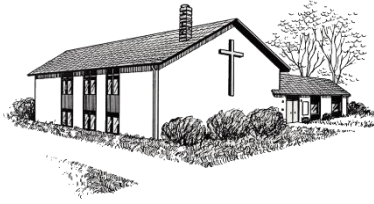


North Kildonan United Church
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Minister: *Rev. Susan Reed*
Pianist/Choir Director: *Joanne Diplock*
Office Administrator: *Wilma Fehr*
Property Manager: *Heinz Goetz*

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.

August 2, 2026

Toonie Sunday

Summer Sabbath Series: The Inventions of Summer

Week One: "Sunflowers – Pronouncing a Blessing"

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

This service is adapted from resources written by Janice McLean,
found on her website *The Prayer Bench*,
and purchased for congregational use by the Prairie to Pine Regional Council.

WE GATHER

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

~Joanne Diplock

GREETING

*GATHERING VERSES: VU #232 – "Joyful, Joyful We Adore You" (van Dyke/van Beethoven)
(Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529 One License) *~Joanne Diplock*

- 1 Joyful, joyful we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.**
- 2 All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heaven reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.**

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the LAND

We acknowledge that we meet on Treaty 1 land, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Anisininew, Cree, Dakota, and Dene 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.

POEM: "The Roses" *by Mary Oliver*

INTRODUCTION to the SUMMER SABBATH SERIES

INVITATION to GATHER and CANDLE LIGHTING *~lit by Heidi McIlwain*

*In this season of long light and growing things,
we gather in the presence of the Holy.*

We come to notice, to listen, to pray.

**In the quiet work of creation, God is near –
in what delights us,
and in what troubles us.**

God meets us here, in the ordinary.

In turning toward the light, creation teaches us praise.

[The Christ candle is lit]

We open our hearts:

**to wonder,
to wisdom,
to the Spirit's gentle leading.
So we worship.**

LIGHTING of the PEACE CANDLE

*And as we worship, we light a second candle, this one for peace,
and as we do, we pray for peace:*

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

As we follow in the ways 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.***

OPENING PRAYER

**Maker of all that grows and breathes, we come to you
in the beauty, the abundance,
and even in the disturbances of life.**

Open us to your presence in the ordinary.

Open our hearts to receive what the moment teaches.

Open our lives to be a blessing in the world.

**In this time, may sunflowers teach us your way –
the way of praise, the way of gratitude,
the way of compassion, the way of faithful prayer.**

We come in wonder, honesty, and hope.

Amen.

***OPENING HYMN: #30 MV – “It’s a Song of Praise to the Maker”** (Duck/Klusmeier)
(Music played with permission under license #A-620529 One License) ~Joanne Diplock

- 1. It’s a song of praise to the Maker,
The thrush sings high in the tree.
It’s a song of praise to the Maker,
The gray whale sings in the sea,**

Refrain:

**And by the Spirit, you and I
Can join our voice to the holy cry
And sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.**

- 2. It’s a call of life to the Giver,
When waves and waterfalls roar.
It’s a call of life to the Giver,
When high tides break on the shore. R**
- 3. It’s a hymn of love to the Lover,
The bumblebees hum along.
It’s a hymn of love to the Lover,
The summer breeze joins the song. R**
- 4. It’s a chorus of all creation;
It’s sung by all living things.
It’s a chorus of all creation;
A song the universe sings, R**

CONVERSATION TIME

WE LISTEN AND REFLECT

Scripture Reading: *read by Heidi McIlwain*

Psalm 113

Praise the Lord!

*Praise, O servants of the Lord;
praise the name of the Lord.*

*Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time on and forevermore.*

*From the rising of the sun to its setting,
the name of the Lord is to be praised.*

*The Lord is high above all nations
and his glory above the heavens.*

*Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,*

*who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?*

*He raises the poor from the dust
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,*

*to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.*

Praise the Lord!

Response to Scripture:

Herein is wisdom.

Thanks be to God!

POEM: "The Sunflowers" *by Mary Oliver*

REFLECTION: "Sunflowers: Pronouncing a Blessing"

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

*What is your morning practice of welcoming the day?

*What are the ways in which you bless God, the Creator of all?

BREATH PRAYER:

Praise be to God / the Creator of all.

PRONOUNCING a BLESSING

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND ACTION

***HYMN OF RESPONSE: VU #242 – "Let All Things Now Living"**

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(Davis)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
to God our Creator triumphantly raise;
who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
a pillar of fire shining forth in the night;
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light.**
- 2 By law God enforces, the stars in their courses
and sun in its orbit obediently shine;
the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;
with glad adoration a song let us raise:
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.**

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: #182 MV – "Grateful"** *(chorus only, sung 2X)*

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(Tomaszek/Hart)

~Joanne Diplock

**Grateful for the life you give us,
thankful for your Holy Son,
joyful in your Spirit flowing
over all, O God of Love.
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,
thankful for your Holy Word,
joyful in your mercy flowing,
we will praise you.**

***Offertory Prayer** *(From the Service Book of The United Church of Canada; found in Celebrate God's Presence.)*

(Please remain standing, until the gifts have been placed on the table)

**We bring our gifts to you, God.
Here is the work of our hands,
and here is the love of our hearts.**

**Accept them and use them,
through Christ our Lord. 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.**

WE GO FORTH

***CLOSING HYMN: VU #884 – "You Shall Go Out with Joy" (sung 2X)** (Rubin/Dauermann)
(Words reproduced played with permission under license #A-620529 One License) ~Joanne Diplock

**You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace;
the mountains and the hills
will break forth before you;
there'll be shouts of joy,
and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands!**

**And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
(clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
(clap, clap)
the trees of the field will clap their hands
(clap, clap)
while you go out with joy.**

*CLOSING BLESSING of PRAISE

*As we go from this place,
may we turn, again and again, toward the light.*
**May our life become a quiet song of praise,
not only in words,
but in the way we notice, the way we bless,
the way we live. Amen.**

***SPOKEN BENEDICTION**

***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 A Ukrainian Lullaby

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~Joanne Diplock