

Prayer of the Day

Living God, give us faith to be sure of what we hope for, and certain of what we do not see; to believe that you are, and that you reward those who truly seek you: that may we please you and receive what you have promised. We gratefully pray in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

* Sung Response

“Faith Begins by Letting Go”

#684

WE RECEIVE THE WORD OF THE LORD

Message for Young and Growing Ones

“The Mystery”

Rev. Peter Blank

Prayer for Illumination

Your Word guides every step of our journey, God. Help us be attentive to your Word read and proclaimed today, so we can hear your message and act according to your will. **Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

NRSV

Our scripture today is from the letter to the Hebrews, chapter 11.

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.

By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.

By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance; and he set out, not knowing where he was going.

By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.

For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

By faith he received power of procreation, even though he was too old--and Sarah herself was barren--because he considered him faithful who had promised.

Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."

All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.

If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Response: *Holy wisdom, holy words. Thanks be to God.*

Sermon

“Transient Thinking – Transient Living”

Rev. Peter Blank

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD OF THE LORD

*Hymn

“We Walk by Faith and Not By Sight”

#817

Church and Community Life

see information below

Prayers of the People

Lord, in your mercy ... hear our prayers.

God our helper, through the waves of heat blanketing us this summer,
attend to those suffering on our city streets,
those who cannot escape to air-conditioned homes,
those who bear the brunt of our overheated planet.
Protect those fighting raging wildfires.
Give vision to those creatively seeking solutions to overly taxed energy grids.
Help us all bear the burden of responsible stewardship for shared resources.

Finally, let us not neglect the gifts of this summer.
Even as we grieve and lament, we are grateful for
moments of sabbath, covered-dish community building,
farmers markets full of fresh produce, the crack of afternoon baseball bats,
and the wide smiles of children playing in hoses and hydrants.
As the blazing sun sets, and evening breezes cool, may we stroll hand-in-hand
with our loved ones, reminding us that joy sustains in suffering,
that laughter can break through the thickest skin of grief,
that steadfast love can lighten our step even when life feels especially heavy.

Our souls wait for you, O God, and our hearts rejoice in your presence.
Hear the prayers of your people and give us the will to seek to bring them about.
Now, as the Body of Christ, we pray the prayer Christ taught us saying, "Our Father ...".

The Lord's Prayer

Traditional Version

**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 debts,
as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen**

Breaking of the Bread

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat. This is my body given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way Jesus took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink, do this in remembrance of me.

Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Communion Music

"I Come to the Cross"

Words & Music by Bill Batstone and Bob Somma
Piano setting by Joel Raney

Prayer after Communion

Loving God, you have met us, fed us, drawn us to you and bound us to one another. Now send us to share your love and proclaim our hope until Christ comes again. Amen.

*** Sending Song**

"Sent out in Jesus' Name"

#2184

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* Charge and Blessing

God promises.

Christ saves.

The Holy Spirit liberates us to love and serve.

As we enter this new week, go with the grace and blessings of God our Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer.

Amen.

Postlude

“BEATITUDO”

John Bacchus Dykes, arr. Charles Callahan

Liturgist: CJ High

Pastor: Rev. Peter Blank

Pianist: Bethany Cozort

Music Director: Anna Robinson

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Prayer of Day: Michael Perry, [The Jubilate Group](#); Offering invitation, adapted, Rev. Quentin Chin, [United Church of Christ](#), Communion Invitation: Ann Siddall, [Stillpoint Spirituality Centre and Faith Community](#).



We invite all to share with us in the joyful sacrament of Holy Communion.

We celebrate Communion by processing to the front of the church, where Pastor Peter and an elder will serve the Communion elements: the bread of life and the cup of salvation. We begin the procession toward the serving station in the **back** of the sanctuary to avoid congestion. Please try to maintain 3 feet of space between different households.

Pastor Peter, with gloved hands, will hand you a piece of bread. Rice cakes are also available. You may eat the bread then and proceed to the cup, where you will receive an individual cup of juice. You may also hold the bread and proceed to the cup. Having partaken of the elements, go through the side door and return to the sanctuary from the back. There is a basket for your empty cups in the hallway.

If you wish to be served in your pew, please let the usher know and your elements will be served to you in the pew. If you remain in the pew and do not wish to be served, simply shake your head as the usher passes.

If you have questions about Communion or any other part of our worship, please ask your neighbor in the pew, the pastor, or email the church.



The sanctuary and entry area are equipped with a hearing loop to assist those with compatible hearing aids. If you need assistance, please let us know.



Large print bulletins are available from the ushers.

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY LIFE

ANNA is enjoying a couple weeks of vacation. Thanks to Vallory for serving as our music leader!

KEIZER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK For the month of August, please bring donations of **canned tuna and chicken**. These items will be dedicated during the service on August 28. Items can be put in the shopping cart in the Narthex. Monetary donations are always accepted as well. Sheila and Lane delivered 27 boxes of cold cereal and 13 packages of oatmeal to the food bank last week from our July donations.

The **Mission Committee** will meet **Wednesday, August 10** at 9 am in Pastor Peter's office. We are always looking for new members with new ideas. If you have questions or suggestions, please join us or call or see Sheila Cunningham, Mission Committee chair.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE will be meeting this summer to discern possible candidates for deacons and elders for the class of 2025. If you want to know more about that these officers do, or if you would like to talk about a call to serve, contact Anna Robinson or Pastor Peter.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE is also meeting to discuss stewardship of all our gifts at John Knox. Please contact Anna or Peter if you wish to join the conversation.

CONGREGATIONS HELPING PEOPLE is scheduled to open in their new location tomorrow, August 8, at 820 Jefferson St. NE, the current site of Las Naciones Church and the previous site of Jason Lee Methodist Church. Sheila is selling Willamette Pie Company Gift Cards for \$20 each as a fundraiser for CHP's expense of getting internet into the building. Of that \$20, \$7 will go to CHP, directly toward those costs, so they can continue to use all other donations to help clients.

BACKPACK BUDDIES will again distribute sacks with weekend food for 15 students at Cummings School next month. We are adding a jar of peanut butter to each sack on a monthly basis, and we would appreciate your donations of peanut butter! See Sheila for details.

PRAYER REQUESTS can be emailed to Bronwyn at johnknoxpreskeizer@gmail.com, or called to Bronwyn (503-463-6828). We encourage you to share your prayer requests with those on the prayer chain. We are stronger when we stand together in prayer. Please remember in your prayers our homebound members and friends as well as those who are not with us in the building today.

This service is being recorded and posted on our website, johnknoxpreskeizer.org, for a week. Invite your friends and family to join us in worship!

Looking Ahead

- Aug 8 10:00 Planning Meeting – Large Classroom
- 7:00 Administration Committee – Zoom
- Aug 10 9:00 Mission Committee in Pastor's office
- 11:00 Planning Meeting – Large Classroom
- Aug 14 10:30 Worship
- Aug 21 10:30 Worship – Christ Jars Offering
- Birthday/Anniversary Celebration
- in Social Hall after worship
- Aug 24 7:00 Session Meeting
- Aug 28 10:30 Worship

August Birthdays			
5	Lane Oxley	16	Cayla High
12	Diana Blank	21	Tina Humiston
15	Vallory Bunday	24	Matthew Curtis
August Anniversaries			
20	Paul & Rosemary Willhite		