

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.

December 22nd, 2024

Advent 4

“What Child is This? A Child of Love”

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

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 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 Dorothy Franklin

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

*(Written by Laura Turnbull; from *Gathering ACE 2019-2020*.)*

What a day of anticipation!

Just three days until we celebrate Christ's birth!

We cannot help but ponder.

**The child of love and the companion of grace
is about to break forth into our lives.**

Holy is the Promised One! We gather to bless this great gift.

With anticipation and wonder, we praise God!

OPENING PRAYER (Adapted from Larry Doyle, Bob Root and Darrow Woods; from *Gathering A/C/E 2013-2014*.)

Our waiting has brought us to Christmas week,

O God of light and love,

and our hearts are brimming with anticipation.

In a few short days, we'll celebrate once again

the coming of the Light of the World.

Open our hearts and minds to hear this old story in new ways,

and fill us with the kind of faith that Mary had

as she made her Advent journey.

In Christ's name, and in Christ's Way, we pray. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: VU #62 – "Once in Royal David's City"**

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(Alexander/Gauntlett)

~Joanne Diplock

1 Once in royal David's city

**stood a lowly cattleshed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.**

**Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.**

2 He came down to earth from heaven

**who, with God, is over all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.**

**There among the poor and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.**

3 For he is our lifelong pattern;

**daily, when on earth he grew,
he was tempted, scorned, rejected,
tears and smiles like us he knew.**

**Thus he feels for all our sadness,
and he shares in all our gladness.**

4 And our eyes at last shall see him,

**through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;**

**and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.**

ADVENT CANDLE-LIGHTING ~Lit by the Miller 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 love to the world.
Help us to work with him to bring love
to those whose hearts are broken,
or filled with anger and 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 love. Amen.**

***SUNG RESPONSE:** #33 MV – **"Jesus Came Bringing Us Love"** (traditional)
(Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529 One License) ~Joanne Diplock

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

EVENT REPORT ~Kara McMillan

CONVERSATION TIME "Love for the Christ Child"

LISTENING FOR AND REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reader: Frank Leskovjan

Micah 5: 2-5a

*But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah,
who are one of the little clans of Judah,
from you shall come forth for me
one who is to rule in Israel,
whose origin is from of old,
from ancient days.*

*Therefore he shall give them up until the time
when she who is in labour has brought forth;
then the rest of his kindred shall return
to the people of Israel.*

*And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD,
in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God.*

*And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great
to the ends of the earth;
and he shall be the one of peace*

Luke 1: 39-45

In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leapt in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leapt for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.'

Luke 1: 47-55 VU p. 898 (Read responsively, with refrain) (choir 1X cong 1X)

Sung Refrain: **To God I lift my soul in praise;
in God my savior I rejoice.**

My soul proclaims God's greatness.

My spirit rejoices in God my saviour.

For you have looked with favour on your lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed.

You have done great things for me, O Most Mighty.

Hallowed be your Name!

You have mercy on those who fear you,

From one generation to another. R

Sung Refrain

You took action with a strong arm.

You scattered the proud in their conceit.

You pulled the mighty from their thrones.

You raised the lowly.

You filled the hungry with good things.

You sent the rich away empty.

You come to the aid of your servant, Israel,

**for you remembered your promise of mercy,
to our ancestors, Abraham and Sarah,
and to their children in every age. R**

Sung Refrain

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: "Let Every Heart Prepare a Throne"

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~Joanne Diplock

REFLECTION: "Advent Love"

~Rev. Susan Reed

RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: VU #46 – "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child"

(Cook/Cook)

(sung to tune of "Good King Wenceslas")

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~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
there he lay, the undefiled, to the world a stranger.
Such a babe in such a place, can he be the Saviour?
Ask the saved of all the race who have found his favour.**
- 2 Angels sang about his birth, wise men sought and found him;
heaven's star shone brightly forth, glory all around him.
Shepherds saw the wondrous sight, heard the angels singing;
all the plains were lit that night, all the hills were ringing.**
- 3 Gentle Mary laid her child lowly in a manger;
he is still the undefiled, but no more a stranger.
Son of God of humble birth, beautiful the story;
praise his name in all the earth; hail the King of glory!**

VIDEO: "The Moderator's Christmas Message"

INVITATION to the OFFERING

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

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 (Adapted from David Sparks; from *Prayers to Share Year B*.)

Love shone from the stable at Bethlehem.

May love come clear from these offerings:

**a love that reaches out to link hands with the suffering,
a love that encourages the dispirited,
a love that will accept the vulnerable,**

**a love worked out in faith community,
a love that crosses all boundaries and divides.**

A Jesus-type love.

In his name these offerings will be blessed. Amen.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE

(From *Worship for All Seasons*; found in *Celebrate God's Presence*.)

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 #38 – "Angels We Have Heard on High"

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(Chadwick/Barnes)
~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**
- 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song? R**
- 3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King. R**
- 4 See him in a manger laid,
whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
while our hearts in love we raise. R**

*SENDING FORTH

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

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

*BLESSING

*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

"Mary, Did You Know?"

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~Joanne Diplock