

North Kildonan United Church
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Minister: *Rev. Don Johnson*
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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.

Third Sunday of Easter
April 23rd, 2023
Earth Day

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 and ANNOUNCEMENTS *~Sheron Miller*

A warm welcome is extended to all, especially those who are worshipping at North Kildonan for the first time or who have returned after an absence. Wherever you are in your journey, all are welcome in this place.

Del, would you like to come forward to speak?

I am Sheron Miller and with the Outreach, Mission and Service committee of Nancy Cosway, Teresa Miller and Shirley Codd, we are pleased to conduct the service this morning acknowledging Earth Day.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of TERRITORY *~Sheron Miller*

We acknowledge that we live and work, play and worship in the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji=Cree and Dakota.

We acknowledge, with respect, the history, spirituality and culture of these peoples and acknowledge their stories and their stewardship of the land and the water, the plants and animals, through many generations.

Under the terms of Treaty One, we now share responsibility of caring for the earth, and sky and water where, along with the Metis people of Manitoba we pledge to create a sacred space of welcome where all may find a home.

LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE and the UKRAINE CANDLE *~Shirley Codd*

Today we light this Christ Candle to bring us out of the darkness and help us see the light to take care of the earth and each other. We are the keepers of this great creation you have given us. Shine your light on us so we will cherish and protect all of creation

*The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.
And let us say together:*

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

CALL to WORSHIP

~Sheron Miller

*Come, let us dwell in God's shelter.
Let us dwell in God's work of art.
Come, because the Earth is the Lord's,
And God's Earth is our home.*

We live in God's World; we are not alone.

We share this life with the heavens and the earth

*With the waters and the land,
With trees and grasses,
With fish, birds, and animals,
With minerals and creatures of every form,
And with all our brothers and sisters.*

God is good and everything God makes is good.

God is love and everything God makes is love's fruit. Let us worship God.

We open worship this morning with "This is God's Wondrous World"

*HYMN: VU #296 – **"This is God's Wondrous World"**

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(Babcock/Sheppard)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 This is God's wondrous world,
and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world;
I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas,
God's hand the wonders wrought.**
- 2 This is God's wondrous world:
the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world:
God shines in all that's fair;
in the rustling grass or mountain pass,
God's voice speaks everywhere.**
- 3 This is God's wondrous world:
O let me ne'er forget
that though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world:**

**why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heavens ring:
God reigns, let earth be glad!**

OPENING PRAYER

~Nancy Cosway

You spoke into the silence

Light suffusing darkness.

You spoke into the silence

Blowing clean life giving air into the space

You spoke into the silence

Warmth and cold infusing the air

You spoke into the silence

Solid ground formed out of gushing water.

You spoke voice carrying over the sound

People, plants and animals came to life.

You spoke each creation balanced against the next so life would be abundant and sustainable.

You saw everything you had made and declared it to be very good.

You spoke choosing to give us humans stewardship over all that You had made.

We speak and act.

Darkness of pollution limits light levels and damages the air we breathe.

We speak and act.

Ground poisoned, burnt, stripped bare.

We speak and act.

Spoiling, limiting, destroying quality of life and life itself.

We speak and act.

Without hearing Your call over the noise of the world to be good stewards.

You speak. You create. You want us to be stewards of Your creation.

We come to You to re-learn how to care for the earth and people you have made. Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

LEARNING TOGETHER

~Nancy Cosway

PRAYER *(children & congregation to repeat)*

*O God, we thank you for this Earth, our home;
for the bright wide sky and the blessed sun,
We thank you for the wonders of nature.
Help us to be better stewards of our earth.
Amen.*

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: *VU #226 – "For the Beauty of the Earth"*
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(Pierpont/Evans)
~Joanne Diplock

- 1 For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies,
God of all, to you we raise
this our hymn of grateful praise.**
- 2 For the beauty of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale, and tree and flower,
sun and moon, and stars of light, R**
- 3 For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth, and friends above,
for all gentle thoughts and mild, R**
- 4 For each perfect gift sublime
to our race so freely given,
graces human and divine,
flowers of earth and buds of heaven, R**

Scripture Reader: *Shirley Codd*

Scripture: **Genesis 1: 9-12**

And God said, 'Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.' And it was so. God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. Then God said, 'Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed, and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.' And it was

so. The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind, and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 104: 1-13

Praise God, O my soul.

Eternal God, you are great indeed.

You clothe yourself with light like a garment.

You spread the heavens like a tent;

You lay out the beams of your dwelling on the waters above.

*You make the clouds your chariot,
and ride on the wings of the wind.*

**You make the winds your messengers,
and flames of fire your servants.**

*You fix the earth on its foundations,
so that it can never tremble.*

You cover the earth with the ocean as with a cloak.

*When the waters covered the mountains,
they fled at your rebuke;*

at the sound of your thunder, they took flight.

*They flowed over the mountains, ran down the valleys
to the place you had appointed for them.*

**There you set limits not to be passed,
that they might not again cover the earth.**

*You make springs and rivers flow
to provide water for the wild animals*

In the trees nearby, the birds make their nests and sing.

And the earth is filled with your blessings.

Psalm: Psalm 104: 14-24

*You cause the grass to grow for the cattle,
and plants for people to use,*

to bring forth food from the earth,

and wine to gladden the human heart,

oil to make the face shine,

and bread to strengthen the human heart.

The trees of the LORD are watered abundantly,

the cedars of Lebanon that he planted.

In them the birds build their nests;

the stork has its home in the fir trees.

The high mountains are for the wild goats;

the rocks are a refuge for the coney.

You have made the moon to mark the seasons;

the sun knows its time for setting.

*You make darkness, and it is night,
when all the animals of the forest come creeping out.
The young lions roar for their prey,
seeking their food from God.
When the sun rises, they withdraw
and lie down in their dens.
People go out to their work
and to their labour until the evening.
O LORD, how manifold are your works!
In wisdom you have made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.*

Response: *This is the Good News of Jesus Christ; given that we might have life.*
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

~Nancy Cosway

VIDEO: "Every Day is Earth Day"

*HYMN: VU #223 – "**Eternal, Unchanging, We Sing**"

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(Scott/Roberts)
~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Eternal, Unchanging, we sing to your praise:
your mercies are endless, and righteous your ways;
your servants proclaim the renown of your name
who rules over all and is ever the same.**
- 2 Again we rejoice in the world you have made,
your mighty creation in beauty arrayed,
we thank you for life, and we praise you for joy,
for love and for hope that no power can destroy.**
- 3 We praise you for Jesus, our Master and Lord,
the might of his Spirit, the truth of his word,
his comfort in sorrow, his patience in pain,
the faith sure and steadfast that Jesus shall reign.**

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

WORDS of AFFIRMATION

~Nancy Cosway

CHOIR ANTHEM: #209 MV – "**Go, Make a Difference**"

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(Angrisano/Tomaszek)
~Joanne Diplock

AN INVITATION to SHARE

~Sheron Miller

*We are here that we might have life
and have it more abundantly.*

*May our gifts and our lives enable us
to share that abundance with others. Your offerings will be accepted.*

Offertory Music **Slide Show** will be shown as the offerings are collected

~Joanne Diplock

*Offertory Verse: #191 MV – "What Can I Do?"

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(Rumbolt/McCarthy)

~Joanne Diplock

**What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.**

*The Dedication of our Gifts

~Sheron Miller

And together we say:

Generous God,

you have blessed us with the resources

to share the good news of your love for all creation.

We dedicate these gifts

**and pray that they may bring healing, wholeness, and hope
to the world,**

that future generations may also know your graciousness and love. Amen.

PRAYERS of CONCERN

~Teresa Miller

*HYMN: VU #236 – "Now Thank We All Our God"

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(Rinckart/Crüger)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Now thank we all our God, with heart,
and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**
- 2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us strong in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ill in this world and the next.**
- 3 All praise and thanks to God
for all that has been given,
the Son, and Spirit blest
who dwell in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore**

* BLESSING and SENDING FORTH

~Sheron Miller

* CHORAL BENEDICTION

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

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

~Joanne Diplock