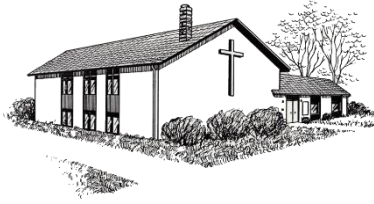


North Kildonan United Church
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Minister: *Rev. Susan Reed*
Pianist/Choir Director: *Joanne Diplock*
Office Administrator: *Wilma Fehr*
Property Manager: *Heinz Goetz*

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 16, 2026

Summer Sabbath Series: The Inventions of Summer
Week Three: "Mosquitoes: Praying Through Hard Times"

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 VERSE: #7 MV – "**Gather Us In**"

sung 2X

(Hann/Fines)

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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, 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.

WELCOME & INTRODUCTION to the SERVICE

INVITATION to GATHER and CANDLE LIGHTING

~lit by Sheron Miller

*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 the irritations of life, creation teaches us honest prayer.

[The Christ candle is lit]

We open our hearts:

**to wonder,
to wisdom,
to the Spirit's gentle leading.
Let us worship.**

LIGHTING of the T'BJIGGN CANDLE

LIGHTING of the PEACE CANDLE

*And as we worship, we light a third 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 mosquitoes 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, in honesty, in hope.
Amen.**

***OPENING HYMN: MV #37 – "Each Blade of Grass (Circle of God)"** (Wehlander)
(Words reproduced with permission under license #A-620529 One License) ~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Each blade of grass, ev'ry wing that soars,
the waves that sweep across a distant shore,
make full the circle of God.
Each laughing child, every gentle eye,
a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,
make full the circle of God.**
- 2 Each silent paw, ev'ry rounded stone,
the buzz that echoes from a honey'd comb,
make full the circle of God.
Each fire-brimmed star, ev'ry outstretched hand,
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,
make full the circle of God.**
- 3 Each icy peak, ev'ry patterned shell,
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,
make full the circle of God.
Each cosmic hue, ev'ry creature's way,
all form the beauty of this vast array,
make full the circle of God.**

CONVERSATION TIME

WE LISTEN AND REFLECT

Scripture Readings: *read by Sheron Miller*

Psalms 13 – A prayer for deliverance from enemies
*How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?
How long will you hide your face from me?
How long must I bear pain in my soul
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?
How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?
Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!
Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,
and my enemy will say, "I have prevailed";
my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.
But I trusted in your steadfast love;
my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.
I will sing to the Lord
because he has dealt bountifully with me.*

Ephesians 6: 10-18

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power; put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, for our struggle is not against blood and flesh but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on the evil day and, having prevailed against everything, to stand firm. Stand, therefore, and belt your waist with truth and put on the breastplate of righteousness and lace up your sandals in preparation for the gospel of peace. With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

Response to Scripture:

Pray

Thanks be to God!

POEMS: "Buzz of Mosquito" *and* "Stings of Time"

REFLECTION: "Mosquitoes: Praying Through Hard Times"

ENCIRCLING PRAYER

WE RESPOND IN PRAYER AND ACTION

*HYMN OF RESPONSE: *VU #374 – "Come and Find the Quiet Centre"* (Murray/White)

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~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.**
- 2 Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,
God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.**

**3 In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!**

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 Hymn: VU #537 – "Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands"** (Laufer/Dougall)
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~Joanne Diplock

- 1 Your work, O God, needs many hands
to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve
unless our gifts we share.**
- 2 Because we love you and your work,
our offering now we make:
be pleased to use it as your own,
we ask for Jesus' sake.**

***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

**Spoken prayer*

**Silent prayer*

**Invitation to offer our stones*

**Spoken prayer*

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: #172 MV – "God Says"

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(Bittner)

~Joanne Diplock

- 1 God says, "Be still so you may hear
the words I whisper in your ear.
If you will listen you will know
I'm with you always where you go."
- 2 God says, "Look up and see the prize
I've placed here right before your eyes.
Find beauty in the things of earth,
a cause for wonder and rebirth."
- 3 God says, "Come here! I need your voice.
Please teach my people to rejoice.
In who you are, in what you do,
your life will show my love for you."
- 4 God says, "Reach out! The world's in need
and wants a word, a song, a deed.
I send you forth to speak, to sing,
to act for Christ in everything."

*CLOSING BLESSING for HARD TIMES

*As you go from this place,
may you be held in the hard places.
When life presses close,
when irritation rises,
when weariness lingers,
may you know you are not alone.*

**May our prayers be honest,
or sighs be heard,
and our spirits be gently sustained.
Even here,
You meet us. 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

"In the Garden"

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~Joanne Diplock