

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.

January 5th, 2025
Epiphany Sunday
Toonie Sunday

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

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

PRELUDE

(Words reproduced 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 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.

RE-LIGHTING the ADVENT & CHRIST CANDLES *~Lit by Shirley Codd*

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

CANDLE-LIGHTING PRAYER *(Written by Susan Lukey; from *Gathering A/C/E 2018-2019.*)*

**May the gifts of our faith
be brought alive in worship today.
May the gifts of our faith
be shared every day of the new year.**

LIGHTING of the PEACE CANDLE

And as we light this candle, we pray for peace:

**peace in our hearts,
peace in our homes,
peace in our world.**

As we continue to celebrate 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.

INTRODUCTION to the SERVICE

CALL to WORSHIP (Adapted from Bill Steadman; from *Gathering A/C/E 2016-2017*.)

Look up; look way up. See the brilliant stars overhead.

We know that God offers us guidance for the journey.

Look ahead; look a long way ahead.

See the path that leads to the future.

We know that God has a dream for that future.

Look within; look deeply within yourself.

See the gift of God's Spirit shared for us all.

We know that God is working within us and among us.

Today we begin a new journey in a new year.

May we be open to being inspired

by an old story with a treasured message.

Thanks be to God.

Let us worship God together, and let us sing:

*OPENING HYMN: VU #91 – "The First Nowell"

(Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

(English traditional)

~Joanne Diplock

**1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay akeeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.**

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**

**2 They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night. R**

**3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went. R**

OPENING PRAYER (Adapted from Laura J. Turnbull; from *Worship for All Seasons A/C/E*.)

Glorious God,

like the magi of old we come to worship,

and to rejoice in the good news of Jesus Christ.

**We are filled with joy and thankfulness,
for he is your promise and our hope.
In adoration we offer ourselves, in service and in love.
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

CONVERSATION TIME

***HYMN: VU #91 – "The First Nowell"**

(English traditional)

(Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

~Joanne Diplock

- 4 This star drew nigh to the northwest;
o'er Bethlehem it took its rest,
and there it did both stop and stay,
right over the place where Jesus lay.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.**
- 5 Then entered in those wise men three,
full reverently upon their knee,
and offered there in his presence
their gold and myrrh and frankincense. R**
- 6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought. R**

LISTENING FOR AND REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

Scripture Readings: *read by Karen Kearney*

Isaiah 60: 1-6

*Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,*

*the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.*

Matthew 2: 1-12

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

*"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for from you shall come a ruler
who is to shepherd my people Israel." '*

Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Words of Response:

Herein is wisdom.

Thanks be to God.

*HYMN: VU #36 – "**Angels, from the Realms of Glory**"

(Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

(Montgomery/Smart)

~Joanne Diplock

**1 Angels, from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth:
come and worship, come and worship,
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

- 2 **Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night,
God with us is now residing,
yonder shines the infant Light: R**
- 3 **Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star: R**
- 4 **Saints before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,
suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear: R**

PRAYER of CONFESSION

(Written by Atze Veldhuis; from *Celebrate God's Presence*.)

Source of Light:

*you call us out of night's darkness
to live in the radiance of your love.*

*You have sent Jesus, Sun of Righteousness to illuminate the way!
You have trusted us to be reflectors of your light in all the world.*

But forgive us, God:

**too often we have chosen shadow rather than the light of day;
too often we have chosen other stars to follow;
too often we have heard the promises of Herod and believed them,
to our peril and the peril of the world.**

Forgive us God,

and fill us once again with the radiant promise of Epiphany. Amen.

WORDS of ASSURANCE

(Written by Sandy Ferguson; from *Gathering A/C/E 2019-2020*.)

PIANO SOLO: "The Sussex Carol"

(Sharp/Williams)

(Music played with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

~Joanne Diplock

SERMON: "Light of the World"

~Rev. Susan Reed

RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: VU #81 – "As with Gladness Men of Old"

(Dix/Kocher)

(Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 **As with gladness men of old
did the guiding star behold,
as with joy they hailed its light,
leading onward, beaming bright,
so, most gracious Lord, may we**

evermore your splendour see.

**2 As with joyful steps they sped,
to that lowly manger bed,
there to bend the knee before
Christ, whom heaven and earth adore;
so may we with eager pace
ever seek your throne of grace.**

**3 As they offered gifts most rare
at that manger crude and bare,
so may we with holy joy,
pure and free from sin's alloy,
all our costliest treasures bring,
Christ, to you, our heavenly King.**

**4 Holy Jesus, every day
keep us in the narrow way;
and, when earthly things are past,
bring our ransomed souls at last
where they need no star to guide,
where no clouds your glory hide.**

**5 In the heavenly country bright
none shall need created light;
you its light, its joy, its crown,
you its sun which goes not down;
there for ever may we sing
hallelujah to our King.**

OUTREACH MOMENT

INVITATION to the OFFERING

(Written by Frances Flook; from *Gathering A/C/E 2011-2012*.)

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)

(Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

~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 Kate Crawford; from *Gathering A/C/E 2015-2016*.)

**Just as wise ones from the past travelled far to offer their best,
so we who travel on our journey of faith**

**bring the best of our treasure for the work of the kingdom.
Bless all that is given, from hearts and from hands.
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

READING: "The Work of Christmas" *by Howard Thurman*

***CLOSING HYMN: VU #87 – "I Am the Light of the World"**

(Words reproduced played with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

(Strathdee)

~Joanne Diplock

**'I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!
If you follow and love you'll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

- 1 When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and the shepherds have found their way home,
the work of Christmas is begun: R**
- 2 To find the lost and lonely one,
to heal the broken soul with love,
to feed the hungry children with warmth and good food,
to feel the earth below, the sky above! R**
- 3 To free the prisoner from all chains,
to make the powerful care,
to rebuild the nations with strength of good will,
to see God's children everywhere! R**
- 4 To bring hope to every task you do,
to dance at a baby's new birth,**

**to make music in an old person's heart,
and sing to the colours of the earth! R**

***SENDING FORTH**

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

*Let us go forth in the light of God's star,
committed to a journey of faith and courage.*

**We go forth with the light of Christ in our hearts,
eager to learn the mystery
of all we are meant to do and be.**

Let us live in tenderness toward all people.

May we go to share the gifts we have received.
*May the blessing of God, Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit
be with us all now and all our days.*

Amen.

***CHORAL BENEDICTION**

(Words reproduced played with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

(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