

North Kildonan United Church  
174 Pentland St, Winnipeg, MB R2G 2S3  
Church Office: 204-667-7408  
email: [nkuc@mymts.net](mailto: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.*

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026  
Ash Wednesday Service

---

*\*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*

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 CHRIST CANDLE *~lit by Peggy Latimer*

*(Written by Fern Gibbard; from *Gathering A/C/E 2020-2021.*)*

*The light of Christ shines on us and in us.*

**The light of Christ leads us.**

*The light of Christ transforms us.*

**We light this candle in the certainty  
that Christ's presence is here with us today.**

LIGHTING of the PEACE CANDLE

*As we light this candle, we pray for peace:*

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

*As we remember 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

### CENTERING WORDS (inspired by Joel 2) (Written by Karin Ellis; from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2022*.)

*The invitation to renew our hearts is before us.*

*The assurance of God's steadfast love is always with us.*

### CALL to WORSHIP (Written by Steve Garnaas-Holmes; from his *Unfolding Light* website.)

*O God, we come.*

**We are ashes, crying out.**

*We come, broken and in need.*

**We come, trusting and open-hearted,**

*We come, forgiven and welcome.*

**We come to be honest, to confess, to be ourselves.**

*We come to be received, to be blessed, to be anointed;*

**in the name and the mercy of Christ, we come.**

### OPENING PRAYER (Adapted from Karen Clark Ristine; from *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019*.)

**God of graciousness and steadfast love,**

**welcome us anew this day**

**into an inward, spiritual journey of self-examination.**

**We turn our hearts to you,**

**and seek renewed faith and conviction**

**to follow the Jesus Way.**

**As our own hearts fill with your love,**

**create in us a renewed spirit.**

**Help us to treasure your presence in our lives**

**and on our Lenten Journey.**

**In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

### \*OPENING HYMN: #79 MV – "Spirit, Open My Heart"

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

(Duck/Clyde)

~Joanne Diplock

**Spirit, open my heart  
to the joy and pain of living.**

**As you love, may I love,**

**In receiving and in giving,**

**Spirit, open my heart.**

**1 God, replace my stony heart,  
with a heart that's kind and tender.**

**All my coldness and fear**

**To your grace I now surrender. R**

**2 Write your love upon my heart  
as my law, my goal, my story.**

**In each thought, word and deed,  
may my living bring you glory. R**

**3 May I weep with those who weep,  
share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ,  
may we welcome one another. R**

**PRAYER for TRANSFORMATION** (Adapted from Pamela C. Hawkins; found on the *re:Worship* blog online.)

**O God, who makes all things new –  
new stars, new dust, new life;  
take our hearts,  
every hardened edge and measured beat,  
and create something new in us.**

**We need your newness, God,  
the rough parts made smooth;  
the stagnant, stirred;  
the stuck, freed;  
the unkind, forgiven.**

**And then, by the power of your Spirit,  
we need to be turned toward Love again.**

**WORDS of ASSURANCE of GOD'S GRACE**

(Written by Ann Siddall; found on the *re:Worship* blog online.)

## **LISTENING FOR AND REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD**

**Scripture Readings:** *read by Peter Latimer*

### **Joel 2: 1-2, 12-13**

*Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain!  
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,  
for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—  
a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness!  
Like blackness spread upon the mountains, a great and powerful army comes;  
their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come.  
Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart,  
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; rend your hearts and not your clothing.  
Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment.*

### **Psalms 51: 10-12**

*Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence,*

*and do not take your holy spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.*

### **Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21**

*[Some words from Jesus' "Sermon on the Mount." Jesus said:]*

*"Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.*

*"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

*"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

*"And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.*

*"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

### **CHOIR ANTHEM: "His Mercy is More"**

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

*~Joanne Diplock*

### **REFLECTION: "Return to Me"**

*~Rev. Susan Reed*

## **RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION**

### **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.**

## INTRODUCTION to the RITUAL of ASHES

(Adapted from Bill Steadman and Catherine Somerville; from *Gathering L/E 2017*.)

\***HYMN: VU #105 – "Dust and Ashes Touch Our Face"**

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

(Wren/Klusmeier)

~Joanne Diplock

**1 Dust and ashes touch our face,  
mark our failure and our falling.  
Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow,  
take us as disciples, washed and wakened by your calling.  
Take us by the hand and lead us,  
lead us through the desert sands,  
bring us living water,  
Holy Spirit, come.**

**2 Dust and ashes soil our hands -  
greed of market, pride of nation.  
Holy Spirit, come, walk with us tomorrow,  
as we pray and struggle through the meshes of oppression. R**

## PRAYER for RECEIVING the ASHES

(Written by Bill Steadman and Catherine Somerville; from *Gathering L/E 2017*.)

**I come, God. I come as I am.  
I can come in no other way.  
My heart holds my joys, my burdens,  
my hopes, my dreams, my successes, and my failures.  
I come to meet you and have my hope renewed.  
I come to you seeking life in all of its fullness.  
*Grant that these ashes, the dust of once-joyous palms,  
may remind us of our mortality but, more than that,  
may remind us of the life towards which you call us.  
Bless these ashes.  
Bless those who will receive them  
and carry them out from this place into the world.  
In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.***

## RECEIVING the MARK of the ASHES

*Beloved of God, remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.*

## SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

### \*CLOSING HYMN: "God, You have Searched Me" (Sung to tune VU #642)

(Words by Steve Garnaas-Holmes; found on his *Unfolding Light* website.)  
(Words reproduced played with permission under license #A-620529 One License)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1. God, you have searched me; you know from within  
all of my beauty, my wounds and my sin.  
Deep in my heart—I've not spoken a word—  
you know my soul, and my thoughts you have heard.**
- 2. You who have made me and always are near,  
help me to shed my illusion and fear.  
Help me be truthful, and truthfully see,  
humbly transparent to your grace in me.**
- 3. Your loving presence within me each day  
go with me, guide me, and show me your way.  
Give me the eyes of your mercy and grace,  
to walk in love in each moment, each place.**

### \*COMMISSIONING

**May our hearts be full of gratitude  
as we give thanks and praise  
to the One who heals us, forgives us, and makes us whole,  
and who then sends us out to care for this world. Amen.**

### \*BLESSING

### \*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