

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.

April 7th, 2024

The Second Sunday of Easter

Holy Humour Sunday

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

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

☺ Church Bulletin Bloopers: ☺

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar

The Rev. Adams spoke briefly, much to the delight of his audience

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 CHRIST CANDLE *Phyllis Dyck*

*We light this candle in celebration of the Risen Christ,
And as a reminder that 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 celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the Prince of Peace,

O God, we pray for peace. Amen.

SHARING the PEACE of CHRIST

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

CALL to WORSHIP

(Written by LeAnn Blackert; found online.)

Can we praise God here and now?

We can praise God! Oh, and how!

Can we praise God when it's light?

We can praise God day and night!

We can praise God any time!

We can praise God with this rhyme!

Let us praise God many ways.

God, we praise you all our days!

INTRODUCTION to the SERVICE

OPENING REFRAIN: tune VU #48 – "Hark the Herald Angel Said"

(Written by Paul Lintern; found in the Joyful Noiseletter online.)

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~Joanne Diplock

**Hark the herald angel said,
"Why seek Jesus with the dead?
He's not here, as you can see,
gravecloths lie where he would be.
On your way now, tell the others,
Jesus will be with his brothers.
Sisters, too, he wants to see
on the hills of Galilee."**

**Hark the herald angel said,
"He is risen from the dead!"**

OPENING RESPONSES "God Has Made Laughter for Us"

(Written by David Coleman; from Eggs and Ashes.)

Christ is risen;

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*Risen in quiet and mysterious darkness
before the chorus of the dawn.*

Alleluia, Christ is risen;

He is risen indeed!

*Risen with glory and grace in reserve,
and authority beyond measure.*

Alleluia, Christ is risen;

He is risen indeed!

*Risen to prove that violence is no solution;
to offer us peace and life in all its fullness.
Alleluia, Christ is risen;*

He is risen indeed!

*For God has taken into his own flesh the sin of the world.
The last laugh is God's laugh; God has the last laugh:
for freedom comes beyond the cross,
for peace comes beyond the violence,
for friendship comes beyond the betrayal,
for life comes beyond the crushing of life.
The first laugh and the last laugh are God's.
And God has made laughter for us.
Alleluia, Christ is risen;*

He is risen indeed!

***OPENING HYMN: VU #166 – "Joy Comes with the Dawn"**

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(Light/Thompson)

~Joanne Diplock

**Joy comes with the dawn;
joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb
and scatters the night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.**

- 1 Weeping may come;
weeping may come in the night,
when dark shadows cloud our sight. R**
- 2 Sorrow will turn,
sorrow will turn into song,
and God's laughter make us strong. R**
- 3 We will rejoice,
we will rejoice, and give praise,
to the One who brings us grace. R**

OPENING PRAYER

(Adapted from Elaine Bidgood Sweet; from *Gathering Lent/Easter 2016.*)

*God of mysterious abundance,
your gift of Jesus' resurrection fills us with great joy!
Let us be your Easter people in all times and circumstances.*

Let us know the full life you desire for us.

*Let the light, love, and freedom of a life lived for you
be evident in all our movements.*

Relieve us from the weight of regret and sin.

**Let us shine and dance with the joy of the Lord –
in laughter, hope, and unity!**

In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray.

Amen.

CONVERSATION TIME

"A Time for Laughter"

PRAYER (Repeat-after-me)

(Written by Elaine Bidgood Sweet; from *Gathering Lent/Easter 2014.*)

LISTENING FOR AND REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reader: *Karen Miller*

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

Response to Scripture:

This is the Word of God.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

John 20: 19-31

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Response to the Gospel Reading:

This is the good news of Jesus Christ!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

CHOIR ANTHEM: VU #230 – "Heaven is Singing for Joy"

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(Sosa/Ambrose)

~Joanne Diplock

A TIME for LAUGHTER

REFLECTION: "Holy Humour"

~Rev. Susan Reed

RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: VU #224 – "Sing a Happy Hallelujah"

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(Murray/Gibson)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Sing a happy hallelujah,
sing it out with heart and style,
we're the echo of God's laughter,
we're the image of God's smile.
Hallelujah, all creation,
hallelujah everyone!
Hallelujah, all creation,
hallelujah everyone!**
- 2 We're the proof of God's good humour,
we're the twinkle in God's eye,
made to shine, reflect the glory,
given light and space to fly. R**
- 3 Sarah laughed at God's good timing,
Mary sang and David danced,
Jesus smiled and hugged the children,
so is life for us enhanced. R**
- 4 Every day sing hallelujah!
We are loved, though so absurd,**

**human, foolish, chosen people,
God still takes us at our word! R**

LIFE and WORK of the CONGREGATION

OUTREACH MOMENT *The Canadian Foodgrains Bank* ~Nancy Cosway

- Introduction
- Video: "Celebrating the Canadian Foodgrains Bank's: 40th Anniversary"

A TIME for LAUGHTER

THE PRESENTATION of our TITHES and OFFERINGS

Offertory Music *as the offerings are collected* ~Joanne Diplock

*Doxology: tune VU #541 – "Praise God from Whom ..." (Ken) ~Joanne Diplock
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(Written by Susan Hamilton; from Before the Amen.)

**Praise God from whom our humour flows
Praise God all joyful hearts below
Praise Spirit with whom our hearts soar
Praise Christ whose smile is evermore**

*Offertory Prayer (Adapted from Gord Dunbar; from *Gathering Lent/Easter 2015*.)

**Take what we offer this morning, God,
transforming our gifts into joy for others,
changing sorrow into laughter and healing,
turning plodding footsteps into dancing celebration.
In the name of the Risen Christ, we pray. Amen.**

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE (Adapted from Susan Ivany; from *Gathering Lent/Easter 2019*.)

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

A TIME for LAUGHTER

*CLOSING HYMN: VU #624 – **"Give to Us Laughter"**

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~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Give to us laughter, O Source of our life.
Laughter can banish so much of our strife.
Laughter and love give us wholeness and health.
Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.**
- 2 Give to us laughter as sign of deep joy;
let us in laughing find Christian employ,
joining with stars and with bright northern lights,
laughing and praising and sharing delights.**
- 3 Why do we worry that we will lose face?
Why act like king for the whole human race?
Often in family, and often with friend,
laughing at pride causes anguish to end.**
- 4 Even in sorrow and hours of grief,
laughter with tears brings most healing relief.
God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace,
joys of your presence among us increase.**
- 5. HA!**

*COMMISSIONING

(Written by LeAnn Blackert; found online. Used with permission.)

We have laughed and we've sung

and our offerings we've brung!

We have heard the good word

and our spirits are stirred

to go out of this place

filled with love and God's grace.

So be off! Be away! Be gone, one and all!

Take your flight from this church and whatever befall:

Go in love, go in joy, go in peace, walk the way!

Now it's time that you go! Have a bless-ed day!

*BLESSING

*(Written by Elaine Bidgood Sweet; from *Gathering Lent/Easter 2017.*)*

*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