

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.

December 15th, 2024

Advent 3

“What Child is This? A Child of Joy”

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

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

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~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 Red River Metis. We also acknowledge that the water we use here comes from the Shoal Lake 40 First Nation. We are grateful for these first inhabitants and their stewardship of the land and its resources through the ages, and we commit to working together towards justice, truth and reconciliation.

LIGHTING of the PEACE CANDLE ~Lit by Kasey Gregg

And 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

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

CALL to WORSHIP (Inspired by Isaiah 12: 5-6) (Written by Harry Disher; from Gathering A/C/E 2004-2005.)

Sing praises to God on high, for glorious are God's works.

Sing praises to the ends of the earth.

Shout and sing for joy, O people of God,

**for great is the Holy One in our midst,
blessed is the One who comes to dwell among us.**

***OPENING HYMN "The Debut" (sung to tune of "Jingle Bells")**

(Words by Christine Sobania Johnson; found on the re:Worship blog.)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 The faithful waited long for God to intervene--
To rule with power and might, to give them what they dreamed.
What a big surprise! The Savior was a child!
The Christmas story goes to show God's plans are really wild!**

**In this crowd sing out loud: Glory to the One!
God has made things personal by sending us the Son.
In this crowd sing out loud: Glory! Allelu!
Celebrate the birth of Christ --the day of his debut.**

- 2 God's love is for all, there can be no doubt.
The poor, the weak, the small--no one is left out!
The reason Jesus came: God wanted to be near;
God wanted to draw close to us, and that is why we cheer!**

**In this crowd sing out loud: Glory to the One!
God has made things personal by sending us the Son.
In this crowd sing out loud: Glory! Allelu!
Celebrate the birth of Christ --the day of his debut.**

OPENING PRAYER (Written by Thomas Harding; from *Celebrate God's Presence*.)

**O God of angel song, shepherd surprise,
stable warmth, and birthing cry:
dawn in our darkness, sing through our silence,
surprise us with wonder and with joy this holy season.
O come to us, Emmanuel. Amen.**

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING ~Lit by the Lindsay family.

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

CANDLE-LIGHTING PRAYER (Written by Sue Browning; from *Gathering A/C/E 2009-2010*.)

**Thank you, God, for sending Jesus,
your gift of joy to the world.
Help us to work with him to bring joy to places
where people are living in sadness or pain.
Let this candle remind us that the light of Christ
is shining in our hearts,
and can spread from us to others
when we live in joy. Amen.**

***SUNG RESPONSE: #33 MV – "Jesus Came Bringing Us Joy"** (traditional)
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**Jesus came bringing us joy,
Jesus came bringing us joy,
Jesus came bringing us joy,
Hallelujah forever more! X3**

~CHILDREN & YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM~
"Almost Just Like Dickens' Christmas Carol"
by Timothy W. Ayers

***HYMN VU #59 – "Joy to the World"** (Watts/Handel)
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- 1 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.**
- 2 Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:
let all their songs employ,
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.**
- 3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,
nor thorns infest the ground:
he comes to make his blessings flow
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,
far as, far as the curse is found.**
- 4 He rules the earth with truth and grace,
and makes the nations prove
the glories of his righteousness
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,
and wonders, wonders of his love.**

LISTENING FOR AND REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

Scripture Readings *Read by Grant McMillan*

Isaiah 12: 2-6

*Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust, and will not be afraid,
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.*

*With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say on that day:
Give thanks to the Lord,
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.
Sing praises to the Lord, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.
Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.*

Philippians 4: 4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Words of Response:

*For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,
thanks be to God!*

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Christmas Blessing"

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~Joanne Diplock

REFLECTION: "Advent Joy"

~Rev. Susan Reed

POEM

~Written & Read by Shirley Alleyne

RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION

LIFE and WORK of the CONGREGATION

OFFERING our PRAYERS: "Joy for the Christ Child"

THE PRESENTATION of our TITHES and OFFERINGS

Offertory Music *as the offerings are collected*

~Joanne Diplock

***Offertory Verse: VU #55 – "In the Bleak Midwinter" (v.4)**

(Rosetti/Holst)

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~Joanne Diplock

**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** (Written by Jane Doull; from *Gathering A/C/E 2015-2016*.)

**God of joy, we thank you for all your rare and wondrous gifts.
As we have received so abundantly, we give as we are able,
not only gifts to our families and friends,
but also gifts to help your church and your world.
May our gifts bring joy to all who receive them. 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 #58 – "Infant Holy, Infant Lowly"**

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~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
noels ringing, tidings bringing:
Christ the babe is born for all.
Christ the babe is born for all!**
- 2 Flocks were sleeping; shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.
Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you.
Christ the babe was born for you!**

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

**May the candle of joy burn brightly in our hearts,
preparing the way for the Christ child.
May we be signs of joy 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.**

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

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**May the Lord go with you,
let him take your hand.
Keep His love within you,
until we meet again. Amen.**

(Price/Besig)
~Joanne Diplock

POSTLUDE

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~Joanne Diplock