

North Kildonan United Church
174 Pentland St, Winnipeg, MB R2G 2S3
Church Office: 204-667-7408
email: nkuc@mymts.net
www.nkuc.ca



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.

November 26th, 2023
Advent 1: Hope

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 PEACE CANDLE

As we light this candle, we pray for peace:

peace in our hearts, peace in our homes, peace in our world.

As we await the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace,

O God, we pray for peace. Amen.

SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST

INTRODUCTION to ADVENT

VIDEO: "The Giver"

CALL to WORSHIP

*(Written by Phyllis Flemming; from *Gathering A/C/E 2019-2020.*)*

God has called us to be together, in this place, at this time.

**We come with our whole selves to worship our God
who has created and is creating.**

We are called to wait for the coming of the Christ Child.

**We ready our hearts to receive God's gift of hope
during this Advent time of waiting.**

*The Spirit moves among us,
inviting us into a deeper connection with the Divine.*

May the Spirit's power move through our worship today.

OPENING PRAYER

(Adapted from Cindy Randall; from *Gathering A/C/E 2018-2019*.)

**In a spirit of hope, we come, Holy God,
on this first Sunday of Advent.**

**As we enter into a season of anticipation and waiting,
help us to appreciate each day of this sacred time.**

**Prepare our hearts, we pray,
to receive the babe of Bethlehem.**

Our prayers we offer in his name. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: VU #2 – "Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus"**

(Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

(Wesley)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.**
- 2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.**
- 3 Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.**
- 4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.**

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING ~Peter & Peggy Latimer

*(Written by Éric Hébert-Daly; from *Gathering A/C/E 2021-2022*.)*

Hope admits that we're not quite there yet.

Hope means that something good is within reach.

Hope calls out to us, so that we come to see the good that awaits.

God is our hope.

Let us taste, see, hear, feel, smell, and anticipate this hope.

May hope be found in a manger and throughout the world.

The first Advent candle is lit.

CANDLE-LIGHTING PRAYER

(Written by Katherine Hawker; found online.)

**Dear God,
as we begin our Advent journey,
grant us the courage to hope –
hope for your presence,
hope for your peace,
hope for your promise.**

In the name of Jesus, who brings us hope. Amen.

***SUNG RESPONSE: #33 MV – "Jesus Came Bringing Us Hope"**

(Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

(traditional)

~Joanne Diplock

**Jesus came bringing us hope,
Jesus came bringing us hope,
Jesus came bringing us hope,
Hallelujah forever more! X3**

CONVERSATION TIME

LISTENING FOR AND REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reader: *Barrie McPherson*

Isaiah 64: 1-9

*O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.
But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
There is no one who calls on your name,
or attempts to take hold of you;*

*for you have hidden your face from us,
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.
Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity for ever.
Now consider, we are all your people.*

Mark 13: 24-37

*'But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then
he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of
the earth to the ends of heaven.*

*'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth
its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking
place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will
not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away,
but my words will not pass away.*

*'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son,
but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will
come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in
charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the
watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will
come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find
you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'*

Words of Response:

Let us hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

(Written by Elaine Bidgood Sweet; from *Gathering A/C/E 2010-2011.*)

**Gracious God, on this first Sunday of Advent,
we give thanks for your Hope.**

**We give thanks for the promises we know in Jesus:
promises of love, forgiveness, and new life.**

**Guide us through this Advent season
that we might keep focused on the holy.**

**May we keep Christ at the centre of our Christmas celebrations.
Forgive us for the times we are asleep to your presence.**

**Forgive us for the times we are asleep to the needs around us.
Awaken our faith in you, and our service to this world.
In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

WORDS of ASSURANCE

CHOIR ANTHEM: **"Hope Will Come"**

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

~Joanne Diplock

SERMON: "Keep Awake!"

~Rev. Susan Reed

RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: VU #44 – **"God, You Alone Know What You've Planned"**

(Based on Mark 13:24-37. Written by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette; found online.)

(sung to tune VU 44 – It Came Upon the Midnight Clear)

(Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1. God, you alone know what you've planned
For earth and sky and sea.
Creation waits your loving hand
To bring in what will be.
When things we trust in shift and shake
And sorrows multiply,
We hear you calling, "Keep awake!
Redemption is close by!"**
- 2. O Christ, you taught us, "Watch the trees
As seasons change each year,
For when they bud and grow new leaves
You know that summer's near."
May we look round this changing earth
And see with faith-filled eyes
Your signs of newness, life and birth
That witness to the wise.**
- 3. Though heav'n and earth will pass away,
Your word will still be true.
O Son of Man, on that great day,
We'll be secure in you.
For at the close of history
When all that's past shall end,
The one who judges us will be
No stranger, but a friend.**

**4. So by your Spirit may we share
The life you're bringing forth:
May we seek justice, end despair,
And work to heal the earth.
For there's a new day coming near
With no more death or pain;
Till then, we'll seek to serve you here
And welcome in your reign.**

THE PRESENTATION of our TITHES and OFFERINGS

Offertory Music *as the offerings are collected*

~Joanne Diplock

***Offering Verse: VU #55 – "In the Bleak Midwinter"**

(Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

*(Rossetti/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**

*(Adapted from Elisabeth Hummel; from *Worship for All Seasons II: Year B.*)*

**Generous God, we offer you today
all that we are and all that we have.
We offer you the labour of our hands, the work of our minds,
the love of our hearts, and our hope for a better world.
Bless these gifts, and bless us as we follow your Advent way.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

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.**

SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

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

(Words reproduced played with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

(Schutmaat/Kaan)
~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**

*COMMISSIONING

(Written by Wanda Winfield; from Gathering A/C/E 2018-2019.)

**May the candle of hope burn brightly in our hearts,
preparing the way for the Christ child.
May we be signs of hope in our world,
as we prepare during this season of Advent.
And may we always know that we never go alone,
for God our Creator, Jesus our Brother,
and the Holy Spirit our Sustainer are our constant companions.
Amen.**

*BLESSING

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

(Words reproduced played with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

(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