

The Worship Handbook

Knox College

2016-2017

INTRODUCTION

Worship is a vital component of community life at Knox College. Corporate worship allows us to praise God together, to be formed and nurtured as leaders, and to put our learning into practice. Worship is not separate from work done in the classroom and library. We are mindful of the Reformed tradition that holds study and prayer together. Worship brings together the knowledge, interpretive skills, and insights accumulated from all areas of study. Worship fuels our creativity, binds us together, and provides a safe space to reflect upon the great challenges of ministry in today's world. As we worship together, we are formed and re-formed into the Body of Christ – healed, forgiven, inspired and sent out.

WORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

During the academic year, there are two main opportunities for worship.

1. Tuesdays at 4:15pm
2. Wednesday Morning Communion at 8:30am

Other services are held throughout the year, sometimes in conjunction with TST.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

Minister of the Chapel

The preparation and leadership of worship at Knox College is taking a new direction this year. Previously, the Minister in Residence had oversight of worship – mainly ensuring that various teams were prepared to lead worship services. This role has evolved in a more hands-on position with direct pastoral and liturgical responsibility, and this is reflected in a change of title from “Minister in Residence” to “Minister of the Chapel.”

The Minister of the Chapel has responsibility for community worship at Knox College. She designs worship services, leads the liturgy, recruits students and faculty to participate in various elements of worship, and communicates with the college community regarding the worship schedule and special events. As the Principal's representative, the Minister of the Chapel has the authority to make decisions on any matters related to the weekly Tuesday service and should be consulted on all matters pertaining to community worship.

The Minister of the Chapel delegates leadership of the Wednesday Communion service to ordained celebrants and the M&T worship coordinators. The Minister of the Chapel works to ensure that worship is effective, engaging, inclusive and reflective of the values of the College.

The Director of Music

The Director of Music actively contributes to worship planning and preparation, as well as providing music leadership for the Tuesday worship service. The Director of Music also connects Knox with other musicians whose gifts enhance our worship.

The M&T Worship Coordinators

M&T Worship Coordinator(s) are elected by the M&T Society, and provide an important link between the M&T Society, the Minister of the Chapel, and the Knox Community. A key responsibility is to facilitate the Wednesday morning communion service by communicating with the presider, setting out wine and bread, hymnbooks/psalters as needed. The Worship Coordinators also provide support for worship leaders on Tuesday afternoons.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT LEADING WORSHIP AT KNOX

- The Minister of the Chapel is responsible for the bulk of preparation and worship leadership, but functions in collaboration with students, staff and faculty, as well as groups such as KEGA and the Asian Council. Each week, students, staff and faculty will be invited to participate in worship leadership – as readers, song leaders, celebrants, and preachers. Our community is diverse and talented, and the diversity and giftedness should be represented in leadership. If you have specific gifts you wish to share, please contact the Minister of the Chapel.
- **Inclusive language is MANDATORY. This means that you should choose a variety of terms to refer to God, and avoid terms for the human family that exclude women. Any language which demeans or stereotypes others because of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, class, mental and physical characteristics, or age is unacceptable.** Various translations of scripture seek to be more inclusive than others. Please consult a variety of translations as you plan worship. For more information, see Knox's policy for inclusive language use in the Student Handbook, or speak to a faculty member.
- *Communion* is celebrated on the first Tuesday of the month, and the first and last weeks of term. Only ordained clergy may preside at the table, although anyone may serve the elements. Bread, rice crackers wine and juice are provided. Generally, the Minister of the Chapel and the M&T worship coordinators will prepare the elements. For more information, please see the list posted inside the chapel cupboard where hymn books and psalters are stored. **Allergy note: presiders should be careful that the bread is kept separate from rice crackers/wheat-free options.

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THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

The order of worship may change from week to week. The following is a basic order that reflects our most common practices. A template is available from the Minister of the Chapel.

Prelude

Announcements

Generally, worship begins with announcements. This includes an informal welcome, any important news about upcoming events, and is also a great time to teach new music or introduce unfamiliar elements of worship.

Opening liturgy/Call to Worship

Hymn

Prayer of Approach and Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Scripture Reading(s)

Sermon

Hymn

Offering

In order to aid the flow of worship, it is useful to follow a standard procedure for collecting the offering. *Once the offering is announced, two people should pick up offering plates at the front of the chapel, and work their way to the back. When the offering has been collected, the congregation will stand for the doxology, as those carrying the plates move toward the front of the chapel. The offering concludes with a prayer of dedication. The doxology may be seasonal.*

Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer

The pastoral prayer, or prayer of intercession, should be reflective of a broad context, remembering God’s love for the whole world that God has created, not just the needs of the college community. When using the *Lord’s Prayer*, please refer to the version in the Book of Praise, pg. 733.

Hymn

Benediction and Grace

Each week, we end the worship service by the giving and receiving of a blessing, and the offering of Grace for the meal that will be served following worship.

Postlude

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGMENT

As we gather to worship at Knox College we acknowledge this sacred land on which the University of Toronto operates. It has been a site of human activity for 15,000 years. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississaugas of the Credit River. The territory was the subject of the Dish With One Spoon Wampum Belt Covenant, an agreement between the Iroquois Confederacy and Confederacy of the Ojibwe and allied nations to peaceably share and care for the resources around the Great Lakes. Today, the meeting place of Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island and we are grateful to have the opportunity to work in the community, on this territory. *Revised by the Elders Circle (Council of Aboriginal Initiatives) on November 6, 2014*

CONTACT INFORMATION

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