

# John Knox Presbyterian Church

August 23, 2026

13<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

Who do you say  
that I am?

You are the  
Messiah,  
the Son of  
the living God.



*Welcome! Please be seated and prepare your hearts and minds for worship.*

## GATHERING INTO GOD'S PRESENCE

### Prelude

"Great is Thy Faithfulness"

Thomas O. Chisholm

Arr. Melissa Terrall

### Words of Welcome

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

### \* Call to Worship

*Hear O Israel! I am calling! Are you listening?*

**We are here and we are ready.**

*Beloved Children, who do you say that I am?*

**You are our rock and our redeemer. Our trust is in you.**

**Our hearts, minds and souls belong to you!**

*I created you, named you and have a calling for your life.*

**We give thanks with our whole hearts for your steadfast love!**

### \* Hymn

"The Church's One Foundation"

#301

### \* Call to Confession

### \* Unison Prayer for Forgiveness

**We confess our struggle to be transformed into disciples, God of mystery. The desires of the world would shape us into people you would not recognize. The demands of our society pull us away from your heart. Our culture values the rich, the powerful, the successful, but you are on the side of the weak, the poor, the outcast, the oppressed.**

**Forgive us, Merciful God, for looking for you in the wrong places. Reawaken us with your voice that calls us to service; revive our weary hearts with your vision of creation; refresh our fatigued spirits that we might boldly proclaim Jesus as our Lord and as our Savior, and go forth to serve your people in Christ's name. Amen.**

**\* Assurance of Grace**

*It's too easy to think like the world, that money will give us happiness, that power will earn us grace. But Paul reminds us that if we think like Christ, and live like servants, we will find true freedom.*

**Not only our minds, but our hearts and spirits will be transformed into the likeness of Christ, enabling us to be faithful disciples. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**\* Sung Response**

“The Steadfast Love of the Lord”

#59

Refrain only

**LISTENING FOR GOD’S WORD**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Reading**

Psalm 124

NRSV

*This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**Time with Our Young and Growing Ones**

**Second Reading**

Matthew 16: 13-20

NRSV

*This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**Sermon**

Rev. Maggie Lewis

**\* Hymn**

“Walk With Me”

#2242

**RESPONDING TO GOD’S CALL**

**Church and Community Life**

**Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts**

**Invitation to the Offering**

**Offertory**

“I Know Who Holds Tomorrow”

Adam and Anna Robinson

**\* Sung Response** “Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow” #607

**\* Prayer of Dedication**

**Prayers of the People**

*Please remember to use first names only to protect the privacy of those for whom we offer prayers.*

**Response for congregational prayer:** *Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.*

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**SENDING GOD’S PEOPLE INTO THE WORLD**

**\* Sending Song**

“As a Fire is Meant for Burning”

#2237 vss 1 & 2

**\* Responsive Charge**

*We are called to do God’s work in our communities,*

**and so, we go out on God’s side to love others.**

*We are called to serve every person, in every place,*

**and so, we go to work at the side of Jesus in the world.**

We are called to proclaim peace, and live it in our lives,  
**and so, we go to be on the Spirit's side.**

**\* Benediction**

*Please be seated to enjoy the postlude*

**Postlude**

**"To God Be the Glory"**

Fanny Crosby

***Please remain in the sanctuary for a review  
of our emergency evacuation plan, then join us  
in the social hall for refreshments and fellowship.***

***I Know Who Holds Tomorrow***

*Ira F. Stanphill (1914-1933)*

*I don't know about tomorrow, I just live from day to day.  
I don't borrow from its sunshine, For its skies may turn to gray.  
I don't worry o'er the future, For I know what Jesus said,  
And today I'll walk beside Him, For He knows what is ahead.  
Many things about tomorrow,  
I don't seem to understand;  
But I know who holds tomorrow,  
And I know who holds my hand.*

*Every step is getting brighter, As the golden stairs I climb;  
Every burden's getting lighter; Every cloud is silver lined.  
There the sun is always shining, There no tear will dim the eye,  
At the ending of the rainbow, Where the mountains touch the sky.  
Many things about tomorrow,  
I don't seem to understand;  
But I know who holds tomorrow,  
And I know who holds my hand.*

*I don't know about tomorrow, It may bring me poverty;  
But the one who feeds the sparrow, Is the one who stands by me.  
And the path that be my portion, May be through the flame or flood,  
But His presence goes before me, And I'm covered with His love.  
Many things about tomorrow,  
I don't seem to understand;  
But I know who holds tomorrow,  
And I know who holds my hand.*

## Church and Community Life

**KEIZER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK** This summer, we are collecting peanut butter for the food bank. Kids are home all summer, and peanut butter is a great source of protein! Please bring your jars of peanut butter to the grocery cart and we will deliver them to the food bank. In July, we donated 20 jars – our goal for August is to beat July’s count! Cash donations are also appreciated. Designate “KCFB” or “Food Bank” and we will route the money to KCFB. Volunteers are always needed to serve our hungry neighbors or to help stock shelves when food is received. See the KCFB Facebook page or website at [keizercommunityfoodbank.org](https://www.keizercommunityfoodbank.org) for more information.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO CHP!** The Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund has awarded Congregations Helping People \$5,000 grant. Congregations Helping People (CHP) is a non-profit organization serving those in need in the Salem-Keizer area. Its focus is providing limited financial aid to low-income individuals and families who have received an eviction or utility shut off notice, allowing them to remain in their homes or to keep utilities on for at least an additional 30 days. CHP offers assistance without regard to sex, race, gender, religion, nationality or sexual preference. In 2026, through July, CHP has provided rent or utility aid to 239 clients with a total of 553 household members.

CHP primarily is supported by donations from individuals and local churches. The award from the Siletz Tribal Charitable Contribution Fund will allow CHP to provide rent or utility payment assistance to additional clients.

**HEARING CHALLENGED?** The sanctuary is equipped with a hearing loop for people who appreciate a bit of assistance hearing more clearly, whether or not they use hearing aids. For more information on how to use the listening devices, see Eileen or CJ.

## Looking Ahead

|                   |              |                                                                                           |
|-------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Aug. 20</b>    | <b>Noon</b>  | Session meeting at JKPC – Potluck                                                         |
| <b>Aug. 24-30</b> |              | Pastor Maggie on study leave. Contact your deacon or a ruling elder with emergency needs. |
| <b>Aug. 30</b>    | <b>10:30</b> | Worship with Sheila Cunningham                                                            |
| <b>Sept. 6</b>    | <b>10:30</b> | Worship with Holy Communion                                                               |
| <b>Sept. 7</b>    |              | Labor Day                                                                                 |
| <b>Sept. 13</b>   | <b>10:30</b> | Worship                                                                                   |

## AUGUST CELEBRATIONS

|                    |                                        |                           |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>Birthdays</b>   | <b>Aug 5: Lane O.</b>                  | <b>Aug. 16: Cayla H.</b>  |
|                    | <b>Aug. 15: Vallory B.</b>             | <b>Aug 24: Matthew C.</b> |
| <b>Anniversary</b> | <b>Aug. 20: Rosemary &amp; Paul W.</b> |                           |

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Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis  
Pianist: Melissa Terrall

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Liturgist: Mary Jo Emmett  
Music Director: Anna Robinson

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Liturgy sources: Presbyterian Outlook © 2026, Rev. Jeny Carlson; Thom Shuman, [lectionaryliturgies.net](https://www.lectionaryliturgies.net); Steven Garnaas-Holmes, [UnfoldingLight.net](https://www.unfoldinglight.net).



## SESSION NOTES

Eileen Sheelar, Clerk

Taking advantage of the last meeting of the summer, session met in person at noon on Thursday, August 20 for a potluck lunch and in-depth business meeting.

Our meditation was based on a Presbyterian Outlook lectionary meditation by Rev. Carol Holbrook Prickett about Moses' call at the burning bush, with an emphasis on the fact that the bush was burning *but not consumed*. God's nature is not to destroy. God is the fire that burns in us, that animates us, that gives us heat and strength and power. Moses' story identifies three lessons to help us stay connected to the holiness that does not destroy what it inhabits, and to help avoid burnout as we serve the church.

**Know your call.** We defined that as “stay in your lane.” You have certain gifts; you don't have to do it all; you are called to use your gifts in specific ways. Be clear about what you can do so you can be clear about what you don't do, allowing others to use their complementing gifts.

**Know who you are.** Know your background, your strengths, your weaknesses, and use that knowledge to serve God and others well.

**Know who God is.** Rev. Holbrook Prickett said, “If Exodus 3:1-12 was all the Scripture you knew, you would know that God is the fire that burns but does not consume. You would know that God is a long-term God, committed over generations. You would know that God is one who hears cries of pain and suffering. This would be a good start.” This reinforces Maggie's sermon themes over this summer – God is with us, no matter what.

After a good discussion of these lessons as they apply to us personally and to John Knox, we moved on to the business portion of the meeting.

Eileen reported that COM has approved a request to waive term limits for our officers. If we had not received this waiver, we would likely only be able to have a three-member session next year. With the waiver, we can postpone the sabbaticals that are generally required after six years of service. The Nominating Committee will take this into consideration as it begins its work for nominations for the Class of 2029.

Pastor Maggie will be on study leave from August 24 – 30. She will be doing individual study and planning for the rest of the year and attending a conference in Portland. Sheila will be filling the pulpit on August 30. After discussion, we determined that at this time, Thursdays are still the best day for Maggie to plan to be in Keizer (as well as Sundays). She may be available other days as needs arise. All are encouraged to contact Maggie directly for appointment times. Session meetings will move from Wednesday evenings to Thursday evenings, mostly by Zoom, but in person as needed and possible.

The financial review for the 2025 calendar year was completed with no discrepancies or concerns found. Many thanks to Bronwyn for her careful stewardship of our finances. Session also authorized Bronwyn to continue on-line access of our SAIF account.

In new business, session authorized Sheila to coordinate sales of frozen Willamette Valley Pies to benefit Congregations Helping People. We also reviewed and approved a revision of the JKPC bylaws to be recommended to the congregation for adoption at the fall congregational meeting, which was set for October 11. Before that meeting, the

congregation will receive a copy of the proposed bylaws with changes and rationale identified.

In committee reports, we heard updates on various administrative items, and agreed that a verbal review of our emergency evacuation plan should be held to bring new staff and attendees up to date. Review set for August 23.

Administration Committee, serving as charged under the All Gifts Policy, reported that undesignated memorial funds for Marlene Buell will be directed to the Keizer Community Food Bank in her memory, as she faithfully supported the food bank in her giving. Memorial funds for the Rev. Dr. John Neal were directed to the Deacons/Fellowship fund, and funds remaining in the Eco-Justice account were directed to Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action energy assistance program.

We were able to gift the most recently used projector from the sanctuary to Upper McKenzie Community Center. They are most appreciative, and we are delighted to help their good work in the area.

Your session consists of Pastor Maggie, deacon representative Joan Allen, and ruling elders Bronwyn Curtis, Mary Jo Emmett, Anna Robinson, Eileen Sheelar, and Rosemary Willhite. We welcome guests at our monthly meetings, which are announced in the Sunday bulletin calendars. I am happy to send the Zoom link to anyone who wants to attend.

## **John Knox Presbyterian Church (USA)**

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Pastor: Rev. Maggie Lewis

Pastor's email: [pastormaggie18@gmail.com](mailto:pastormaggie18@gmail.com)

Pastor's phone: 510-435-7836

*This gathering of JKPC is occurring in the traditional land of the Kalapuya people. We offer our gratitude to the elders, past and present, who have stewarded it through the generations.*

*We are recording this service and it will be available on our website for two weeks.*