

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.

April 12th, 2026
The Second Sunday of Easter
Holy Humour Sunday

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

Gathering to Worship God

☺ Church Bulletin Bloopers: ☺

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs. Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar

The Rev. Adams spoke briefly, much to the delight of his audience

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.

TROPHY PRESENTATION

Martin Sysa & Murray Beilby, Atlantic-Garden City UC

LIGHTING of the CHRIST CANDLE *~lit by Terry Munro*

*We light our Christ candle, we celebrate still that Christ is Risen.
The light of Christ, which lights our way, has returned.
It shines brightly – with new hope and new joy.*

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 celebrate the resurrection of 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

(Found on the website of St. Andrew's United Church in Chatham.)

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed, Hallelujah!

Let us rejoice!

Let us celebrate with holy humour.

Let us laugh,

let us dance,

let us sing praises of joy!

INTRODUCTION to the SERVICE

OPENING REFRAIN: tune VU #48 – "Hark the Herald Angel Said"

(Written by Paul Lintern; found in *the Joyful Noiseletter* online.)

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~Joanne Diplock

Hark the herald angel said,

"Why seek Jesus with the dead?

**He's not here, as you can see,
gravecloths lie where he would be.**

**On your way now, tell the others,
Jesus will be with his brothers.**

**Sisters, too, he wants to see
on the hills of Galilee."**

Hark the herald angel said,

"He is risen from the dead!"

OPENING RESPONSES "God Has Made Laughter for Us"

(Written by David Coleman; from *Eggs and Ashes*.)

Christ is risen;

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

*Risen in quiet and mysterious darkness
before the chorus of the dawn.*

Alleluia, Christ is risen;

He is risen indeed!

*Risen with glory and grace in reserve,
and authority beyond measure.*

Alleluia, Christ is risen;

He is risen indeed!

*Risen to prove that violence is no solution;
to offer us peace and life in all its fullness.*

Alleluia, Christ is risen;

He is risen indeed!

For God has taken into his own flesh the sin of the world.

The last laugh is God's laugh; God has the last laugh:

for freedom comes beyond the cross,

for peace comes beyond the violence,

for friendship comes beyond the betrayal,

for life comes beyond the crushing of life.

The first laugh and the last laugh are God's.

And God has made laughter for us.

Alleluia, Christ is risen;

He is risen indeed!

***OPENING HYMN: VU #166 – "Joy Comes with the Dawn"**

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(Light/Thompson)

~Joanne Diplock

**Joy comes with the dawn;
joy comes with the morning sun;
joy springs from the tomb
and scatters the night with her song,
joy comes with the dawn.**

- 1 Weeping may come;
weeping may come in the night,
when dark shadows cloud our sight. R**
- 2 Sorrow will turn,
sorrow will turn into song,
and God's laughter make us strong. R**
- 3 We will rejoice,
we will rejoice, and give praise,
to the One who brings us grace. R**

OPENING PRAYER

*(Written by Cathy Gradante; from *Gathering Lent/Easter 2018.*)*

**God of laughter and light,
we gather this morning to celebrate
the wonder of your love
that brings light out of shadows, life out of death,
and springtime out of the cold and snow of winter.
May our worship bring you joy
as we are filled with the Spirit's lively energy.**

**We can't help but let our praise overflow into laughter.
This we pray in the name of the Risen One,
Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

CONVERSATION TIME

"A Time for Laughter"

*SUNG RESPONSE: *VU #958 – "Halle, Halle, Halle" (sung 2X)*

(The Iona Community)

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~Joanne Diplock

**Halle, halle, Hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Halle, halle, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah! 2X**

Listening for and Reflecting on God's Word

Scripture Readings: *read by Carol Billan*

Responsive Reading: **Psalm 126** (From *Voices United* p. 850)

*When God brought Zion's captives home,
it seemed to us like a dream.*

**But then our mouths were full of laughter,
and our tongues uttered shouts of joy.**

Then they said among the nations:

"God has done great things for them."

**Truly God has done great things for us,
and therefore we rejoice.**

Restore our fortunes, O God, as streams refresh the Negev.

Those who sow in tears shall reap with shouts of joy.

Those who go out weeping, carrying seeds for sowing,

shall come home with songs of joy, bringing in their sheaves.

Gospel Reading: **John 20: 19-31**

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Response to the Gospel Reading:

This is the good news of Jesus Christ!

Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Amen.

PRAYER for TRANSFORMATION

*(From *Still Laughing God: Service Prayers for the Second Sunday of Easter*, found at Worship Ways online.)*

Redeeming God,

with you there is always more life, more hope, more joy.

Forgive us for doubting to see your work

in the still things, the busy things,

the most shadowed moments

and the everyday, under-noticed plod of life.

Forgive us when we balk at action,

and refuse to turn on fully the tap of compassion,

settling for a mere trickle.

Open us now to your love that lets us relax into life,

and fill us with trust, hope and justice. Amen.

WORDS of ASSURANCE (Written by Thom Shuman, found at *Lectionary Liturgies* online.)

CHOIR ANTHEM: "How Can I Keep from Singing?"

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~Joanne Diplock

A TIME for LAUGHTER

REFLECTION: "Holy Humour"

~Rev. Susan Reed

Responding to God in Prayer and Action

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: VU #260 – "God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness"

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~Joanne Diplock

**1 God who gives to life its goodness,
God creator of all joy,
God who gives to us our freedom,**

**God who blesses tool and toy:
teach us now to laugh and praise you,
deep within your praises sing,
till the whole creation dances
for the goodness of its King.**

**2 God who fills the earth with beauty,
God who binds each friend to friend,
God who names us co-creators
God who wills that chaos end:
grant us now creative spirits,
minds responsive to your mind,
hearts and wills your rule extending
all our acts by Love refined.**

LIFE and WORK of the CONGREGATION

A TIME for LAUGHTER

THE PRESENTATION of our TITHES and OFFERINGS

Offertory Music *as the offerings are collected*

~Joanne Diplock

***Doxology: tune VU #541 – "Praise God from Whom ..."**

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(Written by Susan Hamilton; from Before the Amen.)

(Ken)

~Joanne Diplock

**Praise God from whom our humour flows
Praise God all joyful hearts below
Praise Spirit with whom our hearts soar
Praise Christ whose smile is evermore**

***Offertory Prayer**

(Adapted from Gord Dunbar; from Gathering Lent/Easter 2015.)

**Take what we offer this morning, God,
transforming our gifts into joy for others,
changing sorrow into laughter and healing,
turning plodding footsteps into dancing celebration.
In the name of the Risen Christ, 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

A TIME for LAUGHTER

*CLOSING HYMN: *VU #624 – "Give to Us Laughter"*

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~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Give to us laughter, O Source of our life.
Laughter can banish so much of our strife.
Laughter and love give us wholeness and health.
Laughter and love are the coin of true wealth.**
- 2 Give to us laughter as sign of deep joy;
let us in laughing find Christian employ,
joining with stars and with bright northern lights,
laughing and praising and sharing delights.**
- 3 Why do we worry that we will lose face?
Why act like king for the whole human race?
Often in family, and often with friend,
laughing at pride causes anguish to end.**
- 4 Even in sorrow and hours of grief,
laughter with tears brings most healing relief.
God, give us laughter, and God, give us peace,
joys of your presence among us increase.**
- 5. HA!**

*COMMISSIONING (Written by Elise Feltrin; from *Gathering Drama & More File Lent/Easter 2019.*)

**May we leave from this place
with laughter in our hearts
smiles on our lips
and the joy of God's blessing
planted deep within us.
Let us go forth and rejoice
not because we are oblivious
to the sorrows of this world,
but because with God at our side,
we may rejoice in spite of them!**

*BLESSING

(Written by Elaine Bidgood Sweet; from *Gathering Lent/Easter 2017.*)

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

~Joanne Diplock