

North Kildonan United Church
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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.

January 18th, 2026
Second after Epiphany
Start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

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

GREETING

*GATHERING HYMN: VU #567 – "Will You Come and Follow Me" (The Iona Community)
(Music played with permission under license #A-620529 One License) *~Joanne Diplock*

- 1 Will you come and follow me
if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know
and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown,
will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown
in you and you in me?**
- 2 Will you leave yourself behind
if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind
and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare
should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer
in you and you in me?**
- 5 Christ, your summons echoes true
when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you
and never be the same.
In your company I'll go**

**where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow
in you and you in me.**

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.

WELCOME

LIFE and WORK of the CONGREGATION

LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE ~lit by Kathy Leech

*(Adapted from Bill Steadman; from *Gathering A/C/E 2020-2021.*)*

*We light this candle to remind us
that the light of Christ shines upon us each and every day.*

**We worship the God revealed through Jesus the Christ,
in spirit and in truth.**

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 follow and learn from 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.***

LIGHTING of the T'BJIGGN CANDLE

CALL to WORSHIP (inspired by Isaiah 49: 1-7)

*(Adapted from the *Ministry Matters* website; found on the *re:Worship* blog.)*

Listen up, everyone!

God has given us work to do.

**God has called each of us
before we were even born.**

It was God who named us.

It is God who claims us.

The light of God's love shines in us.

Let's shine God's love into all the world!

Come! Let us worship our God of love and light.

***OPENING HYMN: VU #79 – "Arise, Your Light Is Come"**

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(Duck/Walker)
~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Arise, your light is come!**
The Spirit's call obey;
show forth the glory of your God,
which shines on you today.
- 2 Arise, your light is come!**
Fling wide the prison door;
proclaim the captive's liberty,
good tidings to the poor.
- 3 Arise, your light is come!**
All you in sorrow born,
bind up the broken-hearted ones
and comfort those who mourn.
- 4 Arise, your light is come!**
The mountains burst in song!
Rise up like eagles on the wing;
God's power will make us strong.

OPENING PRAYER (Inspired by Isaiah 49: 1-7)

*(Written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes; from the *Unfolding Light* website.)*

God of love,
you have given us as light to the nations.
Speak to us now and fill us with the light of your word.
Show us Jesus, so we might see, and follow.
Amen.

CONVERSATION TIME

LISTENING FOR AND REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

Scripture Readings: *read by Barb Bencharski*

Isaiah 49: 1-7

*Listen to me, O coastlands;
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born;
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
He made my mouth like a sharp sword;*

*in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow;
in his quiver he hid me away.
And he said to me, "You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified."
But I said, "I have labored in vain;
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord
and my reward with my God."
And now the Lord says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honored in the sight of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—
he says,
"It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth."
Thus says the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
"Kings shall see and stand up;
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you."*

John 1: 29-42

Introduction:

In the Gospel of John, just before this morning's reading begins, John the Baptist had given testimony to some priests and Levites from Jerusalem, that he was not the Messiah, but that he was the voice of one crying out in the wilderness to make straight the way of the Lord. Here is what took place after that testimony:

The next day [John the Baptist] saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who

baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, "You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas" (which is translated Peter).

Words of Response:

These are words of our sacred story.

May these ancient words bring us new meaning.

Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Whisper to My Heart"

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~Joanne Diplock

SERMON: "Follow the Light"

~Rev. Susan Reed

RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: #161 MV – "I Have Called You by Your Name" (Damon)

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~Joanne Diplock

- 1 I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you;
all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called and chosen; you are mine.**
- 2 I will help you learn my name as you go;
Read it written in my people; help them grow.
Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
Offer Jesus' body, given long ago.**
- 3 I know you will need my touch as you go'
Feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out,
choosing faith in spite of doubt,
Hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.**

**4 I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
Go and tell my precious people they are mine.**

INVITATION to the OFFERING

THE PRESENTATION of our TITHES and OFFERINGS

Offertory Music *as the offerings are collected*

~Joanne Diplock

***Offertory Verse: #182 MV – "Grateful"** (*chorus only, sung 2X*)
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(Tomaszek/Hart)
~Joanne Diplock

**Grateful for the life you give us,
thankful for your Holy Son,
joyful in your Spirit flowing
over all, O God of Love.
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,
thankful for your Holy Word,
joyful in your mercy flowing,
we will praise you.**

***Offertory Prayer**

**O God, you call us to serve you, and to follow Jesus.
In response, we offer our gifts and ourselves,
that they and we may be used for your work in the world.
Bless them, and bless us,
we pray in Jesus' name. 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 #595 – "We Are Pilgrims"

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(Gillard)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**
- 2 Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**
- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**
- 4 I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.**
- 5 When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**
- 6 Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

*COMMISSIONING (Inspired by Isaiah 49: 1-7)

(Author unknown; from the *re:Worship* blog, adapted.)

**As we leave this place, let us remember:
God, who chose us before our birth,
who calls us and knows us by name,
now sends us out into the world—
to bring light to those living in shadows,
comfort to those who grieve,
and hope to those who despair.**

*BLESSING

(Author unknown; from the *re:Worship* blog, adapted.)

***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