

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 25th, 2026
Third after Epiphany
Sunny Sunday



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

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

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

~Joanne Diplock

GREETING

*GATHERING VERSE: VU #232 – "Joyful, Joyful We Adore You"

(van Dyke)

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~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**
- 4 Mortals join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.**

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.

INTRODUCTION to the SERVICE

CALL to WORSHIP (from Psalm 113: 1-3)

Praise the Lord!

**Praise, O servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.**

*Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time on and forevermore.*

**From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the Lord be praised.**

*HYMN for SUNNY SUNDAY: *sung to tune VU #232 – "Joyful, Joyful"* (van Beethoven)

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~Joanne Diplock

(Words by Susan Reed, January 2026)

- 1 On this frigid winter morning,
God, we gather in this place.
We know that you're always with us,
come, and bless us by your grace.
As we gather all together,
we are here to have some fun.
But we also come to worship,
you, and Jesus Christ, your Son.**
- 2 On this Sunny Sunday morning,
we come to escape the chill.
But we also come to sing
and pray and learn to do your will.
May we know in all our moments,
we are belov-ed in your sight.
So may we in all our living,
do our best to share your light.**

LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE *~lit by Del Sexsmith*

(Written by Fern Gibbard; from Gathering A/C/E 2021-2022.)

*Jesus Christ is the light that shines in the shadows of life,
who bursts like sunshine through clouds of sadness,*

whose presence changes gloom into gladness.

**We light the Christ candle rejoicing
that the presence of God is with us this morning.**

LIGHTING of the PEACE CANDLE

And as we light this second 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.***

OPENING PRAYER (Author unknown; found online, adapted slightly.)

**O God,
we come before you with hearts full of gratitude
for the sunny days and sunny moments
that brighten our lives.**

**Thank you for the warmth of the sun
that lifts our spirits and nourishes the earth.**

**May we cherish these moments of light and joy,
reflecting your love in all we do.**

**Help us to share this warmth with others,
spreading kindness and hope,
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

SUNNY SUNDAY

INTRODUCTION

SLIDE SHOW "A Photo Introduction to Egypt"
with photos from Peggy & Peter Latimer

SUNNY SUNDAY SKIT: "Let My People Go!"

Written & directed by: Peter Latimer

<i>Cast:</i>	Carol Barret	Karen Miller
	Marie Leskovjan	Lilly Miller
	Isla Lindsay	Logan Miller
	Sven Lindsay	Susan Reed
	Grant McMillan	Gay Todd

***HYMN:** VU #701 – **"What Does the Lord Require of You"** (sung 2X)

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(Strathdee)

~Joanne Diplock

What does the Lord require of you?

What does the Lord require of you?

**Justice, kindness,
walk humbly with your God.**

**To seek justice, and love kindness,
and walk humbly with your God.**

LISTENING FOR AND REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

Scripture Readings: *read by Heidi McIlwain*

Introduction:

Our Sunny Sunday drama referenced part of the story of Moses as told in the book of Exodus, where God called on Moses to free the people, to 'let my people go.' Based on these themes from the drama, here are two additional scripture passages about freedom.

First, words from Isaiah, which were also repeated by Jesus when he went to the synagogue on the sabbath, stood up to read, and was given the scroll of the prophet Isaiah. That account is in the Gospel of Luke, based on these words from

Isaiah 61, verse 1:

*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me,
because the Lord has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners.*

Our second reading comes from

John 8, verses 31-36:

*Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, "You will be made free?"*

Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

Words of Response:

*These are words of our sacred story.
May these ancient words bring us new meaning.*

Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION: "On Freedom"

~Rev. Susan Reed

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Put a Little Love in Your Heart"

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~Joanne Diplock

RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION

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 #703 – **"In the Bulb There Is a Flower"**

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(Sleeth)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 In the bulb there is a flower;
in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise:
butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter
there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**
- 2 There's a song in every silence,
seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness,
bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future;
what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**
- 3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**

*MEAL GRACE

(Written by Emilie Fendall Johnson; found online.)

**We thank thee Lord, for happy hearts,
for rain and sunny weather.
We thank thee, Lord, for this our food,
and that we are together.**

*SENDING FORTH

*The God of all seasons, of sunshine and snow,
goes with us as we go from here.*

**May we go to share God's light, God's warmth,
and God's hope with all we meet,
in the name of Jesus, our warmth and our light.**

*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

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~Joanne Diplock