunday, December 10, 11:45 am in the Sanctuary**

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'!).



## **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. Gifts will be collected on December 17. Watch for updates and announcements of items needed.

## **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.

## **Special Children's Time**

**First Sundays of the month, 10:45 am, Library**

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).

*Coloring packets are available every Sunday in the back of the sanctuary. Please feel free to help yourself.*

## **English Classes at Knox**

The third session of English classes at Knox is continuing once per week on Thursday afternoons from October 26 to November 30. We are happy to report that our volunteer numbers for this session are more than adequate. Thank you to all volunteers who have assisted—and are assisting—in making this language-learning experience enjoyable, productive, and effective for these newcomers to Calgary.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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 6<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:dchandler1@shaw.ca)) or the church office ([office@kxcalgary.com](mailto:office@kxcalgary.com)).

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