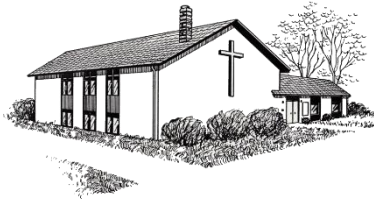


North Kildonan United Church
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Minister: *Rev. Don Johnson*
(204)885-9879
Pianist/Choir Director: *Joanne Diplock*
Office Administrator: *Wilma Fehr*
Property Manager: *Heinz Goetz*

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 Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 19th, 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**”

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~translation: John M. Neale

~Joanne Diplock

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

God and maker of all,

to redeem the world

you chose the most unsuspecting of women

to mother your Son and by your choice gave new glory

to human flesh and earthly parenting.

With the joy that was Mary's,

may our souls magnify the Lord,

and our bodies be the means

through which you continue
the mighty work of salvation
for which Christ came. Amen.

*HYMN: #46 VU – “Gentle Mary Laid Her Child”

~words: Joseph Simpson Cook

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~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Saviour?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favour.**
- 2 Angels sang about his birth, wise men sought and found him;
heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
all the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.**
- 3 Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
he is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, beautiful the story;
praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!**

THE WORD OF GOD

LEARNING TIME AND LIGHTING OF THE FOURTH 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”

~words: Brian Wren

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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.**

- 2 **Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
giving a promise of safety and worth. R**
- 3 **Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born. R**
- 4 **Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart. R**

Scripture Reader: *Barrie McPherson*

The Gospel: **Luke 1: 39-45**

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

Song of Mary: **Luke 1: 46-56**

(VU #898)

And Mary said,

My soul proclaims God's greatness.

My spirit rejoices in God my saviour.

For you have looked with favour on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed.

You have done great things for me, O Most Mighty.

Hallowed be your Name!

You have mercy on those who fear you,

From one generation to another.

You took action with a strong arm.

You scattered the proud in their conceit.

You pulled the mighty from their thrones.

You raised the lowly.

You filled the hungry with good things.

You sent the rich away empty.

You come to the aid of your servant, Israel,

for you remembered your promise of mercy,

to our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah,

and to their children in every age.

PRAYER

(VU #26)

**Who are we, O God,
that you should come to us?**

**Yet you have visited your people
and redeemed us in your Son.
As we prepare to celebrate his birth,
make our hearts leap for joy at the sound of your word,
and move us by your spirit to bless your wonderful works.
We ask this through him whose coming is certain,
whose day draws near, even your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

ANTHEM: "Sing the News!"
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*~words: Joanna Mills
~Joanne Diplock*

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: #73 VU – **"The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"**
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*~arr: John Barnard
~Joanne Diplock*

- 1 The virgin Mary had a baby boy,
 the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
 the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
 and they say that his name is Jesus.
 He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
 he come from the glorious kingdom.
 He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
 he come from the glorious kingdom.
 Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!
 He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
 he come from the glorious kingdom.**
- 2 The angels sang when the baby was born,
 the angels sang when the baby was born,
 the angels sang when the baby was born,
 and they say that his name is Jesus. R**
- 3 The shepherds came where the baby was born,
 the shepherds came where the baby was born,
 the shepherds came where the baby was born,
 and they say that his name is Jesus. R**

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