

North Kildonan United Church
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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.

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 21st, 2021

***Bold print** indicates a congregational response.*

WE GATHER IN COMMUNITY

WELCOME and ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

We acknowledge that we meet and work in Treaty 1 land, the traditional lands of the Anishinaabe, Cree and Dakota peoples, and the homeland of the Metis nation. We are thankful for these first inhabitants and we commit to working together towards justice, truth and reconciliation.

THE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

In Christian teaching and tradition, each Sunday is believed to be a little Easter, a weekly celebration of the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. So we light this candle, affirming that Christ is indeed the light of the world, our hope and our salvation. There is no other in whom we place our trust.

CALL TO WORSHIP

*The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it.*

Praise the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**O God, light of the hearts that see you,
life of the souls that love you,
strength of the thoughts that seek you:
to turn from you is to fall,
to turn to you is to rise,
to abide in you is to stand fast forever.
Although we are unworthy to approach you,
or to ask anything at all of you,
grant us your grace and blessing
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.**

PRELUDE:

#382 VU— "Breathe on Me, Breath of God"

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~ words by Suzanne Bidgrain

~ Michael McKay

As preparation for worship, today's Prelude invokes the Holy Spirit to change our way of life and to align our will with God's, as promised in the words of the Old Testament lesson: "I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts."

- 1 Breathe on me, breath of God,
fill me with life anew,
that I may love what thou dost love,
and do what thou wouldst do.**
- 2 Breathe on me, breath of God,
until my heart is pure,
until my will is one with thine,
to do and to endure.**

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.

**We confess that we have strayed from you
and turned aside from your way.**

**We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained,
and great when we are small.**

We have failed in love, neglected justice and ignored the truth.

Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.

Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Saviour.

Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Barb Welton (Thursday & on-line); Gay Todd (Sunday)*

Hebrew Scripture

Jeremiah 31: 31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, 'Know the LORD', for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Psalm

Psalm 119: 9-16

*How can young people keep their way pure? By guarding it according to your word.
With my whole heart I seek you; do not let me stray from your commandments.
I treasure your word in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.
Blessed are you, O LORD; teach me your statutes.
With my lips I declare all the ordinances of your mouth.
I delight in the way of your decrees as much as in all riches.
I will meditate on your precepts, and fix my eyes on your ways.
I will delight in your statutes; I will not forget your word.*

RESPONSE: *This is the word of God.*

Thanks be to God

The Gospel

John 12: 20-33

~Rev. Don Johnson

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, 'Sir, we wish to see Jesus.' Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, 'The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honour.

'Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say— "Father, save me from this hour"? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.' The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, 'An angel has spoken to him.' Jesus answered, 'This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.' He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

GOSPEL RESPONSE: *The Gospel of Christ.*

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: *"We Wish to see Jesus"*

~Rev. Don Johnson (see the attached sermon)

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

A New Creed

We are not alone; we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

who has created and is creating,

who has come in Jesus,

the Word made flesh,

to reconcile and make new,

who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

to celebrate God's presence,

to live with respect in Creation,

to love and serve others,

to seek justice and resist evil,

to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,

our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

PRAYERS & 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.

A FINAL PRAYER

~Angela Ashton

Lord, in these days of mercy, make us quiet and prayerful;

in these days of challenge, make us stronger in you;

in these days of emptiness, take possession of us;

in these days of waiting, open our hearts to the mystery of your cross.

Amen.

THE BLESSING

*God's blessing be yours, and well may it befall you;
Christ's blessing be yours, and well may you be treated;
the Spirit's blessing be yours, and well may you spend your lives,
each day that you rise up, each night that you lie down. Amen.*

POSTLUDE: #703 VU – **"In the Bulb There Is a Flower"** ~words by Natalie Sleeth
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In today's Gospel reading, Jesus consoles his disciples: his impending death will serve a higher purpose ("unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit"). The Postlude picks up on that sentiment, giving us a message of trust in God's providence: there are things presently "unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see". This is a message we can take with us through the week and throughout Lent and Holy Week.

**3 In our end is our beginning;
in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing;
in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection;
at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season,
something God alone can see.**