

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 of Advent
December 18th, 2022

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

PREPARING FOR THE WORD

PRELUDE Good Neighbours Handbell Ringers

"Away in a Manger"
"Süsser die Glocken"
"Kling Glöckchen"
"He is Born"

WELCOME

INTROIT Good Neighbours Handbell Ringers
"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

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.**

CALL to WORSHIP

Our souls magnify the Lord.

Our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour.

The mighty One has done great things for us.

Holy is God's name.

Let us worship God.

**For God is our Maker and our Redeemer;
from generation to generation God gives mercy.**

***HYMN: #62 VU – "Once in Royal David's City"**

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(Alexander/Gauntlett)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattleshed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.**
- 2 He came down to earth from heaven
who, with God, is over all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.
There among the poor and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**
- 3 For he is our lifelong pattern;
daily, when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.
Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.**
- 4 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**

PRAYER of the DAY

**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.**

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.**
- 4 A candle is burning, a candle of love,
a candle to point us to heaven above.
A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.**

LIGHTING of the FOURTH ADVENT CANDLE

BLESSING of PRAYER SHAWLS

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

- 4 Love is a flame that burns in our heart,
Jesus has come and will never depart.
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: *Joan Knowles*

The First Lesson: **Isaiah 7: 10-16**

Again the Lord spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the Lord your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the Lord to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Response: *This is the Word of God.*

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: **"Peace on this Silent Night"**

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(Miller)

~Joanne Diplock

The Gospel: **Matthew 1: 18-25**

Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way. When his mother Mary had been engaged to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found to be with child from the Holy Spirit. Her husband Joseph, being a righteous man and unwilling to expose her to public disgrace, planned to dismiss her quietly. But just when he had resolved to do this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, 'Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary as your wife, for the child conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. She will bear a son, and you are to name him Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.' All this took place to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

*'Look, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,
and they shall name him Emmanuel',*

which means, 'God is with us.' When Joseph awoke from sleep, he did as the angel of the Lord commanded him; he took her as his wife, but had no marital relations with her until she had borne a son; and he named him Jesus.

Response: *The Gospel of Christ.*

Thanks be to God.

HANDBELL ANTHEMS

Good Neighbours Handbell Ringers

"Hark! the Herald Angels Sing"

"Angels We Have Heard on High"

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: Violin/Piano Duet **"O Holy Night"**

*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.**

HANDBELL ANTHEMS

Good Neighbours Handbell Ringers

"Come All Ye Shepherds"
"Silent Night"

PRAYERS

*HYMN: #48 VU – ***"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!'**
- 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel! R**
- 3 Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth. R**

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

Good Neighbours Handbell Ringers

"Joy to the World"