

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 8th, 2026
Lent 2026 – “Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”
Lent 3

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 VERSE: #92 MV – **“Like a Rock”** (sung 2X, then 3rd time with actions only)
(Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529 One License) *~Joanne Diplock*

Like a rock, like a rock
God is under our feet.
 Like the starry night sky
 God is over our head.
Like the sun on the horizon
God is ever before.
 Like the river runs to ocean
 Our home is in God evermore.

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 Carol Billan*

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 (From Psalm 95: 1-7) (From *Voices United* p. 814)

O come, let us sing to God,

let us shout with joy to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving;

let us joyously shout to God with songs of praise.

For you are a great God,

high sovereign above all gods.

In your hand are the depths of the earth;

to you belong the heights of the mountains.

The sea is yours, for you made it;

your hands also formed the dry land.

You are indeed our God;

we are your people; the flock that you shepherd.

*OPENING HYMN: VU #222 – "Come, Let Us Sing"

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(Strathdee)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,
we have stood silently too long;
surely the Lord deserves our praise,
so joyfully thank God for our days.**
- 2 O thirsty soul, come drink at the well;
God's living waters will never fail.
Surely the Lord will help you to stand,
strengthened and comforted by God's hand.**
- 3 You dwell among us and cause us to pray,
and walk with each other following your way;
our precious brothers and sisters will grow
in the fulfilling love they know.**

**4 Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing
to the desire of all living things.
Come, all you creatures, high and low,
let your praises endlessly flow.**

OPENING PRAYER (Adapted from the *Seasons of the Spirit* curriculum.)

**May this be a place of meeting with you, O God,
and may you speak to us in living words,
quench our thirst with living water,
and hold us all with living love,
in Jesus' name, 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 Joan Knowles*

John 4: 5-30

So [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in

common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you^[e] say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Words of Response:

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

Amen.

PRAYER of CONFESSION

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

Gracious God,

we confess our need for your life-giving grace.

We are thirsty for you,

yet we have sought sustenance elsewhere.

We come again to the well of your mercy.

May your forgiveness, your healing and your love

become in us a spring of living water, gushing up to eternal life.

WORDS of ASSURANCE

CHOIR ANTHEM: "Amazing Grace"

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~Joanne Diplock

INTRODUCTION to our GUEST SPEAKER

~Sharon Miller

GUEST SPEAKER

~Rev. Marlene Britton

RESPONDING TO GOD IN PRAYER AND ACTION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: VU #646 – "We Are Marching/Siyahamba" (S African traditional)

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~Joanne Diplock

- 1 We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo,
we are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo,
we are marching in the light of God.**
- 2 Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.
Siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
siyahamb' ekukhanyen' kwenkhos',
Siyahamba, (hamba siyahamba,) oo-oo,
siyahamb', ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.
Siyahamba, (hamba siyahamba,) oo-oo,
siyahamb', ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'.**
- 3 We are moving in the light of God,
we are moving in the light of God.
We are moving in the light of God,
we are moving in the light of God.
We are moving, (moving, we are moving,) oo-oo,
we are moving in the light of God.
We are moving, (moving, we are moving,) oo-oo,
we are moving in the light of God.**

MINUTE for MISSION

"A Steady Flow of Care"

Read by Shirley Codd

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 *(Written by Bill Steadman; from Gathering Lent/Easter 2020.)*

**Receive these gifts that we have given, God,
as a symbol of all that we seek to be and to do in your way.
Bless what we have offered,
and direct us in the use of these offerings for your glory
and for the well-being of all.
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 #424 – "May the God of Hope Go with Us"

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(Schutmat/Kaan)

~Joanne Diplock

**1 May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.
Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.**

**2 May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear
to a world restored, to human life renewed. R**

***CLOSING PRAYER** (Written by Liz Crumlish; from *The Church of Scotland* online worship resources.)

**God for all that we have shared:
the stories and the journeys,
the work and the formation,
the places where we have noticed you
and those places where we missed you,
may we be assured of you
continuing to work in our lives,
and in the lives of those whom you call us to serve.
May we use all that you are teaching us
to bless the lives of others,
and so be engaged in kingdom work,
now and forever. Amen**

***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