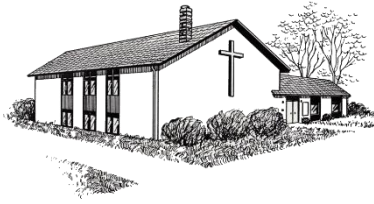


North Kildonan United Church
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Minister: *Rev. Susan Reed*
Pianist/Choir Director: *Joanne Diplock*
Office Administrator: *Wilma Fehr*
Property Manager: *Heinz Goetz*

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.

January 14th, 2024
Baptism of Jesus Sunday

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 & 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 celebrate the ministry of Jesus, the Prince of Peace,

O God, we pray for peace. Amen.

SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST

INTRODUCTION to the SERVICE

CALL to WORSHIP

*(From *Worshipping Ecumenically*; found in *Celebrate God's Presence*.)*

*OPENING HYMN: VU #710 – "**Shall We Gather at the River**"

(Lowry)

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~Joanne Diplock

**1 Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod;
with its crystal tide for ever
flowing by the throne of God?**

**Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.**

**2 Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we every burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown. R**

**3 Soon we'll reach the shining river,
soon our pilgrimage will cease,
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace. R**

OPENING PRAYER

(Adapted from Dora White; from *Gathering A/C/E 2021-2022*.)

**Holy and Sustaining God, we come to worship and praise you.
We journeyed with you to Bethlehem
and followed the star of the east.
Today we gather with you at the River Jordan,
remembering Jesus' baptism.
As we enter this season of epiphanies and revelations,
may your Spirit stir our hearts
and open our lives to new learnings and understandings.
Fill us with a willingness to wade into the waters of new life,
ever mindful that you have called us by name
and that you go with us.
This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

CONVERSATION TIME

LISTENING FOR AND REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reader: *Dennis Deley*

Genesis 1: 1-5

In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless void and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. Then God said, 'Let there be light'; and there was light. And God saw that the light was good; and God separated the light from the darkness. God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

Mark 1: 4-11

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river

Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Acts 19: 1-7

While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul passed through the inland regions and came to Ephesus, where he found some disciples. He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you became believers?' They replied, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' Then he said, 'Into what then were you baptized?' They answered, 'Into John's baptism.' Paul said, 'John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied—altogether there were about twelve of them.

Words of Response:

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

Thanks be to God! Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: VU #559 – "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing"

(Robinson)

~Joanne Diplock

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PRAYER for TRANSFORMATION (From the *Seasons of the Spirit Congregational Life* curriculum 2007-2008.)

**God who meets us and loves us fully,
we gather at the river of your grace.
Some of us are close and expectant,
and others of us are far away and uncertain.
Meet us wherever we are,
and gently embrace us with your love
so that we are drawn ever nearer to you.
Renew us with the flowing waters of baptism
and may we hear your voice say to each one of us,
"You are mine. I know you. I love you forever."**

WORDS of ASSURANCE

***HYMN: #144 MV – "Like a Healing Stream"**

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(Harding)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives
as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth...
like a healing stream.**
- 2 Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil
to coax a new creation,
yearning for an end to want and need...
like a gentle rain.**
- 3 Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel
in a new direction,
calling for an end to hate and war...
like a river strong.**
- 4 Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow;
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea,
like a river strong,
like a gentle rain,
like a healing stream.**

REFLECTION: "Baptism, Blessing, and Beginnings"

~Rev. Susan Reed

RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION

***HYMN OF RESPONSE: VU #449 – "Crashing Waters at Creation"**

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(Dunstan/Cross)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Crashing waters at creation,
ordered by the Spirit's breath,
first to witness day's beginning
from the brightness of night's death.**
- 2 Parting water stood and trembled
as the captives passed on through,**

washing off the chains of bondage -
channel to a life made new.

- 3 Cleansing water once at Jordan
closed around the one foretold,
opened to reveal the glory
ever new and ever old.
- 4 Living water, never ending,
quench the thirst and flood the soul.
Wellspring, Source of life eternal,
drench our dryness, make us whole.

INVITATION to the OFFERING

THE PRESENTATION of our TITHES and OFFERINGS

Offertory Music *as the offerings are collected*

~Joanne Diplock

*Offering Verse: #182 MV – "Grateful" Sung 2X
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(Tomaszek/Hart)

~Joanne Diplock

**Grateful for the life you give us,
thankful for your Holy Son,
joyful in your Spirit flowing
over all, O God of Love.
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,
thankful for your Holy Word,
joyful in your mercy flowing,
we will praise you.**

*Offertory Prayer

(Written by Allan Warren; from *Worship for All Seasons II: Year B.*)

**O God,
as your Spirit hovered over the waters on the first day of creation,
and as your Spirit descended on the day Jesus was baptized,
so may your Spirit be present in these gifts that are given here today,
so that your goodness might continue to be known in the world.
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 #84 – "O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word"**

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*(Duck/Schumann)
~Joanne Diplock*

- 1 O radiant Christ, incarnate Word,
eternal love revealed in time:
come, make your home within our hearts,
that we may dwell in light sublime.**
- 2 Our bartered, busy lives burn dim,
too tired to care, too numb to feel.
Come, shine upon our shadowed world:
your radiance bathes with power to heal.**
- 3 Your glory shone at Jordan's stream,
the font where we were born anew.
Attune your church to know you near;
illumine all we say and do.**
- 4 O Light of Nations, fill the earth;
our faith and hope and love renew.
Come, lead the peoples to your peace,
as stars once led the way to you.**

***COMMISSIONING**

*(Adapted from Hilary Squires; from *Gathering A/C/E 2021-2022*.)*

**As the water washed over Jesus,
so may the words of our worship continue to wash over us
as we go from this place.
As Jesus emerged from the river refreshed in his ministry,
may we emerge from this place refreshed in ours
and ready to serve.
In the name and the Way of Jesus, we pray. 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