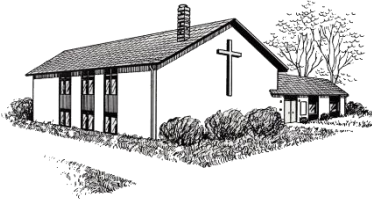


North Kildonan United Church  
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Minister: *Rev. Susan Reed*  
Pianist/Choir Director: *Joanne Diplock*  
Office Administrator: *Wilma Fehr*  
Property Manager: *Heinz Goetz*

*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.*

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost ~Creation Time 3  
September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023

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*\*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

\*OPENING REFRAIN: #130 MV – **"Rise Up, Rise Up"**

sung twice (Good)

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*~Joanne Diplock*

**Rise up, rise up, rise up, O my soul.**

**Rise up and sing this blessing to God's name.**

**Rise up, rise up, rise up, O my soul.**

**Rise up and sing this blessing to God's name. X2**

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.**

CREATION MOMENT

Creation Implores: Work with Me!

## CALL to WORSHIP

(Adapted from Susan Tyndall; from *Gathering Pentecost 2 2021*.)

*On this Sunday in Creation Time,  
we come before our Creator God with praise!*

**Let us rejoice in the fields!**

**Let us rejoice in the forests!**

*Let us thank the Divine One for our many gifts!*

**Let us lift up our hearts in song.**

## \*OPENING HYMN: VU #227 – "For the Fruit of All Creation"

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(Green)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.  
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.**
- 2 In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.  
In our worldwide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.**
- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.**

## OPENING PRAYER

(Written by Dianne Astle; from *Gathering Pentecost 2 2017*.)

**We gather in worship, gracious God,  
grateful for your ongoing presence  
and the renewing power of your love.**

**We thank you for this community of faith  
that worships and works together.**

**We pray that, as we gather in this assembly of your people,  
we might bless your holy name, bless one another,  
and be open to receive what you would give us this day.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus,  
the one who draws us close to one another and to you.  
Amen.**

## SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST

*The peace of Christ be with you all.*

**And also with you.**

*Let us greet one another with words and signs of peace.*

## CONVERSATION TIME

### LISTENING FOR AND REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

\*HYMN: VU #371 – "***Open My Eyes, That I May See***"

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(Scott)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**
- 2 Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

Scripture Reader: *Carol Billan*

#### **Psalm 145**

*Every day we will bless you  
and praise your name forever.*

**O God, you are great and highly to be praised;  
your greatness is beyond all measure.**

*One generation shall praise your works to another,  
and declare your marvellous deeds.*

**I will speak of your splendour and glory,  
and all your wonderful works.**

*You, God, are righteous in all your ways,  
and loving in all your deeds.*

**You are near to all who call to you,  
to all who call on you in truth.**

*You fulfil the desire of those who revere you;  
you hear their cry and you save them.*

**You watch over all who love you,  
but the wicked you will destroy.**

*My mouth will speak your praise, O God.*

**Let every creature bless your holy name forever.**

## Matthew 20: 1-16

*'For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'*

### Words of Response:

*May God grant us understanding of these words of scripture.*

**Amen.**

## PRAYER of CONFESSION

(Adapted from Moira B. Laidlaw; found online.)

**Merciful God,**

**the story of the landowner and the workers  
turns our ideas about fairness upside down.**

**We may agree with the workers who complained  
about the seemingly unfair action of the landowner.**

**We may puzzle over this parable  
and wonder if it really applies to us.**

**But every time we suppose that our faithfulness, our status,  
our piety gives us a special claim on your favour,  
we need to hear this story of your abundant grace.**

**Forgive us when we measure the behaviour of others  
against that of ourselves,  
rather than measuring our behaviour against yours.**

**Your divine generosity astounds us.**

**Open our eyes to see beyond our own needs,  
and unclench our hands**

**to share what we have with those in need.  
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

WORDS of ASSURANCE

(Written by Robin Wardlaw; from *Gathering Pentecost 2 2017*.)

CHOIR ANTHEM: ""

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*~Joanne Diplock*

SERMON: "Amazing Grace"

*~Rev. Susan Reed*

RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: VU #266 – "Amazing Grace"

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(Newton/Excell)

*~Joanne Diplock*

- 1 Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
was blind, but now I see.**
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed.**
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares,  
I have already come;  
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.**
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me,  
this word my hope secures;  
God will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.**
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.**

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*

**\*Offering Verse: #191 MV – "What Can I Do?"** sung twice  
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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.**

**\*Offertory Prayer**

*(Written by Frances Flook; from *Gathering Pentecost 2 2017.*)*

**Loving and gracious God,  
we offer up these gifts -  
that they may be used  
to make the world more kind, more loving,  
more like the kingdom Christ revealed among us.  
We offer them and we offer our lives  
in service to you, now and always.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

## SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

**\*CLOSING HYMN: VU #424 – "May the God of Hope Go with Us"**

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*~Joanne Diplock*

**1 May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.**

**Praying, let us work for peace,  
singing, share our joy with all,  
working for a world that's new,  
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

**2 May the God of healing free the earth from fear,  
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.  
May the God of love keep our commitment clear  
to a world restored, to human life renewed. R**

\*SENDING FORTH

(Adapted from David Sparks, from *Worship for All Seasons II: Year B.*)

**May we go from this place  
as faithful disciples of Jesus Christ:  
diligent in our learning,  
joyful in our praising,  
committed in our service,  
and hopeful in our visioning.**

\*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*