

North Kildonan United Church  
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Minister: *Rev. Susan Reed*  
Pianist/Choir Director: *Joanne Diplock*  
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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.*

February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2026  
Lent 2026 – “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”  
Lent 1

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*\*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 REFRAIN: #7 MV – “**Gather Us In**”

*(sung 2X)*

*(Hann)*

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*~Joanne Diplock*

**Gather us in, ground us in you.**

**Gather us in, ground us in you.**

**Gather us in, gather us in,**

**Ground us, ground us in you.**

### BREATH PRAYER

### GATHERING REFRAIN: #7 MV – “**Gather Us In**”

*(sung 1X)*

*(Hann)*

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*~Joanne Diplock*

**Gather us in, ground us in you.**

**Gather us in, ground us in you.**

**Gather us in, gather us in,**

**Ground us, ground us in you.**

### 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 and INTRODUCTION to LENT

LIGHTING the CHRIST CANDLE ~lit by Peggy Latimer

**We light this candle as a reminder  
that even in this season of Lent,  
even as the shadows grow,  
God is with us,  
and the light of Christ continues to light our way.**

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 journey with 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 (Inspired by Psalm 32: 10-11) (From the *re:Worship* blog, adapted slightly.)

*Unfailing love surrounds all those who trust in God.*

**So rejoice and be glad,  
all you who love God!  
Sing and shout for joy,  
all you whose hearts are open!**

*Come, and let us worship God together as we sing:*

\*OPENING HYMN: VU #559 – "Come, O Fount of Every Blessing" (Robinson/Wyeth)  
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- 1 Come, O Fount of every blessing,  
tune my heart to sing your grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing  
call for songs of endless praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet,  
sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,  
mount of God's unfailing love.**
- 2 Here I pause in my sojourning,  
giving thanks for having come,  
come to trust, at every turning,  
God will guide me safely home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
wandering from the fold of God,**

came to rescue me from danger,  
precious presence, precious blood.

**3 O, to grace how great a debtor  
daily I am drawn anew!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter,  
bind my wandering heart to you.  
Prone to wander, I can feel it,  
wander from the love I've known:  
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,  
seal it for your very own.**

**OPENING PRAYER** (Adapted from Camillia LaRouche; from *Worship for all Seasons II Year A.*)

**You are everywhere in our world, God;  
you are here in our midst, within us and among us.  
As we begin this Lenten season,  
and as we gather in worship –  
in prayer and praise,  
to hear your Word and pray for others,  
to offer our gifts and ourselves –  
may we be enlivened as your active people,  
and leave this place strengthened  
to journey in your Way.  
In the name of Jesus, the One we follow,  
we pray. Amen.**

**CONVERSATION TIME**

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

**SUNG VERSE:** *VU #357 – "Tell Me the Stories of Jesus"*

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(Parker/Challinor)  
~Joanne Diplock

**1 Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear,  
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here:  
scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,  
stories of Jesus, tell them to me.**

**PRAYER for ILLUMINATION** (Written by Richard Bott; from Gathering Lent/Easter 2020.)

*In the stories of Israel, in the stories of Jesus,  
in the stories of faith lived in our lives –  
you speak to us, God.  
In the songs of David, in the songs of Miriam,  
in the songs of the newborn church –  
you make our hearts dance!*

*Bless our reading.*

**Bless our listening.**

*Bless our sharing.*

**In Christ's name we ask it. Amen!**

Scripture Reading: *read by Peggy Latimer*

**Matthew 4: 1-11**

Introduction: This morning, we hear the story of Jesus being led into the wilderness and facing several temptations. In Matthew's Gospel, this passage comes immediately after the story of Jesus being baptized, and before the stories of Jesus beginning his ministry. He was baptized, the Spirit of God descended upon him like a dove, and a voice from heaven said "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Following right after those words comes this passage:

*Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,*

*'One does not live by bread alone,*

*but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'* "

*Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,'*

*and 'On their hands they will bear you up,*

*so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'* "

*Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'* "

*Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,*

*'Worship the Lord your God,*

*and serve only him.'* "

*Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.*

Words of Response:

*May God bless to our understanding this reading of Holy Scripture.*

**Amen.**

PRAYER of CONFESSION

(Written by Beth W. Johnston; from *Gathering Lent/Easter 2017.*)

**As we begin our Lenten journey, O God,  
we must come to terms with the times when  
we did not trust,  
when we did not act in faith,  
when we followed other paths.**

**Forgive us.**

**Show us the way once again. Amen.**

WORDS of ASSURANCE (Inspired by Joel 2: 13) (Written by Ted Dodd; from *Celebrate God's Presence*.)

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Wondrous Things"

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*~Joanne Diplock*

SERMON: "Don't Tempt Me!"

*~Rev. Susan Reed*

## RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE: VU #115 – "Jesus, Tempted in the Desert" (Stuempfle)

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*~Joanne Diplock*

- 1 Jesus, tempted in the desert,  
lonely, hungry, filled with dread:  
'Use your power,' the tempter tells him;  
'turn these barren rocks to bread!'  
'Not alone by bread,' he answers,  
'can the human heart be filled.  
Only by the Word that calls us  
is our deepest hunger stilled!'**
- 2 Jesus, tempted at the temple,  
high above its ancient wall:  
'Throw yourself from lofty turret;  
angels wait to break your fall!'  
Jesus shuns such empty marvels,  
feats that fickle crowds request:  
'God, whose grace protects, preserves us,  
we must never vainly test.'**
- 3 Jesus, tempted on the mountain  
by the lure of vast domain:  
'Fall before me! Be my servant!  
Glory, fame, you're sure to gain!'  
Jesus sees the dazzling vision,  
turns his eyes another way:  
'God alone deserves our homage!  
God alone will I obey!'**
- 4 When we face temptation's power,  
lonely, struggling, filled with dread,  
Christ, who knew the tempter's hour,  
come and be our living bread.  
By your grace, protect, preserve us**

**lest we fall, your trust betray.  
Yours, above all other voices,  
be the Word we hear, obey.**

## LIFE and WORK of the CONGREGATION

### INVITATION to the OFFERING

### THE PRESENTATION of our TITHES and OFFERINGS

Offertory Music *as the offerings are collected*

~Joanne Diplock

\*Offertory Verse: VU #540 – "Grant Us, God, the Grace"

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(anonymous)

~Joanne Diplock

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving,  
with a spirit large and free,  
that ourselves and all our living  
we may offer faithfully.**

\*Offertory Prayer (Adapted from Joanna Harader; found on the *re:Worship* blog online.)

*God of the wilderness,*

*we give these offerings in gratitude,*

**rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.**

*We give these offerings in faith,*

**trusting that you will provide for our needs.**

*We give these offerings in hope,*

**knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.**

*And with these offerings, we give ourselves;*

**may we live with generous hearts and with open 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

### \*CLOSING HYMN: *VU #108 – "Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights"*

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*~Joanne Diplock*

- 1 Throughout these Lenten days and nights  
we turn to walk the inward way,  
where, meeting Christ, our guide and light,  
we live in hope till Easter Day.**
- 2 The pilgrim Christ, the Lamb of God,  
who found in weakness greater power,  
embraces us, though lost and flawed,  
and leads us to his Rising Hour.**
- 3 We bear the silence, cross and pain  
of human burdens, human strife,  
while sisters, brothers help sustain  
our courage till the Feast of Life.**

### \*COMMISSIONING (Written by Beth W. Johnston; from *Gathering Lent/Easter 2026.*)

*As we travel this Lenten journey,*

**we know that God leads and guides us.**

*As we travel this Lenten journey,*

**we notice the stories of Jesus making choices for life and ministry.**

*As we travel this Lenten journey,*

**we dream and work with the Spirit**

**for a world where peace and harmony are restored.**

*We leave this place in peace,*

**going to share the love of God. Amen.**

### \*BLESSING (Written by Gill Le Fevre; from *Gathering Lent/Easter 2026.*)

### \*CHORAL BENEDICTION

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*(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

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*~Joanne Diplock*