

WORDS TO PONDER: “We begin our lives listening to the many sounds surrounding us in the womb. When we are dying, the last faculty to shut down is usually hearing. In between, there is so much to see that we seldom take the time to cultivate the art of listening. Listening is a spiritual craft because it plugs us into the world in so many ways. Keep listening.”
(Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat)

GATHERING MUSIC “Jesus You’re the Center of My Joy” Tameron Gennae and the Knox Gospel Choir

WORDS OF WELCOME | *PASSING OF THE PEACE Rev. Ann Hayman

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Ezekiel 17:22-24) Gena Lofton
God takes a sprig from the lofty top of a cedar, and plants it on a high mountain
in order that it may produce boughs and bear fruit and become a noble cedar.
Under it every kind of bird will live; in the shade of its branches will nest winged creatures of every kind.
God welcomes. God loves. God provides.

OPENING HYMN “When Morning Gilds the Skies” PH #487

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

UNISON PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

Holy God, you are a blessing to all people, yet we choose sides and pit “us” against “them.” Forgive our divisiveness. Forgive our exclusion. Forgive the ways we fail to seek and share your abundance. Help us build the Beloved Community you desire for us, where all your children may live in peace. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON Gena Lofton

TIME WITH CHILDREN “Behold a Mustard Seed” Rev. Ann Hayman

ANTHEM “Amazing Grace” Susan Holder

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Gena Lofton

SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 20

Gena Lofton

SERMON

“Can you hear me now?”

Rev. Ann Hayman

Mark 4:30-34 The Parable of the Mustard Seed

WORDS OF FAITH: A CREED from Australia

I believe in the God of our Savior Jesus Christ who has never ceased working within creation.

I believe in the Gospel of Christ with its own intrinsic potency, able to take root in unlikely places and produce fruit where other creeds fail.

I believe in the Spirit who accompanies us in work as well as prayer, and who blesses us both through strenuous endeavors and on quiet retreats.

I believe in reaping where I have not sown, in sowing where I shall not be able to reap, and in sleeping while another works wonders with the little I have been able to accomplish in one brief day.

I believe that no seed certified by my God will ever be wasted when sown with love, and even in hostile terrain, grape vines will come up instead of briars and golden corn will come up instead of thistles.

The Word that goes out of the mouth of our God falls on eager ears and will never return empty. This I believe. This I believe because the Word continues to work its grace-changes, even in me.

Hallelujah!

(<http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocB/BSUNDAY11.htm>)

PASTORAL PRAYER and the Lord’s Prayer

Rev. Ann Hayman

THE OFFERING

Call to Giving

Gena Lofton

Offertory

“I’ll Keep on Singing”

**Erica Blyther and the
Knox Gospel Choir**

+Doxology

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise God all creatures here
below, praise God above all heavenly hosts, Creator, Christ, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.**

Prayer of Dedication

Gena Lofton

CLOSING HYMN

“I’m on the Battlefield”

**Knox Gospel Choir
and Congregation**

**Chorus: Now, I'm on the battlefield for my Lord.
Yes, I'm on the battlefield for my Lord.
I promised I would serve him 'til I die.
Now I'm on the battlefield with my Lord.**

BENEDICTION

Rev. Ann Hayman

Christ's touch has healed you.

God's love has restored us.

The Spirit goes with you. Listen for the voice of God.

We go in peace to share the joy of God's love. Amen

**POSTLUDE "The Lord Will Be with You" by Rev. Glenn Jones Knox Gospel Choir
Solos: Elder Dennis Dozier and Elder Tameron Gennae**