

THE GREAT ADVENTURE BECOMING A NEW CREATION

KNOX UNITED, BRANDON, MANITOBA
25 OCTOBER, 2020

RECOGNIZING INHERENT GOODNESS

We are invited to celebrate! The pulse of creation is singing the goodness of God and God's gift of goodness in all things. We become more aware of the beauty of all that is and tap into gratitude as our first task in creating more goodness in the world.

GATHERING MUSIC

"There is Room for All"
English - French – English

MV 62

**There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.
And I rejoice and sing, "My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."
There is room for all, there is room for all!**

**Chacun a sa place á l'abri sous l'aile de Dieu;
Chacun a sa place en l'amour de Dieu.
De joie, je chanterai: "Mon refuge en le quel je me confie."
Chacun a sa place, chacun a sa place.**

**There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.
And I rejoice and sing, "My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."
There is room for all, there is room for all!**

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WELCOME — LIGHTING OF CANDLES

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

THRESHOLD MOMENT

Expanding Kinship

“One More Step Along the World I Go” VU 639

Verse 1

**One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.**

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Prayer

SONG OF PRAISE

“Creator God You Gave Us Life”

MV 27

**Creator God you gave us life,
your image formed within our souls,
yet through the mist of time and space,
we search for that which makes us whole.**

**Through hands that paint majestic skies,
voices chanting melody,
with words that reach beyond the page,
we comprehend your mystery.**

**In ev'ry flow'r and ev'ry tree,
we see your great diversity,
yet greater still we see your love,
expressed in our humanity.**

**Through hands that paint majestic skies,
voices chanting melody,
with words that reach beyond the page,
we comprehend your mystery.**

**When with our hearts, our hands our minds,
we share your gifts with all the world,
our spirits soar beyond the veil,
to touch the very face of God.**

**Through hands that paint majestic skies,
voices chanting melody,
with words that reach beyond the page,
we comprehend your mystery.**

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BEFRIENDING DARK PLACES

With open hearts we acknowledge the pain that coexists with goodness and gratitude. We listen to the groans of the world and the Spirit helps us to grieve and to intercede on behalf of all those who suffer, letting go of our fear that can make things worse at times.

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS

GOOD NEWS

“Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New”

MV 115

**Behold (behold), behold (behold),
I make all things new,
beginning with you
and starting from today.**

**Behold (behold), behold (behold),
I make all things new,
my promise is true,
for I am Christ the way.**

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EXCLAIMING THE DIVINE CREATIVE

We are invited to explore how God is working in and through us and all of the universe to renew each day every direction. Each moment offers opportunity to express our God-gifted creativity. We hear messages—ancient and new—that express and affirm the Divine at work and encourage us in our creative collaboration with the Divine.

THE CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM

Gathering

Presentation

Evan Kowalchuk, son of Trevor Kowalchuk and Kristi Grift

Baptismal Vows

Congregational Commitment

Members and Friends of Knox United Church, do you commit yourselves to walk with this child who joins us now, supporting them with your companioning presence.

As a baptized and baptizing people of faith, we commit ourselves to support and walk with you within this community of faith.

May we all have the courage and conviction to live the promises of our baptism.

Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

“A New Creed”

VU 918

**We are not alone,
we live in God’s world.**

**We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

**We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God’s presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us.**

We are not alone.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and the Pouring of Water

The Act of Baptism

Declaration and Welcome

Into the community of faith, we welcome you with joy and thanksgiving.

We are members of the Body of Christ. We are inheritors of God's promise. In the name of Christ, we welcome you.

Presentation of the Baptismal Certificate and Signs

RESPONSE

"I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry"

VU 644

**I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.**

**I was there when you were but a child,
with a faith to suit you well,
in a blaze of light you wondered off
to find where demons dwell.**

**When you heard the wonder of the word,
I was there to cheer you on;
you were raised to praise the living Lord,
to whom you now belong.**

**If you find someone to share your time
and you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme
from dusk till rising sun.**

**In the middle ages of your life,
not too old, no longer young.
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
complete what I've begun.**

**When the evening gently closes in
and you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been
with just one more surprise.**

**I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized,
to see your life unfold.**

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CELEBRATING OUR 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF AFFIRMING MINISTRY

OUR SACRED STORY

Mark 3:20-35

REFLECTION

“Expanding Kinship”

Craig S. Miller

RESPONSE

“Who is My Mother?”

MV 178

**Who is my mother, who is my brother?
All those who gather round Jesus Christ:
Spirit blown people born from the Gospel
sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.**

**Differently abled, differently labelled,
widen the circle round Jesus Christ:
crutches and stigmas, culture's enigmas,
all come together round Jesus Christ.**

**Love will relate us colour or status
can't segregate us round Jesus Christ:
family failings, human derailings
all are accepted round Jesus Christ.**

**Bound by one vision, met for one mission
we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:
here is my mother, here is my brother,
kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ.**

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EMBODYING COMPASSION AND POWER

We pray for movement within our own hearts to embody peace and passion—compassion and power—on behalf of spreading goodness throughout the week. We are not at the mercy of “the way it is,” we can claim our agency to be fully present and fully active in the world into which we now go.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The ‘Abba’ Prayer

a paraphrase by Nancy L Steeves for St. Stephen’s College, AB

**Holy Being,
whom we call by many different names,
Blessed are you.
Blessed are we in you.
May we create with you
a realm of mercy, peace and justice.
May love be done in the here and now
as it is in the infinite.
May we share life in bread and hope.
For our failures to love, we need forgiveness.
May we find the paths of reconciliation.
In the midst of evil’s every incarnation,
From the powers that possess our spirits and our structures,
May we find liberation.
In the power that is love, we seek
to live and move and have our being.
May it be so,
now and forever.**

SONG FOR THE JOURNEY

“Draw the Circle Wide”

MV 145

**Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.**

**God the stillpoint of the circle,
‘round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God’s gracious arms.**

**Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.**

**Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call.
Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.**

**Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.**

**Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.**

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BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Theme adapted from resources developed by Worship Design Studio.

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