

North Kildonan United Church
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Minister: *Rev. Susan Reed*
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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.

February 18th, 2024
First Sunday in Lent

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.

INTRODUCTION to the SEASON of LENT

OPENING REFRAIN: #7 MV – "Gather Us In"

(sung once)

(Hann)

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~Joanne Diplock

Gather us in, ground us in you.

Gather us in, ground us in you.

Gather us in, gather us in,

Ground us, ground us in you.

A TIME of GROUNDING

*(Written by Bob Root; from *Gathering Lent/Easter 2020.*)*

REFRAIN: #7 MV – "Gather Us In"

(sung once)

(Hann)

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LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE

*We light this candle as a reminder
that even in this season of Lent,*

*even as the shadows grow,
God is with us,
and the light of Christ continues to light our way.*

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 journey with Jesus, the Prince of Peace,
O God, we pray for peace. Amen.*

SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST

CALL to WORSHIP

(Adapted from Laura J. Turnbull; from *Worship for All Seasons II: B.*)

*God invites us to journey in the way of faithfulness,
to walk the Lenten road with Christ.*

We journey with confidence, for Christ is with us.

Thanks be to God for God's steadfast love!

Come, and let us worship God together.

OPENING PRAYER

(Adapted from Nora Vedress; from *Gathering Lent/Easter 2022.*)

Gentle Spirit,

**we have come through the growing excitement and light
of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.**

Now we turn inward,

**now we shine the light of insight we've found
into our own hearts to discover what is there.**

Bless this time of reflection

**and guide our steps as we journey the Lenten road
that leads through death to life.**

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: VU #108 – "Throughout These Lenten Days..." (Gertmenian)

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~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Throughout these Lenten days and nights
we turn to walk the inward way,
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,
we live in hope till Easter Day.**
- 2 The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,
who found in weakness greater power,
embraces us, though lost and flawed,
and leads us to his Rising Hour.**

- 3 We bear the silence, cross and pain
of human burdens, human strife,
while sisters, brothers help sustain
our courage till the Feast of Life.**
- 4 And though the road is hard and steep,
the Spirit ever calls us on through
Calvary's dying, dark and deep,
until we see the coming Dawn.**
- 5 So let us choose the path of One
who wore, for us, the crown of thorn,
and slept in death that we might wake
to life on Resurrection Morn!**

CONVERSATION TIME

EXTINGUISHING the FIRST LENTEN CANDLE

LISTENING FOR AND REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reader: *Barrie McPherson*

Genesis 9: 8-17

Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, 'As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.' God said, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.' God said to Noah, 'This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.'

Mark 1: 9-15

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.'

And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness for forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.'

Words of Response:

May God bless to our understanding these readings from the Holy Scriptures.

Amen.

PRAYER for TRANSFORMATION

(Adapted from Beth W. Johnston; from *Gathering Lent/Easter 2017.*)

**As we begin our Lenten journey, O God,
we must come to terms with the times
when we did not trust,
when we did not act in faith,
when we broke covenant with others and with you.**

Forgive us.

Show us the way once again.

SILENT PRAYER

WORDS of ASSURANCE

(Adapted from Eric Hebert-Daly; from *Gathering Lent/Easter 2022.*)

CHOIR ANTHEM: VU #121 – "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery"

(Haugen)

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~Joanne Diplock

SERMON: "Covenant and Wilderness"

~Rev. Susan Reed

RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: VU #115 – "Jesus, Tempted in the Desert" (Stuempfle)

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~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Jesus, tempted in the desert,
lonely, hungry, filled with dread:
'Use your power,' the tempter tells him;
'turn these barren rocks to bread!'
'Not alone by bread,' he answers,
'can the human heart be filled.
Only by the Word that calls us
is our deepest hunger stilled!'**
- 2 Jesus, tempted at the temple,
high above its ancient wall:
'Throw yourself from lofty turret;**

angels wait to break your fall!
Jesus shuns such empty marvels,
feats that fickle crowds request:
'God, whose grace protects, preserves us,
we must never vainly test.'

3 Jesus, tempted on the mountain
by the lure of vast domain:
'Fall before me! Be my servant!
Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!
Jesus sees the dazzling vision,
turns his eyes another way:
'God alone deserves our homage!
God alone will I obey!'

4 When we face temptation's power,
lonely, struggling, filled with dread,
Christ, who knew the tempter's hour,
come and be our living bread.
By your grace, protect, preserve us
lest we fall, your trust betray.
Yours, above all other voices,
be the Word we hear, obey.

LIFE and WORK of the CONGREGATION

THE PRESENTATION of our TITHES and OFFERINGS

Offertory Music *as the offerings are collected*

~Joanne Diplock

*Doxology: *VU #541 – "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow"*
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(Ken)

~Joanne Diplock

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

*Offertory Prayer (Written by Gord Dunbar; from *Gathering Lent/Easter 2021.*)

**Take these signs of our covenant with you, O God,
our time, our talents, and our treasure –
the way we use everything you have gifted to us in abundance –
blessing it all to become blessings for 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 #633 – "Bless Now, O God, the Journey"**

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(Dunstan/Harwood)
~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.**
- 2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way,
whose hope burns through the terrors,
whose love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound.
Together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.**
- 3 Divine Eternal Lover,
you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise
where milk and honey flow.
But waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.**

***CLOSING PRAYER**

“A Lenten Prayer”

(From Voices United #110)

**God of love, as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us,
so may we give ourselves to you,
living according to your holy will.**

**Keep our feet firmly in the way where Christ leads us;
help our lips speak the truth that Christ teaches us;
fill our bodies with the life that is Christ within us.
In his holy name, 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