

North Kildonan United Church
174 Pentland St, Winnipeg, MB R2G 2S3
Church Office: 204-667-7408
email: nkuc@mymts.net
www.nkuc.ca



Minister: *Rev. Don Johnson*
(204)885-9879
Pianist/Choir Director: *Joanne Diplock*
Office Administrator: *Wilma Fehr*
Property Manager: *Heinz Goetz*

Our Mission...

to be an accepting Christian community dedicated to living, sharing and teaching the Word of God.

We respect all aspects of people including race, ethnicity, gender expression, sexual orientation, socio-economic background, age, religion, mental wellness, and ability.

The First Sunday of Advent November 28th, 2021

**The asterisk invites all to stand, if they are able, and the double asterisk ** indicates when to be seated;
Bold print indicates a congregational response.*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

WELCOME

CHORAL INTROIT #1 VU – **“O Come, O Come, Emmanuel”** ~translation: John M. Neale
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LIFE and WORK of the CONGREGATION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the LAND

We acknowledge that we meet in Treaty 1 land, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Metis nation. We are thankful for these first inhabitants, and we commit to working together towards justice, truth and reconciliation.

PRELUDE

~Joanne Diplock

GREETING

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.*
And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Gracious God,
your vision of peace and wholeness
comes to us in sweeping revelations
and in tiny signs of hope.
Kindle our hearts that we might be a hopeful people.
Keep us from growing weary of waiting,
lest we miss the glory of your appearing.
Even so, come quickly, O God. Amen.**

***HYMN: #2 VU – “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”**

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~words: Charles Wesley

Joanne Diplock

**Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.
Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

THE WORD OF GOD

LEARNING TIME AND LIGHTING OF THE FIRST ADVENT CANDLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil:
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.**

***HYMN: #7 VU – “Hope Is a Star”**

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~words: Brian Wren

Joanne Diplock

**1 Hope is a star that shines in the night,
leading us on till the morning is bright.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

Scripture Reader: *Gay Todd*

The First Lesson: **Jeremiah 33: 14-16**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

The Gospel: **Luke 21: 25-36**

'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.

'RESPONSE: *Your Word is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.*
 Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM: **"Who Would Send a Baby?"** ~words: *Mary Kay Beall*
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SERMON: ~Rev. *Don Johnson* (see attached sermon)

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

AN ADVENT STATEMENT OF FAITH ~Rev. *Rebecca F. Harrison, Spanish Springs Presbyterian Church, Sparks, NV*

**We are an Advent people,
a people of hope.**

**For us, Advent is a time of waiting,
and so we wait.**

**We wait for the coming of the One
who is the fulfillment of God's promise,**

**the fulfillment of hope,
the declaration that we have been redeemed.**

Even so, we are not a naïve people.

We know that the world in which we live

will continue to be filled with pain and sorrow.

We know that hatred and violence will continue to exist.

We know that death and separation will continue to be a part of our lives.

But because we are an Advent people,

we know that none of these things will win in the end.

The Holy One is coming,

to make holy once again

all that was, is, and ever will be.

And in our waiting and our hoping,

we work and worship,

pray and play,

in all things hoping that peace, love and joy will reign

in our lives and in our world,

now and forever.

THE PRESENTATION of our OFFERINGS

Offertory Verse #55 VU **"In the Bleak Midwinter"**

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*~words: Christina Georgina Rossetti
Joanne Diplock*

- 4 What can I give him, poor as I am?
 If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
 if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
 yet what I can I give him - give my heart.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

~VU #11 "An Advent Prayer"

**God of all wisdom,
our hearts yearn for the warmth of your love,
and our minds search for the light of your Word.
Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour,
and strengthen us to grow in love,
that at the dawn of his coming
we may rejoice in his presence
and welcome the light of his truth.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

PRAYERS

***HYMN: #31 VU– “O Lord, How Shall I Meet You”**

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~words: Paul Gerhardt

Joanne Diplock

- 1 O Lord, how shall I meet you,
how welcome you aright?
Your people long to greet you,
my hope, my heart's delight!
O kindle, then, most holy,
a lamp within my breast,
to do in spirit lowly
all that may please you best.**
- 2 Love caused your incarnation,
love brought you here to me;
your thirst for my salvation
procured my liberty.
O love beyond all telling,
that led you to embrace
in love all loves excelling
our lost and fallen race.**
- 3 A glorious crown you give me,
a treasure safe on high,
that will not fail nor leave me
as earthly riches fly.
My heart shall bloom forever
for you with praises new,
and from your name shall never
withhold the honour due.**

THE BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

~Joanne Diplock

**May the Lord go with you,
let him take your hand.
Keep his love within you,
until we meet again. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

~Joanne Diplock