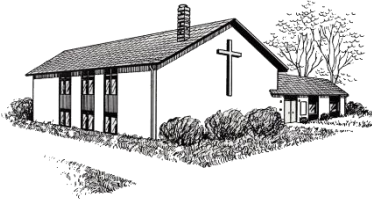


North Kildonan United Church
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Minister: *Rev. Susan Reed*
Pianist/Choir Director: *Joanne Diplock*
Office Administrator: *Wilma Fehr*
Property Manager: *Heinz Goetz*

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.

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost
August 27th, 2023

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

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

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 on 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.

LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE and the UKRAINE CANDLE

*May the light of this candle remind us of the light of Christ,
which shines on us, around us, within us, and through us.*

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

CALL to WORSHIP *(inspired by Psalm 138)* *(Adapted from Lectionary Sermons Archives online.)*

We gather to give thanks to you, O God, with all our heart!

**We will sing your praises before all creation,
and rejoice in your steadfast love!**

You have created us O God, and made us for yourself.

In you, we become everything you have made us to be!

Let us gather together in worship and in praise!

*OPENING HYMN: VU #345 – "Come, Children, Join to Sing"

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(Bateman)

~Joanne Diplock

**1 Come, children, join to sing: Hallelujah!
Praise to our Servant King: Hallelujah!**

**Let all with heart and voice,
saved by God's gracious choice,
now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!**

2 Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah!

Let praises fill the sky: Hallelujah!

**Christ calls his people friends,
the helpless he defends,
a love that never ends: Hallelujah!**

3 Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah!

Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah!

**The whole creation o'er
let all God's love adore,
singing for evermore: Hallelujah!**

OPENING PRAYER

(Written by Wendy Bily; from *Worship for All Seasons II Year C.*)

Let us be centred in Christ... (pause)

Faithful Friend, Great Deliverer,

you who search and know us

and are acquainted with all our ways:

We gather with our siblings in Christ

that you might refresh our souls with worship and praise;

that you might renew our faith with your Word,

and encourage our faithful living with Christ's example.

We need you.

Help us to know that you are with us

and that we are with you, always.

Amen.

SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us greet one another with the peace of Christ.

CONVERSATION with ALL AGES

*HYMN: VU #365 MV – **"Jesus Loves Me"**

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(Warner/McGuire/Bradbury)

~Joanne Diplock

1 Jesus loves me, this I know,

for the Bible tells me so;

little ones to him belong,

in his love we shall be strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

**2 Jesus loves me, this I know,
as he loved so long ago,
taking children on his knee,
saying, 'Let them come to me.' R**

**3 Jesus loves me still today,
walking with me on my way,
wanting as a friend to give
light and love to all who live. R**

PRAYER for TRANSFORMATION

LISTENING FOR AND REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reader: *Sylvia Banfield*

Responsive Reading: **Psalm 138**

*I praise you, O God, with all my heart;
before the gods I will sing your praises.*

**I bow down toward your holy temple
and praise your name for your love and faithfulness;**

*for you have exalted your name
and your word above everything.*

**On the day that I called, you answered me,
and put new strength in my soul.**

*All earth's rulers shall praise you,
when they hear the words of your mouth.*

**They shall sing of your ways, O God,
sing that your glory is great.**

For though you are high, you care for the lowly.

As for the proud, you humble them from afar.

*Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me;
**you stretch out your hand against my enemies' rage;
your powerful hand delivers me.***

You will fulfil your purpose for me.

Your love, O God, is eternal.

Do not leave unfinished the work of your hands.

Gospel Reading: **Matthew 16: 13-20**

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in

heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

Words of Response: *This is the Word of God.*

Thanks be to God.

LITANY of RESPONSE:

(Adapted from Richard Bott; found online.)

Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say I am?"

They responded:

Some say you are the prophet, returned.

Some say you are John the Baptizer, come again.

Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say I am?"

They responded:

You are the Messiah.

You are the Son of the living God.

If Jesus asked us, his disciples, "Who do you say I am?"

how would we respond?

We might say teacher, or friend.

We might say preacher, or prophet, or healer.

We might say brother or Lord.

We might say Christ, or Saviour, or Word.

We might say human. We might say divine.

Jesus asked his disciples, "Who do you say that I am?"

How do we respond? How do you respond?

[a time of silent reflection]

SERMON: "Who Do You Say that I Am?"

~Rev. Susan Reed

RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: *VU #664 – "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"* (Scriven)

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~Joanne Diplock

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.**

- 2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.**
- 3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Saviour is our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do our friends despise, forsake us?
Are we tempted to despair?
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,
and we'll find new courage there.**

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

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.**

THE PRESENTATION of our TITHES and OFFERINGS

Offertory Music *as the offerings are collected*

~Joanne Diplock

*Offertory Verse: #191 MV – **"What Can I Do"** sung twice
(Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

(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.**

*Offertory Prayer

O God, we offer you these gifts,

and we offer you our very selves.
Bless all that we offer,
and use it and us for your work in the world.
In the name and way of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

*CLOSING HYMN: VU #635 – "All the Way My Saviour Leads Me"

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(Crosby/Lowry)
~Joanne Diplock

- 1 All the way my Saviour leads me;
what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy
who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
here by faith in him to dwell,
for I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.
- 2 All the way my Saviour leads me,
cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for every trial,
feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,
and my soul athirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me,
lo, a spring of joy I see!
- 3 All the way my Saviour leads me;
O the fullness of his love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed, immortal,
wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages,
'Jesus led me all the way!'

*SENDING FORTH

(Adapted from Gord Waldie; found online. Used with permission.)

Jesus stands and asks: "Who do you say I am?"

**We join millions who have gone before
and say: "the Messiah."**

Jesus stands in front of us

and tells us the realities of discipleship.

**We join millions who have gone before
in the challenges of living as disciples.**

Jesus stands before us

and offers food and drink for the journey.

Fed and nourished,

we go out into the world to live and serve.

Jesus stands before us, shining in glory,

and will be with us to the end of the age.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

***BLESSING**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

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(Price/Besig)

~Joanne Diplock

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