

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 Third Sunday of Advent
December 11th, 2022

The asterisk invites all to stand, if they are able. **Bold print indicates a congregational response.*

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE *(Music played with permission under license #A-620529 One License)*

~Joanne Diplock

WELCOME

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.

THE LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE and the UKRAINE CANDLE

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

**And may the light of this Ukraine Candle
help us to be mindful of our Ukrainian sisters and brothers in need.**

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 of power and mercy,
you call us once again to celebrate the coming of your Son.
Remove those things which hinder love of you,
that when he comes
he may find us waiting
in awe and wonder for him;**

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

HYMN:** #6 VU – "A Candle is Burning***"

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(Dean/Murray)
~Joanne Diplock

- 1 A candle is burning, a flame warm and bright,
a candle of hope in December's dark night.
While angels sing blessings from heaven's starry sky,
our hearts we prepare now for Jesus is nigh.**
- 2 A candle is burning, a candle of peace,
a candle to signal that conflict must cease:
for Jesus is coming to show us the way;
a message of peace humbly laid in the hay.**
- 3 A candle is burning, a candle of joy,
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.**

LIGHTING of the THIRD ADVENT CANDLE and PRAYER

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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(Wren/Fogg)
~Joanne Diplock

- 3 Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,
telling the world that the Saviour is born.
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.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL and YOUTH PLAY – "Christmas, Jesus & Santa"

CHOIR HYMN: VU #67 – "Silent Night" (v. 1 & 3)

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(Mohr/Grüber)
~Joanne Diplock

HYMN: VU #64 – "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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(Brooks/Redner)
~Joanne Diplock

**1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

HYMN: VU #59 – "Joy to the World"

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(Watts/Handel)
~Joanne Diplock

**1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:
let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare him room,
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

HYMN: VU #48 – "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"

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(Wesley/Mendelssohn)
~Joanne Diplock

**1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!'
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'
Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'**

HYMN: VU #69 – "Away in a Manger"

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(Kirkpatrick)
~Joanne Diplock

**1 Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.**

HYMN: VU #91 – "The First Nowell"

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(traditional)
~Joanne Diplock

- 1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay akeeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

HYMN: VU #43 – "Go, Tell it on the Mountain"

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(Work)
~Joanne Diplock

- 3 Down in a lonely manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent our salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.
Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**

HYMN: "O Holy Night"

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(Dwight/Adam)
~Joanne Diplock

- 1 O holy night, the stars are brightly shining;
It is the night of the dear Savior's birth.
Long lay the world in sin and error pining,
Till he appeared and the soul felt its worth.
A thrill of hope, the weary soul rejoices,
For yonder breaks a new and glorious morn.
Fall on your knees, oh, hear the angel voices!
O night divine, O night when Christ was born!
O night, O holy night, O night divine!**

***HYMN: VU #60 – "O Come, All Ye Faithful"**

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(Oakeley/Wade)
~Joanne Diplock

- 1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**
- 3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest: R**

**5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing: R**

Scripture Reader: *Scotty McLaren*

The First Lesson: **Isaiah 35: 1-10**

*The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad, the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God.*

*Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart, 'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.*

He will come with vengeance, with terrible recompense.

He will come and save you.'

*Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer, and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.*

*A highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it, but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.*

*No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there.*

*And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.*

Response: *This is the Word of God.*

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: *VU #684 – "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace"* (St. Francis)
(Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529 One License) ~Joanne Diplock

The Gospel: **Matthew 11: 2-11**

*When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by
his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait
for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the
blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the
dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is
anyone who takes no offence at me.'*

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

*"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."*

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Response: *The Gospel of Christ.*

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN: #29 VU – "**Hark the Glad Sound**"

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(Doddridge/Haweis)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Hark, the glad sound! The Saviour comes,
the Saviour promised long;
let every heart prepare a throne,
and every voice a song.**
- 2 He comes, the prisoners to release
in Satan's bondage held;
the gates of brass before him burst,
the iron fetters yield.**
- 3 He comes, the broken heart to bind,
the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace
to bless the humble poor.**
- 4 Our glad hosannas, Prince of Peace,
your welcome shall proclaim;
and heaven's eternal arches ring
with your beloved name.**

MEDITATION

~Rev. Don Johnson

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

AN ADVENT STATEMENT of FAITH

By the 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 Music

*Offertory Verse: #55 VU – **"In the Bleak Midwinter"**
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(Rosetti/Holst)
~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: #64 VU – **"O Little Town of Bethlehem"**
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(Brooks/Redner)
~Joanne Diplock

**1 O little town of Bethlehem,
how still we see thee lie!**

**Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
the silent stars go by;
yet in thy dark streets shineth
the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years
are met in thee tonight.**

**2 For Christ is born of Mary;
and gathered all above,
while mortals sleep, the angels keep
their watch of wondering love.**

**O morning stars, together
proclaim the holy birth,
and praises sing to God the King,
and peace to all on earth.**

**3 How silently, how silently
the wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts
the blessed gift of heaven.
No ear may hear his coming;
but in this world of sin,
where meek souls will receive him, still
the dear Christ enters in.**

**4 O holy child of Bethlehem,
descend to us, we pray;
cast out our sin, and enter in;
be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels
the great glad tidings tell;
O come to us, abide with us,
our Lord Emmanuel.**

THE BLESSING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE:

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~Joanne Diplock