

North Kildonan United Church
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Minister: *Rev. Susan Reed*
Pianist/Choir Director: *Joanne Diplock*
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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.

Covenanting Service with Rev. Susan Reed
October 1st, 2023

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

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

~Joanne Diplock

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the LAND *~Del Sexsmith*

In this place, we acknowledge that we live, work, play and worship on Treaty One Land, in the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Cree, Oji-Cree and Dakota peoples and in the heart of the Metis nation.

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

LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE and the UKRAINE CANDLE *~Valorie Mikolajek*

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.

WORDS of WELCOME *~Rev. Paul DuVal*

We joyfully gather to mark a new ministry relationship in Prairie to Pine Regional Council between North Kildonan United Church and Susan Reed. We welcome [guests] who are a part of our wider community. Today we commit to and celebrate how we are the church together.

CALL to WORSHIP *~Del Sexsmith* (Based on Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16. From the *re: Worship blog series*).

*We come to worship and praise our God,
and to learn more about the wonders of our God.*

How great and wonderful is our Compassionate God.

*We come, with ears and hearts open to God,
ready to discover more of God's mysteries and miracles.*

How generous and caring is our Unchanging God.

We gather to share together in our common history,

and to experience the enrichment which that brings us.

All praise and honour to God for past and present blessings, and for God's merciful love and grace. Amen.

***HYMN: #30 MV – "It's a Song of Praise to the Maker"**

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(Duck/Klusmeier)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1. It's a song of praise to the Maker,
The thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker,
The gray whale sings in the sea,
And by the Spirit, you and I
Can join our voice to the holy cry
And sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.**
- 2. It's a call of life to the Giver,
When waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver,
When high tides break on the shore. R**
- 3. It's a hymn of love to the Lover,
The bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover,
The summer breeze joins the song. R**
- 4. It's a chorus of all creation;
It's sung by all living things.
It's a chorus of all creation;
A song the universe sings, R**

OPENING PRAYER

~Peter Latimer

There is a sense that you are here with us this afternoon, O God, in our seeking, in our finding, and in our brokenness. With a certain extravagance and amazement, you enter our lives to bless, to heal, to refresh and make new. Bless your servant, Susan, as she embarks on a new ministry at North Kildonan United Church. Enable her to draw strength and wisdom from you and to find joy in her new calling. Bless this faith community of North Kildonan United Church. Help us to support and nurture Susan in this ministry and help us, through her, to grow in our faithfulness and commitment to you. In Jesus name we pray. AMEN

Scripture Reader: *Betty Clark*

Exodus 3: 13-15

Jeremiah 31: 2-4, 31, 33b-34

Tonight as we ponder the meaning of covenant, let us ground ourselves in the biblical understanding of covenant by hearing from the Book of Exodus and from the prophet Jeremiah.

First, let us hear from the story of the revelation to Moses of the Divine Name, as the story is found in the 3rd chapter of Exodus:

Moses said to God, "If I come to my people and say to them, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is this god's name?' what shall I say to them?" God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' God said further, "Thus you shall say to your people: 'I AM has sent me to you.'" God also said to Moses, "Thus shall you say to the Israelites, 'The God of your ancestors has sent me to you. This is my name forever, and this my title for all generations.'"

And from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah, in the 31st Chapter:

Thus says your God:

*The people who survived the sword found grace in the wilderness;
when Israel sought for rest, their God appeared to them from far away.*

I have loved you with an everlasting love;

therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you.

Again I will build you, and you shall be built,

again you shall take your tambourines,

and go forth in the dance of the merry-makers....

The days are surely coming, says your God,

when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel....

I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts;

and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

No longer shall they teach one another, or say to one another,

'Know your God,'

for they shall all know me, from the least to the greatest,

and I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

CHOIR ANTHEM: #10 MV – **"Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom"** (Duck/Kasbohm)

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~Joanne Diplock

SERMON

~Written by Ann Naylor

~Read by Nancy Sanders

***HYMN:** VU #278 – **"In the Quiet Curve of Evening"** Choir v1 then cong all (Howard/Lyons)

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~Joanne Diplock

- 1 In the quiet curve of evening,
in the sinking of the days,
in the silky void of darkness, you are there.
In the lapses of my breathing,
in the space between my ways,
in the crater carved by sadness, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.**

- 2 In the rests between the phrases,
in the cracks between the stars,
in the gaps between the meaning, you are there.
In the melting down of endings,
in the cooling of the sun,
in the solstice of the winter, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.**
- 3 In the mystery of my hungers,
in the silence of my rooms,
in the cloud of my unknowing, you are there.
In the empty cave of grieving,
in the desert of my dreams,
in the tunnel of my sorrow, you are there.
You are there, you are there, you are there.**

COVENANTING

STATEMENT of LIVING FAITH STORY ~Peter Latimer

At this point I would like to briefly review the path that has brought Rev. Susan to ministry with us here at North Kildonan United Church. First of all, a Faith Profile Committee was struck, which undertook to create a picture of our faith community ...our strengths, our challenges and our vision for the future. This committee was aided in this task by input from the Board, Committees and from members of the faith community. With the faith profile in hand, a Search Committee then began the work of selecting the most appropriate ministerial leader to help meet the identified needs and goals of our faith community. The Search Committee determined that the key strength of our faith community that we wanted to build on was the welcoming and caring atmosphere which our faith community is so proud of. Similarly, it determined that the primary challenge facing our church is to re-energize our faith community, both in terms of participation and commitment to carrying out our mission.

Through the course of two interviews with Rev. Susan, the Search Committee was impressed with her congeniality and focus on building relationships, qualities that would support us in continuing to present as a welcoming and caring faith community. Susan also demonstrated an orientation to and experience in working with a faith community to enable it to achieve its goals, exactly what we needed to restore the passion for and commitment to our faith that has been so important to us.

We are now so pleased that Susan, herself, has felt called to serve as our spiritual leader, as the Search Committee, Board and Faith Community felt unanimously, given all her gifts, that she is the ideal person to guide us on the next steps of our faith journey.

STATEMENT of this NEW MINISTRY

~Rev. Elizabeth Brown & Heidi McIlwain

Rev. Elizabeth Brown – *[ask Susan to come forward]* We are here to join into a covenantal relationship with God and between Susan Reed, North Kildonan United Church community of faith, and the wider United Church as represented by Prairie to Pine Regional Council. Although God's covenant with us never changes, our covenants with one another evolve as we seek ways to Faithfully deepen our commitment to Jesus and live into our call to embody God's love in the world.

Heidi – *After prayerful discernment, and the approval of the North Kildonan United Church community of faith, we present Susan Reed, who has been called to a ministry of education, service and pastoral care in North Kildonan United Church community of faith. We believe that her skills and talents complement our faithful witness, ministry needs, and community context.*

Rev. Elizabeth Brown – *Susan you are here in response to the call of North Kildonan United Church community of faith and Prairie to Pine Regional Council. We come together to mark this new relationship within our regional council for the sake of our shared ministry. Susan you are about to undertake the ministry of education, service and pastoral care in this place. You, the members of this community of faith, are called to join Susan in worship, study, prayer and action. We, Prairie to Pine Regional Council, will be responsible for supporting this ministry. Let us pray for God's grace as we covenant together:*

PRAYER of FAITH

~Rev. Paul DuVal

Uniting God,

**you call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship:
to celebrate your presence,
to live with respect in creation,
to be your servants in the service of others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to proclaim Jesus crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.**

Send your holy spirit to bind us in full communion

so that we may be a uniting church embodying your love for the world.

As one we proclaim:

**in life, in death, in life beyond death,
you are with us,**

we are not alone, all glory and power be unto you. Amen.

*HYMN: VU #509 – **"I, the Lord of Sea and Sky"**

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(Schutte)

~Joanne Diplock

**1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.**

**I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?**

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? R**

**3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? R**

PROMISES of the NEW MINISTER

~Rev. Paul DuVal & Rev. Susan Reed

Susan, do you in the presence of this community of faith, take on the new trust and responsibility of ministering with North Kildonan United Church community of faith?

I do.

Will you accept the guidance of Prairie to Pine Regional Council and, together with its other members, be responsible for the health of North Kildonan United Church community of faith?

I will.

Will you share in the ministry goals and faith story of this community of faith?

I will.

Will you accept the support and encouragement of this community of faith and this regional council?

I will.

Will you work cooperatively with the wider church and wider community to embody God's love in the world?

I will.

PROMISES of the COMMUNITY of FAITH

~Rev. Elizabeth Brown & NKUC

Will you join with Susan in a ministry of worship, study, prayer, and action within North Kildonan United Church community of faith, Prairie to Pine Regional Council and within the wider church?

We will.

Will you support them as they serve among you in this ministry?

We will.

PROMISES of the REGIONAL COUNCIL

~Rev. Paul DuVal

Will you, as members of Prairie to Pine Regional Council and members of the wider community, join with Susan and this community of faith in the ministry that is both theirs and ours?

We will.

Will you support and encourage them in this ministry?

We will.

PRESENTATION of SYMBOLS

Bible ~Grant McMillan

Take this Bible. Be with us as one who teaches and proclaims the Word. Amen!

Water ~Del Sexsmith

Be with us as one who baptizes in the name of Christ. Amen!

Water, Basin and Towel ~Sheron Miller

Be among us as one who seeks justice. Amen!

Bread and Cup ~Marie Leskovjan & Gay Todd

Be with us as one who cares for those who hunger and thirst. Amen!

~Rev. Paul DuVal: Susan and North Kildonan United Church community of faith, let all these be signs of the ministry that is and that will be in this community. Amen!

NEW MINISTER'S PRAYER

~ Rev. Susan Reed

RESPONSE to the COVENANT

~ Rev. Paul DuVal

Let us rejoice in the covenant we have made!

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

~ Rev. Elizabeth Brown

Let us pray, concluding each petition with:

...Uniting God, receive our prayers;

And in your love, answer.

*For the ministries of North Kildonan United Church community of faith, Prairie to Pine Regional Council, and the United Church of Canada, and our ministry partners around the world who work toward our common vision of a united and uniting church
...uniting God, receive our prayers;*

And in your love, answer.

For faithful disciples in our communities of faith who work towards our common purpose of extravagant welcome, proclaiming the gospel, and mending God's world ... Uniting God, receive our prayers;

And in your love, answer.

For the dreamers, teachers, and prophets who share our common longing to be one in Christ, with creation and with each other ... Uniting God, receive our prayers;

And in your love, answer.

For those around the world who work towards our sacred message of justice and peace in harmony ... uniting God, receive our prayers;

And in your love, answer.

For the prayers we name to you now in the silence of our hearts ... uniting God, receive our prayers;

And in your love answer.

We join those prayers together in the prayer that Jesus taught us ...

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.**

SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST ~ Rev. Elizabeth Brown

Beloved Church, we are one in Christ!

The peace of Christ, who unites us in love and discipleship, be with you all.

And also with you!

Let us greet each other with signs of peace.

* HYMN: #209 MV – “Go, Make a Diff'rence”

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(Angrisano/Tomaszek)

~Joanne Diplock

Go make a diff'rence.

We can make a diff'rence.

Go make a diff'rence in the world.

Go make a diff'rence.

We can make a diff'rence.

Go make a diff'rence in the world.

- 1 We are the salt of the earth,
called to let the people see
the love of God for you and me.
We are the light of the world,
not to be hidden but be seen.
Go make a diff'rence in the world. R**
- 2 We are the hands of Christ
reaching out to those in need,
the face of God for all to see.
We are the spirit of hope;
we are the voice of peace.
Go make a diff'rence in the world. R**
- 3 So let your love shine on,
let it shine for all to see.
Go make a diff'rence in the world.
And the spirit of Christ
will be with us as we go.
Go make a diff'rence in the world. R**

DISBANDING the SEARCH TEAM ~ Rev. Elizabeth Brown

Moved by/Seconded by

That the Search Team of North Kildonan United Church community of faith be disbanded at the close of this service; and this motion be recorded in the minutes of the next Board meeting.

BLESSING ~ Rev. Paul DuVal

***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