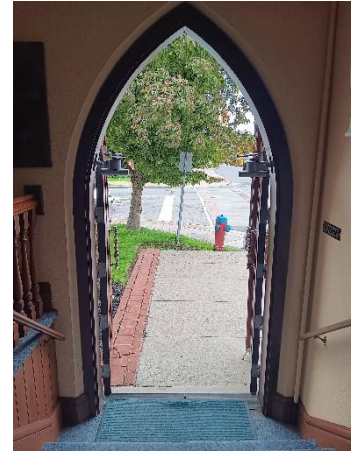


Knox Presbyterian Church  
Rev. Emma Duncan  
July 6, 2025



Greetings

Call to Worship

**Leader: The grace of Christ Jesus be with you.**

People: And also with you.

**Leader: We greet each other acknowledging that everyone has the right to be here.**

People: None of us are perfect. No, not one.

**Leader: We worship the Lord who makes us alive in Jesus Christ**

**All: From north and south, east and west – come and worship the Lord! Amen.**

Music: Praise him, praise him, Jesus our blessed Redeemer (#372, all verses)

Prayer of Adoration and Confession (including Lord's Prayer)

O Lord, our Sovereign, we come into your presence with singing. In splendor and majesty, you created the universe, the stars, and planets. You formed earth from the depths of the seas to the heights of the mountains. Your hands formed all creatures with so much diversity. You created us in your image and called us to be your people. We lift our voices to join the generations of believers who have proclaimed - Great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

Compassionate Saviour, as we begin our worship service today, it's important for us to confess our sins, for they are many. We grumble and complain about how hard our lives are when so many people suffer. We think that we are poor when in truth, we are actually rich and privileged. We think that we are so smart that we don't need you. We can build our own lives without your help. But deep in our hearts, Lord, we know that we are living a lie. Too often we ignore the teachings of Scripture and only call out to you when we need something from you.

O Lord, in your mercy, forgive us. Save us from temptation and sin. In your great love for us, shower us with your love and saving grace. Renew us in faithfulness and make us alive in Christ Jesus.

O Lord, there is nothing that we can do or say to earn this gift nor can we ever repay you. All we can say is thank you. This is more that we deserve.

O God of abundant goodness, in gratitude for all that you have done for us, remind us that your weakness is greater than our strength, your foolishness is wiser than our intellect, your grace is far better than anything we do on our own. Pour out the wisdom of your Word and Spirit upon us, so that we may cross over to see the immeasurable riches of Christ's grace and live into the good works that God has prepared for us.

We pray in the holy name of Jesus Christ who taught us to pray, saying...

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name.

Thy Kingdom come.

Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Assurance of Pardon

Brothers and sisters in Christ – Hear the Good News! The Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we have received forgiveness, grace, and mercy. In the name of Jesus Christ, rejoice and be glad for we are forgiven! Amen.

## Announcements

1. Welcome!
2. Welcome to our friends from Brant Hills Presbyterian Church who will be worshipping with us until the end of July.
  - a. Washrooms
  - b. Water
  - c. Offering envelopes for Brant Hills will be given to the Board of Managers to be deposited
  - d. I am covering pastoral care needs for BHPC while Pastor Mike is on vacation
  - e. Welcome to the Rev. Curtis Bablitz and his family! Curtis is the former minister at Brant Hills. They are in Ontario for a short visit and leaving this afternoon for Camp Kintail.
3. Join us for a time of fellowship and conversation after worship in our Fellowship Hall.
4. Thank you to Jean Lowe for doing the readings today.
5. **Midweek Social Drop-in**  
Every Wednesday from 9:30-11:00 a.m.
6. **Doors Open Burlington**  
Saturday August 9 from 10-2  
In celebration of our 180<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we will be participating in Doors Open this summer. Each volunteer will work a 2-hour shift, either from 10-12 or 12-2. If you are able to volunteer for this event, please contact Kathy Kelly.
7. CORRECTION re: time of Henk Bosje's service – Saturday July 19 at **1 p.m.**

Music: Amigos de Cristo / Friends of the Lord #476 (all verses)

Children's Time: We all make mistakes

Prayer of Illumination

Let us pray. Guide us, O God, by your Word and Holy Spirit, that in your light we may see light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace. Make us alive in Christ Jesus. In his wondrous name we pray. Amen.

***Our Old Testament reading is Psalm 145, verses 1-13.***

Leader: I will praise you, my God, my Sovereign, and bless your name forever and ever.

**People: Every day I will bless you, and praise your name forever and ever.**

Leader: Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;

**People: your greatness is unsearchable.**

Leader: One generation shall praise your works to another,

**People: and shall declare your mighty acts.**

Leader: On the glorious splendor of your majesty,

and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.

The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,

and I will declare your greatness.

**People: They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,  
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.**

Leader: The Lord is gracious and merciful,

**People: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Leader: The Lord is good to all,

**People: and your compassion is over all creation.**

Leader: All your works shall give thanks to you, O Lord,

**People: and all your faithful shall bless you.**

Leader: They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom, and tell of your power,

**People: to make known to all people your mighty deeds,  
and the glorious splendor of your realm.**

Leader: Your realm is everlasting,

**People: and your dominion endures throughout all generations. Amen.**

**Our New Testament reading is taken from the Letter of Paul to the Ephesians and we will be reading chapter 2, verses 1-10.**

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient.

All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, doing the will of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else, but God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

**This is the Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## Reflection: Ephesians – For by grace



As we continue our exploration of the Apostle Paul's letter to the Ephesians, the picture that you see on the screen is the great theatre in ancient Ephesus. This was the main gathering place for the people of this region and in its heyday, it could accommodate up to 24,000 spectators. There is no doubt that Paul would have known about this theatre, but sadly we don't know if he ever sat in one of these seats.

Today I am going to ask you to use your holy imagination and assume that at some point in the almost 3 years that Paul lived in Ephesus that he did indeed sit in this great theatre, listening to a travelling philosopher talking about the meaning of life. We do know from the Book of Acts that Paul did debate with philosophers during his missionary travels. Don't forget that Paul was an educated man because he was a Pharisee and so, he would have been familiar with the great Greek philosophers like Plato, Socrates, and Aristotle.

So...imagine that Paul was sitting in this great theatre, another marvel of ancient technology and architecture, and he was listening to someone talk about things that he did not agree with. I imagine him sitting on his hands and biting his lip, wanting to stand up and take over so that he could preach the Good News of the Gospel.

And what if Paul had a chalkboard in front of all of those people where he could explain the Gospel? How would he clearly and effectively explain his understanding of grace?

### **Ephesians 2:1-10**

You were **dead through the trespasses and sins** in which you once walked, following the course of this world, **following the ruler** of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are **disobedient**.

All of us once lived among them in the **passions of our flesh**, doing the will of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else...

but God, who is **rich in mercy**, out of the **great love** with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ**—by grace you have been saved— and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

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US

Bridge to Life

GOD



Dead b/c  
of sin

Following the  
wrong people

Passions of the  
flesh

DISOBEDIENT

Rich in  
mercy

Great love for  
us

made alive in  
Christ



This model of explaining the Gospel has been around for a while. In other words, I can't take any credit for it! It is called the "Bridge to Life" and is used to help people understand the core teachings of the Christian faith.

And I believe that this is what Paul set out to accomplish in the second chapter of his letter to the Ephesians. Paul's teachings, of course, are echoed in the Gospel narratives. In John chapter 5, Jesus said - *Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.* (John 5:24)

And so, following in the footsteps of Christ, Paul is explaining to us – clearly and effectively – about grace. That God the Father sacrificed his only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, so that you and I can be free from sin. This invitation – to cross the bridge from death to life – is freely available to each one of us. No matter who you are. No matter what you have done. Jesus Christ wants you to cross over to a life of love and forgiveness and the riches of God's amazing grace.

Amen.

## Dedication of our Tithes and Offerings

### Song of Thanks – Salvation and Immortal Praise (#629, verse 1)

Salvation and immortal praise  
unto our God we sing!  
Let heaven and earth and rocks and seas  
with glad hosannas ring.

### Prayer of Dedication (not written in advance)

### Prayers of the People

Almighty and everlasting God, through the death and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, we have been reconciled with you. You have given us the perfect gift of your salvation – not because we deserve it or earned it – but because you love us. No words can express our deepest gratitude!

One of the greatest blessings that you have given us is the blessing of the Church. We are so grateful that we can worship you in hope and joy. We don't have to pay for our spot, instead we are all made equal by your grace. Thank you for the diversity of the Church and that many parts make up the body of Christ. Where this diversity honours you, O God, we celebrate. Where this diversity makes you weep, we seek your forgiveness. Guide all people of the Church – both here in our small corner and around the world – to share the message of hope in our complex and broken world.

Father God, we pray for our broken world. We continue to pray for regions in our world where violence and conflict are an unwanted way of life. Be with the many victims of war – the injured, the widows, the orphans, the refugees. Give comfort to the bereaved. Give courage to the helpers. Lord, we pray for government and community leaders – let their hearts be filled with compassion and a sense of justice instead of greed and a hunger for power. Let your peace reign in our world, O Lord.

Redeeming Saviour, we pray for our family and friends. We pray for those who are sick. For those in hospital or home recovering from treatments and procedures. We pray for those in our midst who struggle with mental health or addiction issues. For those who are dealing with loneliness and grief. For those who struggle to make ends meet.

Today, we remember those who we name before you...

Nurturing Spirit, we pray for ourselves. We struggle with your teachings and there are days when we feel like failures. And so, we give up. Renew us through prayer, through reading the Bible, and through service in your name. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, remind us what grace really means and help us to be faithful ambassadors who help others cross over the bridge of life. May our good works be a reflection of the love and hope that we have through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

To you – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – be all honour and glory and praise. World without end. Amen.

Music: Amazing Grace #670 (verses 1, 2, 5, 6)

Blessing (Romans 8:38-39)

Sung Amen

