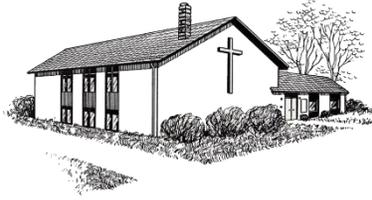


North Kildonan United Church
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Our Mission...

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 in Lent
March 27th, 2022

***Bold** print indicates a congregational response.*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

WELCOME

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.

THE LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE

*May the light of Christ, rising in glory,
banish all darkness from our hearts and minds. Amen.*

PRELUDE – "The Lord's My Shepherd"

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(Irvine/Houser)
~Joanne Diplock

CALL to WORSHIP

*The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
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, seeker of the lost:
draw your children back to your loving embrace,
restore us to our inheritance as daughters and sons,
and reconcile our hearts to you,
that we may become ambassadors
of your reconciling love to all the world.
Through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

Scripture Reader: *Betty Clark*

Epistle: **II Corinthians 5: 16-21**

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Responsive Reading:

Psalm 32

(VU#759)

*Blessed are those whose offences are forgiven,
whose sin has been put away.*

**Blessed are those to whom God imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

*When I kept silence, my body wasted away,
while I groaned all the day long.*

**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my strength dried up as in a summer drought.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I did not hide.

**I said: 'I will confess my sins to God';
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.**

Therefore, let all the faithful pray to you in time of trouble;

when great floodwater rises, it shall not come near them.

*You are a hiding place for me,
you will preserve me from trouble;*

you will surround me with shouts of deliverance.

I will teach you, and guide you in the way you should go.

I will keep you under my eye and instruct you.

Be not like a horse or mule, without understanding,

whose course must be checked with bit and bridle.

Many pains are in store for the wicked,

**but whoever trusts in God,
is surrounded by steadfast love.**

Response: *This is the Word of God.*

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel:

Luke 15: 1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax-collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, 'This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.'

So Jesus told them this parable:

Then Jesus said, 'There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, "Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me." So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, "How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.'" So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son." But the father said to his slaves, "Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!" And they began to celebrate.

'Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, "Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound." Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, "Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!" Then the father said to him, "Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Response: *The Gospel of Christ.*

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: "The Two Sons"

~Rev. Don Johnson (see attached sermon)

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

INTERLUDE – "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

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(Clephane/Maker)

~Joanne Diplock

PRAYERS

...let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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.**

A FINAL PRAYER FOR LENT

(Angela Ashwin)

**Lord, in these days of mercy,
make us quiet and prayerful;**

in these days of challenge,

make us stronger in you;

in these days of emptiness,

take possession of us;

In these days of waiting,

open our hearts to the mystery of your cross.

Amen.

THE BLESSING

POSTLUDE – "Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley"

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(Warner/McDonald)

~Joanne Diplock