

Norman Kennedy Presbyterian Church

May 24th, 2020

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH:

- Dear Congregation: we continue to wait for the 'green light' on opening our church for Worship Services. As of an announcement on May 21st – in a limited way, that could be the week of June 8 (the Sunday of June 14th!). I will keep you informed. Meanwhile, continue to pray with me that these Full Text services are ministering to the needs of our congregation and that we will make the necessary adjustments to returning to Sanctuary worship.
- Note to Elders: tentatively a meeting on June 9th to prepare for what may be a limited re-opening for worship services.
- If you have difficulties opening the links to musical accompaniment or special features, contact Taeyang (306-999-5113)- he will give you some guidance.
- **COMMUNION SUNDAY –on May 31st** – there will be 4 or 5 time slots for 10 people per time to come to the church for a short communion service. Please plan to come and let me know your preferred time slot. A description of how this service will happen is included at the end of today's worship. An email will also be sent out to remind you. You won't want to miss this opportunity.
- Those who use **The Daily Bread** devotional booklet, the one for June, July & August, it is now available – come by the church to pick up your copy.
- Food Bank Bin from NKP was picked up this week. Another bin has been received and so contributions to it can be at any time.
- Please take note of this: the NKP website is up and active again. Here's the address: www.nkpchurchregina.ca Check it and our FB page.
- Sunday School lessons and a craft are being distributed to the mailboxes of the regular Sunday School children. Thanks to Sumi, for preparing and distributing these. We'd love to get drawings, colouring sheets and samples of the crafts back from the children so we can make a display at the church. This method of Sunday School will continue for the month of June (even if we return to Worship services here, we will finish out the SS year with take home/do at home lessons.)
- Special music contributions are provided for our 'email' worship services. Thanks to those singing and to Sumi & Taeyang for recording these parts of our worship.
- **'Spring Basket/ Fancy Bag Contest & Auction'** – a fundraiser event! This is a 'SILENT AUCTION' event. It will be held on Sunday afternoon, May 31st. An additional page is attached at the end of today's worship service. This week, by Wednesday please, bring your basket/bag/box to the church. On May 31st (next Sunday) when you come in the church for Communion, you will have an opportunity to submit your bid! Thanks in advance for your support.
- Missions Committee (postponed last week) – we will meet on **Thurs. May 28th 1:30 p.m.**
- **Monthly Prayer Time** – for the month of June, we will meet **Tues, June 2nd at 1:00 p.m.** This is a time to pray regarding the needs of the church family and the ministries of the upcoming month, etc.

➤ **Financial Update from the Treasurer**

At the start of the Covid 19 Pandemic I was worried about the finances of the church. We still had a building that required heat, electricity and water just to name a few. We also had salaries and commitments to the National Church, Synod, Presbytery and Camp Christopher. We lost the revenue from TOPS and the Church of the Living God. Envelope receipts were sporadic. We did some adjustments to our income and stopped paying our commitments listed above. This was done until we could grasp exactly what was happening. Soon Synod and Camp Christopher reduced their fees by 50% and 40% respectively. Now with a little more grasp of the effect Covid 19 was having financially we paid all of our commitments as well as 50% of our Presbytery Sharing. The congregation began giving on a regular basis. As an example envelope receipts for the month of April 2020 was only \$28 less than April 2019. We are only half way through May and envelope receipts are already 94% of May 2019 . I can only say thank you, thank you for making my job so much easier. Even though this report paints a rosy picture for our finances we must not forget that we have a large deficit built into the 2020 Budget. Please keep this in mind as we go forth in this difficult time.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Welcome to church at home Worship

WORDS OF GREETING:

Welcome in the name of Christ. God's grace, mercy and peace be with you
and also with you.

SONG OF PREPARATION: *'Thou art worthy'*

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zCNFG_9TD0

Thou art worthy, Thou art worthy,
Thou art worthy, O Lord.
Thou art worthy to receive glory,
Glory and honor and power.
For Thou hast created, hast all things created,
For Thou hast created all things.
And for Thy pleasure they are created;
Thou art worthy, O Lord.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *(based on Psalm 145)*

Come, let's praise God together!

For God is great, and worthy of our praise!

Let's tell stories of the things God has done— mighty acts of power and love throughout history:

for God is great, and worthy of our praise!

Let's remember how much he loves us, and celebrate the care he continues to show to all of creation:

for God is great, and worthy of our praise!

LET'S WORSHIP GOD TOGETHER!

Opening Prayer: *(based on Psalm 145:15-16)*

God, the eyes of all look to you in hope,
for you are the creator and sustainer of all life.

When you open your hand, you satisfy the hunger and thirst of every living thing.

We, too, turn to You again, longing to be filled— to eat of the Bread of Life, to drink from Your life-giving streams, to taste Your goodness and live.

As we spend time together in your presence, we pray that you would nourish our hearts and minds.

May this time of worship strengthen our relationship with You, and renew our commitment to live as Your faithful disciples, eager to pass on the love we have received to the world around us. In Jesus' name, we pray. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN OF PRAISE: **#374 'O for a Thousand tongues to sing'**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XVwxOfG1oY>

*O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,
the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of his grace!*

*2 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread thro' all the earth abroad
the honors of your name.*

*3 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease,
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.*

*4 He breaks the power of cancelled sin,
he sets the prisoner free;
his blood can make the foulest clean;
his blood availed for me.*

*5 To God all glory, praise, and love
be now and ever given
by saints below and saints above,
the Church in earth and heaven.*

LITANY OF PRAISE (adapted from Psalm 145:13b-21)

(If children who are school age readers, are worshipping with you this morning please have them participate in this reading or if you worship with another, please read responsively)

Governments come, and governments go;
nations come, and nations go.

Only God goes on forever.

Only God is completely dependable, never corrupted by power.

God strengthens those crushed by life, and lifts the burdens of those bent over by cares.

God does not favour the fortunate; the seasons roll around for the poor as for the rich.

With open-handed generosity, God causes the earth to bring forth food for all.

Only humans hoard, creating shortages for others.

But God holds nothing back;

God plays fair with everyone.

God never puts the phone on hold or hides behind secretaries or schedules.

God is always available.

God turns no one away— except those who deny the existence of God.

When their time comes, they will vanish into silence; their story will be heard no more.

But the stories of those who know God will be told down the generations; by their stories, many not yet born will come to know God.

CHILDREN`S TIME:

- Song: 'Tell me the old, old story'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vXmqCgCEWEo>

Tell me the old, old story

of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
Tell me the story simply,
as to a little child,
for I am weak and weary,
and helpless and defiled.

Refrain:

*Tell me the old, old story;
tell me the old, old story;
tell me the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.*

Tell me the story slowly,
that I may take it in,
that wonderful redemption,
God's remedy for sin.
Tell me the story often,
for I forget so soon;
the early dew of morning
has passed away at noon.

(Refrain)

Tell me the story softly,
with earnest tones and grave;
remember I'm the sinner
whom Jesus came to save.
Tell me the story always,
if you would really be,
in any time of trouble,
a comforter to me.

(Refrain)

Tell me the same old story,
when you have cause to fear
that this world's empty glory
is costing me too dear.
Yes, and when that world's glory
is dawning on my soul,

tell me the old, old story:
Christ Jesus makes thee whole.

(Refrain)

- A BIBLE VERSE TO LEARN:

Psalms 136:26 "Give thanks to the God of heaven. His love endures forever."

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT:

Do you have a favourite story? Maybe you had a favourite story when you were younger that you still remember. Stories can be in books or they can be stories that our parents or someone else has told us. Often, we will listen to or read our favourite stories again and again. I wonder what makes it your favourite – is it about you or someone you know? Is it an adventure? Are there interesting characters in the story? Does it make you feel happy? Do you sometimes feel like you are **in** the story – at least in your imagination?

Jesus was a wonderful story-teller! He often used ideas from nature to help people understand his main message. Do you know what His main message was? **Love.** God's love and he told the story of God's love to so many people. He wants us to keep telling that story. The Bible verse for today tells us that this is a FOREVER story because God's love is forever. Can you think of someone you could tell this story to...? If you need to practice your story, you could tell it first to your mom or dad or your grandparents even if you have to tell it to them over the phone, or you could call Pastor Ronda and tell her your story about God's FOREVER love!

SOMETHING TO DO:

- **Write a story. Tell a story.** Can you think of a story from when you were younger? If you can remember something that happened to you or your family that made you feel loved and safe – either write that story or tell that story to someone who could write it down for you. Everyone likes stories – and if you have one that you write down and can keep it – someday you will be able to tell that 'old' story to other children and it may help them feel loved and cared for. We would also like to add your stories to the bulletin board display we are making of all your 'at-home' church activities. Have a good week 🍕



CALL TO CONFESSION:

*While we claim to celebrate the ascension of our Lord,
the way we live proclaims our lack of faith in his power to deal with the world.
Let us confess the incongruity between our faith and practice.
Let us pray.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

We come, O Lord, on this day of glory to confess our lack of trust.
While we sing of your lordship over all creation, we have too often acted as though
you are powerless in the face of today's events.
We see violence in the world.
We see injustice in our communities.
We see hunger and need among our neighbours.
We see longing for something more.
We see failures and faults in our lives.
In all these things, it is us who are powerless.
Forgive our hesitance to call upon you.
Forgive our propensity to rely upon ourselves.
Forgive our reluctance to acknowledge your power.
Speak your words of power again.
May your will may be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Help us to live with confidence in your presence today
and in hope for life with you forever. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

May God give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation,
that the power of Jesus Christ may be visible in your life.
**By the grace of Jesus Christ we are forgiven
and empowered to serve.**

HYMN OF FAITH: *'I will call upon the Lord'*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWS5pkwu3r8>

I will call upon the Lord
Who is worthy to be praised
So shall I be saved from my enemies
The Lord liveth and blessed be the Rock
And let the God of my salvation be exalted

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:

Blessed are you, Lord God,

King of all creation: You have taught us by your Word.

Open our hearts to your Spirit, and lead us on the paths of Christ, your Son.

All praise and glory be yours forever.

Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

(online Bible resource for various translations can be found at www.biblegateway.com)

John 17:1-11 (NIV)

“Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you. ²For you granted him authority over all people that he might give eternal life to all those you have given him. ³Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. ⁴I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

⁶“I have revealed you to those whom you gave me out of the world. They were yours; you gave them to me and they have obeyed your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. ⁸For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me. ⁹I pray for them. I am not praying for the world, but for those you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All I have is yours, and all you have is mine. And glory has come to me through them. ¹¹I will remain in the world no longer, but they are still in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one as we are one.

1 Peter 4:12-15 (NRSV)

¹²Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that is taking place among you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. ¹³But rejoice insofar as you are sharing Christ’s sufferings, so that you may also be glad and shout for joy when his glory is revealed. ¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the spirit of glory, which is the Spirit of God, is resting on you. ¹⁵But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, a criminal, or even as a mischief maker.

1 Peter 5:6-11 (NRSV)

⁶Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, so that he may exalt you in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you. ⁸Discipline yourselves, keep alert.^[a] Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, steadfast in your faith, for you know

that your brothers and sisters^[b] in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering. ¹⁰And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you. ¹¹To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SERMON: 'Did that really happen?'

There are 2 ways of looking at the question which is the sermon title for today. One is the question of the skeptic, who is searching for logic, for believability, for truth. The other is the emotional question of one who is distraught, grieving, anxious. We are stuck in the middle of that question these Covid days. The whole of the Easter message encourages us beyond just the actual events of Holy Week to the place where we enter more deeply into the thoughts and intentions of a Sovereign God who wants, more than anything, for us to know truth and to experience His amazing love and grace.

The church's liturgical calendar, with its suggested scripture readings, brings us today to a last Easter season Sunday. We are walking, as it were, with Peter who stumbled and bumbled his way through the day to day life of living with, listening to, learning from, liking some of what Jesus said and did, -- but bold and out-spoken enough to sometimes lash out with Jesus. To the point of denial, to the point of despair, to the point of repentance and restoration, to the point of 100% commitment. And so, post Easter, Peter came to a fuller and deeper knowledge which he later imparted to new believers in his letters. And in the 2 short letters of 1st & 2nd Peter, we hear how seriously Peter took Jesus last charge to him -- "feed my sheep." In reading his letters, intended for the fledging new believers and the faith communities who were struggling, we too are, individually and collectively informed, educated and fed.

If anything, Peter was going to be real and honest with those who embraced the Christian faith. It was one thing to remember and acknowledge that the Lord and Saviour who they were committing themselves to follow, suffered and died, but it was quite another to understand and accept that they would endure the same.

Suffering has an unbelievable aspect -- is this really happening? Can this be true? Is there a mistake? Why me? Why now?

A phrase has worked its way into the vocabulary of many – “it is what it is.”

Suffering will come – that was and is a fact.

But we need to add this phrase – “God is in this.”

That, I believe, is the beginning of a new level of faith.

The very first verse in the designated reading from 1st Peter for today states the fact of suffering and then asks “what did you expect?” How is this a surprise?

Jesus ended up dead because of his message, and so if people truly love him, follow him and preach his word, then the powers of the world will not appreciate that. The author reminds them in no uncertain terms that their suffering is not a sign of God’s displeasure, but in fact is **a sign that God’s spirit is with them**. Following Jesus does not magically transform our lives into sunshine and roses all the time, it doesn’t take away our pain and suffering, it doesn’t assure us of any material or earthly success.

In fact, we may, we likely will, encounter some discomfort or even suffering as a direct result of our faith. The form it takes may vary from generation to generation, from where you live to who you live with or among. That may be suffering in the context of strong disagreements within your family circle. It may be the suffering of ridicule, of patronizing, of sympathy. Yet the ‘don’t be surprised’ kind of suffering is also just part of a broken world where lifestyle, environment, social issues contribute to the propensity for disease.

Suffering is no respecter of persons.

Yet Peter’s letter tells us that we should rejoice, that **there is blessing in suffering**.

One benefit of opposition in the face of us living out our faith, or in the confrontation with a physical or emotional battle is that we are forced to defend and articulate clearly what we believe, which can strengthen our faith. For at such times, we find comfort in knowing we are not alone, in believing moreso that Jesus story of suffering is one in which we participate – in *all* of Jesus’ story – even to the very end - resurrection and glory!

That is encouraging, comforting, meaningful, hopeful.

Peter goes on to provide some instruction, in chapter 5, to help us cope with our suffering.

First: humble yourselves. Your place in this world is as God has chosen and designed. Know that God is in control – has been and will be. Humility before God is not about being a doormat. Biblical humility is not about self-deprecation or having low self-esteem. It is a recognition that our worth and our salvation lies in our Creator – he made you and me for a purpose.

Personally, I love to recall a quote of Eric Liddell, the Scottish Olympic Gold Medalist runner in the 1924 Olympics – *“In the dust of defeat as well as the laurels of victory there is a glory to be found if one has done his best. God made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure.”*

God’s hand is on you and me – the Psalmist wrote *“My times are in your hands”* (Psalm 31:15). Consider also that *“you are wonderfully and fearfully made”* (Psalm 139:14) – and so in who you are with gifts, talents, abilities – **you are the you God takes pleasure in.** Trust God with your life – all of it.



Second: cast all your anxiety on God. Why? Because God cares! This reminds me a little bit of that saying ‘let go and let God.’ Most of us are worriers. The idea of cast is to throw. My father, the fly fisherman, spend hours trying to teach me to cast – to cast to the exact spot where the fish were likely to be. When I read cast my anxiety, I envision throwing the line of my worries to God. The theologian Alan Stibbs writes a wonderful response to this verse. “We cannot throw away our troubles,” he says. We cannot run away from our problems or pretend they don’t exist. “But we can get rid of the anxiety that is caused by our troubles. We can refuse to be burdened down by care. We can reject the kind of worry that disturbs our peace and distracts our mind.” What we do instead is to turn to God. We pray and believe God cares. Think about that for just a moment – **God cares!** (*Take a minute right now and in silence repeat that phrase a few times*). In Matthew 6 we hear Jesus speak and teach about how much He cares – he says consider the lilies of the field and the sparrows of the air, He knows what they need, He cares about them – how much more He cares for you and me!

Third: Discipline yourselves, keep alert! Why? Because evil is real. As real as a prowling lion. And as sneaky. If you watch nature shows on T.V. you may have some idea that a lion may watch its prey during daylight hours, but only stalks when it is dark enough or when there is enough tall grass not to be detected before pouncing in for the kill.



If we know there's lions in the area, we best keep alert. Peter tells us to keep alert about our spiritual life. The devil wants to undo all that we've done. He wants to break down our habits and our spiritual disciplines. He wants to interfere in our relationship with God. He wants to pull us away from the nurturing arms of the church, where our faith is sustained. He wants to 'undo us' – make us doubt, cause us to drift away, discourage us. So, watch yourself so you can remain steadfast in your faith.

This teaching though turns us back to Peter's phrase 'after suffering'. What will come after suffering? – well one confidence must be that learn and maintain that **'God is in this'!**

Peter wrote his letter as one who had also suffered. Think of the times you stopped short with that bewildering question – 'did that really happen?'

Yes, Jesus had to walk through suffering, the disciples, the early church walked through suffering – and so we will also. Even though we have counsel here to help us cope, the more important teaching is what God will do.

And this is what God promises...He will...

Restore.

Support.

Strengthen.

Establish.

In today's Gospel that's what Jesus, just before his death, prayed for his disciples and also for each one of us. When we read in John 17 what we call the high priestly prayer, we are listening in to what's on Jesus heart. We are reminded that we are the beloved ones for whom Jesus prays. We hear a blessing of loving-kindness spoken aloud, one that connects the disciples to one another and that will carry them through all the suffering that will come. Jesus pleads for them and for us - for

our protection and unity because his love for us is so great. And in that love, we can have confidence – whatever happens – in the world, in our communities, in our families, in our bodies. That’s the story of love we are meant to share – to tell that old old story of Jesus and His love.

I close with this powerful conclusion by John Stott, an English Anglican priest, theologian and author, he said: “pain is real. Suffering is real. But the cross is also real. I could never myself believe in God if it were not for the cross. In the real world of pain, how could one worship a God who was immune to it? I turn to that lonely, twisted, tortured figure on the cross, nails through hands and feet, back lacerated, limbs wrenched, brow bleeding from thorn-pricks, mouth dry and intolerably thirsty, plunged in God-forsaken darkness. **That is the God for me.** He set aside his immunity to pain. He entered our world of flesh and blood, tears and death.”

My friends, that really happened.

This is our God and this God is for you and me and he is with us in everything!

Thanks be to God. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

INVITATION & PRESENTATION OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS:

This Sunday brings the liturgical season of Easter to a close. Yet we will continue to receive the blessings God pours out for us in Christ and in creation, for God is so good to us. We offer to God our thanks for such goodness in our tithes and offerings.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VFQ_H4c8WWO

Doxology: ***Praise God from whom all blessings flow***

Praise Him all creatures here below

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Prayer of Dedication:

Kind and merciful Heavenly Father, we rejoice in your faithfulness! As you promised, your glorious Spirit inspires a new way of life through the church of Jesus Christ. We trust that as we continue to devote ourselves to prayer, you will strengthen our congregation in mission and service. Direct all our gifts and offerings for the purposes of your kingdom, O God. We pray through Christ, who ascended on high to your eternal throne in the heavens. Amen

SPECIAL MUSIC: 'Crown Him with Many Crowns'

(trio: Judy, Leanne & Sumi / Mae on piano)

<https://youtu.be/GmXVMoy6PKM>

PRAYERS of the People and the Lord's Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come today thankful that You have promised to hear us in our praises and our petitions. We lift our voices and our hearts in praise for the ongoing fulfillment of your purposes for this world to which You sent Your one and only Son to redeem. We have turned our thoughts in these past weeks to the atoning work of Your Son – to His obedience to the Father, to His suffering upon the cross, to His defeat of death at His resurrection, to His appearing to and commissioning of the disciples so that this great salvation would be told to the world, and to His ascension back to be ever-present with You Heavenly Father, hearing and answering our prayers. Thank you, that in confidence of this act of intercession, we can make our petitions. Heavenly Father, during your Son's ministry on earth He showed His power and His care to those who were in great need. He listened to their pleas, He touched and healed many, He responded with compassion and grace. We come today because we are people in need, we live in a broken and suffering world, and we too have and will suffer. But not without Your love and Your grace to sustain us. For that we give you thanks and praise. We, as a community of Your people, have many needs which we lay before you now. For some of us our needs are for physical healing and cures and restoration – we pray for relief from pain, we pray for the medical solutions to be successful, we pray for confident and compassionate doctors, therapists and nurses to be attentive to all our needs. For some, our needs are for emotional or relational well-being. We pray for a renewed knowledge of your purpose for our lives – for the wisdom to establish priorities in keeping with the unique design you have for each of us. We pray for relationships that are supportive, encouraging and challenging us at times as we need them to be. For some, our needs are in regards to grief that we carry because we have lost those who were our nearest and dearest and who journeyed this life with us. We pray for the comfort You promised when you assured us you would be with us always, and that you would strengthen us in all our weaknesses.

We pray also today for the suffering of a world where a virus has knocked us down. At times the path to understand this situation and the responses and direction given seem very convoluted – fear has invaded the thinking and the decision making. Yet the one message of realizing that 'one little thing can undo us' is and has been important for the self-centeredness of our world and of people who have lived only

for themselves. May we come out of this with a greater knowledge of our interdependence and a greater compassion for others. Heavenly Father, we ask specifically for your wisdom and guidance for us as faith community here at Norman Kennedy. We pray for Your purposes to be accomplished in and through us as we seek to be faithful witnesses where we are planted. Restore, support, strengthen and establish us – for the greater good of building Your kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven. Bless your people gathered in prayer this morning and we offer now these and all our prayers in the strong name of Jesus, who taught us that when we pray, to say...

**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.**

THE PARTING HYMN: *#275 'Jesus shall reign where're the sun'*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJYLXUovpjw>

1 Jesus shall reign where'er the sun
does its successive journeys run,
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore,
till moons shall wax and wane no more.

2 To him shall endless prayer be made,
and praises throng to crown his head.
His name like sweet perfume shall rise
with every morning sacrifice.

3 People and realms of every tongue
dwell on his love with sweetest song,
and infant voices shall proclaim
their early blessings on his name.

4 Blessings abound where'er he reigns:
the prisoners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest,
and all who suffer want are blest.

5 Let every creature rise and bring
the highest honors to our King,
angels descend with songs again,
and earth repeat the loud amen.

GOD SENDS US . . .

Go now into the world, inspired by the extravagant love of God.
Live generously, with open hands, loving one another as if your lives depended on it.
Be good stewards of the gifts you have received, so that God may be glorified in all
that you say and do.

And may the abundant love of God surround you, may the extravagant grace of
Jesus Christ sustain you, and may the constant presence of the Holy Spirit inspire
and encourage you in every good deed and word. **AMEN**

GOING OUT SONG: 'O How He loves you and me'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r89NFu8Sn1Y>

Oh, how He loves you and me,
Oh, how He loves you and me,
He gave his life, what more could He give?
Oh, how He loves you, Oh, how he loves me;
Oh, how he loves you and me.

Jesus to Calvary did go,
His love for sinners to show.
What He did there brought hope from despair.
Oh, how He loves you; Oh how he loves me;
Oh, how he loves you and me.



BASKET AUCTION

- Prepare a basket based on a theme and /or a hobby or a unique idea. Creative thinking...
- It can be geared to a specific age group (i.e. children's art basket) OR to a gender (i.e. women's beauty products)
- CREATIVE thinking! Unique ideas!
- Wrap it in a cellophane clear wrap (there's at least 10 clear cellophane large bags at the church so it can be wrapped here – this will prevent the products from being touched)
- Bring it to the church prior to May 27th
- Give your basket a name/title (i.e. Home Spa basket; Gardening Basket, Bathtub Toys Basket, etc.)
- You may suggest a minimum bid. (Remember this is a fundraising event) The bid sheet will be a 'no touch' sheet!
- **SILENT AUCTION DAY will be May 31st from 1:30 to 5 p.m.**
(when you come to the Church for communion, you are invited to visit the basement where the baskets will be displayed – beside each basket will be a sheet for bids. After this first day of the silent auction, the baskets with their bids will be posted on the NKP Facebook page. You will have an opportunity to check on the progression of bids and to submit further bids until June 3rd. On June 4th we will announce the winners – you can then come to the church to pay and take your basket home.)

Norman Kennedy Presbyterian Church offers a Communion Service on Sunday, May 31st.



Short Communion Services will begin at 1:30 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary and continue every half hour until 4 p.m. or 4:30 p.m. if required.

Members and adherents are invited to come to the church where you will be asked to social distant as designated within the sanctuary.

We invite 8-10 people to attend at each time slot.

The service will be approximately 20 minutes in length.

Please call Pastor Ronda at home 306-543-2212 or at the church 306-543-9080, or email her at rondankpreschuch@sasktel.net or text at 306-450-9795 to reserve a time and a spot. You may be asked to be flexible so it will be possible to accommodate all who wish to participate. The Presbyterian Church in Canada invites children to also come to the Lord's Table – families who wish to have their children participate are encouraged to prepare their children in advance or to consult with Pastor Ronda for preparation resources.

The time slots for each service are:

1:30 p.m.; 2:00 p.m.; 2:30 p.m.; 3:00 p.m.; 3:30 p.m.; 4:00 p.m.

“We are invited to come together around this table as those who belong to the household of Christ,

Come, when you are fearful, to be made new in love.

Come, when you are doubtful, to be made strong in faith.

Come, when you are regretful, and be made whole.

Come, old and young, there is room for all.”

