

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.

December 17th, 2023

Advent 4: Love

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

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

CALL to WORSHIP

*(Written by Laura Turnbull; from *Gathering ACE 2017-2018.*)*

Christmas will soon be upon us.

The time of anticipation and waiting is soon over.

We long for the coming of Emmanuel in our midst,

for hope, peace, joy, and love to surround us.

And so, let us worship our God.

OPENING PRAYER

*(Adapted from Catherine Tovell; from *Gathering A/C/E 2022-23.*)*

**Merciful God, we have gathered in hope,
sought peace, and laughed with joy,**

**and now we come to share the great love that you have for us.
Be with us in our worship and in our witness
this week and every week.
Help us to bring your love to the world,
especially into broken and forgotten places,
and to people who feel unlovable and unlovely.
It is for this that you came to us in Bethlehem,
and for this that you continue to come again – this and every year.
We pray in the name of the one whose birth we await,
Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN: VU #73 – "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy"**

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(Alexander/Gauntlett)

~Joanne Diplock

**1 The virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
the virgin Mary had a baby boy,
and they say that his name is Jesus.
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.
Oh, yes! believer! Oh, yes! believer!
He come from the glory, (clap, clap)
he come from the glorious kingdom.**

**2 The angels sang when the baby was born,
the angels sang when the baby was born,
the angels sang when the baby was born,
and they say that his name is Jesus. R**

**3 The shepherds came where the baby was born,
the shepherds came where the baby was born,
the shepherds came where the baby was born,
and they say that his name is Jesus. R**

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING ~the Lindsay family

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

We light the candle of hope.

The first Advent candle is lit.

We light the candle of peace.

The second Advent candle is lit

We light the candle of joy.

The third Advent candle is lit.

And today we light the candle of love.

*Love is not always what we expect.
It may come through unexpected people at unexpected times.*

*God's love is not always what we expect.
God's love comes to us in gentle whispers
as well as with an insistent voice that we can't ignore.*

*God's love finds us when we are lost
and heals us when we are broken.*

*May we allow God to love us into wholeness today,
so that we may share that love tomorrow.*

*May love be found in a manger and throughout the world.
The fourth Advent candle is lit.*

CANDLE-LIGHTING PRAYER

(Written by Katherine Hawker; found online.)

**Dear God,
as our Advent pilgrimage draws to completion,
grant us the courage to share your love:
love for the unexpected challenge,
love for the vulnerable one,
love for the presence of God.**

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

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

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(traditional)

~Joanne Diplock

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

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

SUNDAY SCHOOL and YOUTH PLAY – Adaptation of "Christmas Gifts"

by Tanis Harms, Adapted by Anna Muhm

**Please remain seated for the hymns during the play. **

HYMN: VU #60 – "O Come, All Ye Faithful"

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(Oakeley/Wade)

~Joanne Diplock

**O Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
Come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.**

HYMN: VU #64 – "O Little Town of Bethlehem"

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(Brooks/Redner)
~Joanne Diplock

**O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
yet in they dark streets shineth the everlasting light;
the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.**

HYMN: #7 VU – "Hope is a Star"

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(Wren/Fogg)
~Joanne Diplock

**Peace is a ribbon that circles the earth,
Giving a promise of safety and worth.
When God is a child there's joy in our song.
The last shall be first and the weak shall be strong,
and none shall be afraid.**

HYMN: VU #232 – "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

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(van Dyke/Beethoven)
~Joanne Diplock

**Joyful, joyful we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**

HYMN: VU #59 – "Joy to the World"

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(Watts/Handel)
~Joanne Diplock

**Joy to the world! The Lord is come:
Let earth receive her King!
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And heaven and nature sing,
And heaven and nature sing,
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.**

REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

CHOIR ANTHEM: "There was Love"

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~Joanne Diplock

REFLECTION: "Gifts from God"

~Rev. Susan Reed

POEM: "Merry Christmas"

~Written & read by Shirley Alleyne

SONG: "O Christmas Tree"

~Written & sung by Shirley Alleyne

RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION

LIFE and WORK of the CONGREGATION

THE PRESENTATION of our TITHES and OFFERINGS

Offertory Music *as the offerings are collected*

~Joanne Diplock

*Offering Verse *sung to the tune for "Away in a Manger" VU #69*

*(Written by Gord Waldie; from *Gathering A/C/E 2009-2010.*)*

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~Joanne Diplock

**O Christmas is coming, the season is here
of folks buying presents for friends far and near.
To you, God incarnate, our gifts now we bring.
We lay them before you while praises we sing.**

*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 #56 – "Jesus, Our Brother"

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(Rusbridge)

~Joanne Diplock

**1 Jesus, our brother, kind and good,
was humbly born in a stable rude,
and the friendly beasts around him stood,
Jesus, our brother, kind and good.**

- 2 'I,' said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
'I carried the mother uphill and down,
I carried his mother to Bethlehem town;
I,' said the donkey, shaggy and brown.
- 3 'I,' said the cow, all white and red,
'I gave him my manger for his bed,
I gave him hay to pillow his head;
I,' said the cow, all white and red.
- 4 'I,' said the sheep with curly horn,
'I gave him my wool for his blanket warm,
he wore my coat on Christmas morn;
I,' said the sheep, with curly horn.
- 5 'I,' said the dove, from the rafters high,
'I cooed him to sleep that he should not cry,
we cooed him to sleep, my mate and I;
I,' said the dove, from the rafters high.
- 6 Thus all the beasts, by some good spell,
in the stable dark were glad to tell
of the gifts they gave Emmanuel,
the gifts they gave Emmanuel.

***COMMISSIONING**

(Written by Kim Falls; from *Gathering A/C/E 2020-2021*.)

**Our Advent journey is almost complete,
yet the gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love
that we have reflected upon during this season are with us always.
As we go into the world today, we take these gifts with us,
treasures to hold in our hearts
and to offer one another and to the world.
We go as God's beloved children. 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