

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.

March 22nd, 2026
Lent 2026 – “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”
Lent 5

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.

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 the SERVICE

LIGHTING the CHRIST CANDLE

~lit by Marie Leskovjan

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 (Adapted from Psalm 130)

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

Out of the depths we cry to you, O God.

Holy One, hear our voice! Let your ears be attentive to our cry.

If you, O God, kept account of our sins, who could stand?

But with you there is forgiveness; therefore we worship you.

We wait for the Holy One; in God's word we hope.

**Our soul waits for God more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the dawn.**

O people, hope in God! For with God there is steadfast love;

with God there is great power to redeem.

It is you, God, who redeems us! We thank you, and we worship.

OPENING PRAYER (Written by Kate Crawford; from *Gathering Lent / Easter 2017*.)

Jesus, you spoke to a woman at a Samaritan well.

Speak to us.

You opened the eyes of the man by the side of the road,

and opened the hearts of the crowd

to understand the man in a new way.

Open the eyes of our hearts.

You raised Lazarus from his tomb.

Raise us also to new life,

so that we may speak of you

and look for you

and praise your holy name.

In your own name, we pray. Amen.

*OPENING HYMN: VU #326 – "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing" (Wesley/Gläser)

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~Joanne Diplock

**1 O for a thousand tongues to sing
my great Redeemer's praise,**

the glories of my God and King,
the triumphs of God's grace.

2 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,
that bids our sorrows cease;
'tis music in the sinner's ears,
'tis life and health and peace.

3 He speaks, and listening to his voice,
new life the dead receive,
the mournful broken-hearts rejoice,
the humble poor believe.

4 Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones,
your tongues again employ;
you blind, behold your Saviour comes,
and leap, you lame, for joy!

5 My gracious Master and my God,
assist me to proclaim,
to spread through all the earth abroad
the honours of your name.

CONVERSATION TIME

LISTENING FOR AND REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

CHOIR ANTHEM: #73 MV – "O God, Why Are You Silent"

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(Haugen/Hassler)

~Joanne Diplock

Scripture Reading: *read by Shirley Alleyne*

John 11: 1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Then after this, [Jesus] said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then

Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" [Martha] said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when [Mary] heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

Words of Response:

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

Amen.

CALL to TRANSFORMATION (Written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema; from the *Worship Ways*; found online.)

PRAYER for NEW LIFE (Written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema; from the *Worship Ways*; found online.)

*For the violence that brings death
and death-dealing that brings violence, we grieve.*

God, have mercy.

*For the blood in the streets
and the blood on our hands, we grieve.*

Christ, have mercy.

*For heartbreaking loss
and the loss of hearts soft enough to break, we grieve.*

God, have mercy.

*From all that binds us and steals our breaths,
turn us around, Holy One. Amen.*

WORDS of GRACE (Written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema; from the *Worship Ways*; found online.)

*Let your soul receive this rest:
on this road, there will be comfort,
in our grief, there will be companions,
when death seems to have the last word, there is still Jesus.*

**Praise God, who weeps with us,
and who calls us by name back into life,
and into the community that unbinds and frees us.**

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.**

SERMON "Death, Grief, and New Life"

~Rev. Susan Reed

RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: VU #581 – "When We Are Living"

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(Spanish traditional)
~Joanne Diplock

**1 When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.
Both in our living and in our dying,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

- 2 **Through all our living, we our fruits must give.
Good works of service are for offering.
When we are giving, or when receiving,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**
- 3 **'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**
- 4 **Across this wide world, we shall always find
those who are crying with no peace of mind,
but when we help them, or when we feed them,
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

LIFE and WORK of the CONGREGATION

INVITATION to the OFFERING (Adapted from Dr. Sharon R. Fennema; from the *Worship Ways*; found online.)

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.**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication

*(Adapted from Dr. Sharon R. Fennema; from the *Worship Ways*; found online.)*

**From these offerings, Holy One, create freedom.
From these hearts, Holy One, raise up love.
From these hands, Holy One, bring life.
From every one of our gifts,
in the sharing of our resources,
may we be unbound,
and called forth into a new day together. 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 #436 – "Abide with Me"*

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(Lyte/Monk)
~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.**
- 3 I need your presence every passing hour;
what but your grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like yourself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.**
- 5 Hold now your cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

*COMMISSIONING (Adapted from Elizabeth Dilley; from *Worship Ways*. Found online.)

Come out! Jesus commands,
**and calls us from the tombs of our existence
into the brightness of a new day.**

Come out! Jesus cries,
and unbinds us from the chains of our past.

Come out! Jesus calls,
**and entices us into a world
filled with grace and possibility.**

So let us go out
into a world that needs our life, our breath, our spirit!

Let us go out
**into a world that needs the Spirit of God,
carried on our lips and in our loving arms.**

Let us go out
into the world to live as God's resurrected people!

*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