

North Kildonan United Church
174 Pentland St, Winnipeg, MB R2G 2S3
Church Office: 204-667-7408
email: nkuc@mymts.net
www.nkuc.ca



Minister: *Rev. Don Johnson*
(204)885-9879
Pianist/Choir Director: *Michael McKay*
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.

Sixth Sunday of Easter
May 9th, 2021
Christian Family Sunday

***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

*The light of Christ rises in glory,
overcoming the darkness of sin and death.*

PRELUDE: VU#395 - "Come In, Come In and Sit Down" ~ words & music by James K. Manley (Words reproduced & music played with permission under license #A-620529) ~Michael McKay

Come in, come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.

- 2 God is with us in this place,
like a mother's warm embrace.
We're all forgiven by God's grace,
for we are a part of the family. R

CALL TO WORSHIP

*Blessed be the name of the Lord,
now and evermore.*

**From the rising of the sun to its setting
the Lord's name be praised!**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

VU #557 ~Ruth Duck (1990)

**In you, O God, every family on earth receives its name.
Illumine the homes of this earth with the light of your love,
granting courage to those who are hurt or lonely,
endurance to those who care for sick family members,
and wisdom to those in fearful times of change.
We thank you for gifts of love we have received
from mother, father, spouse, child, or companion.
As we have been loved by you and by others, so may we love.
Grant us your peace, through Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

THE WORD OF GOD

SCRIPTURE READINGS: *Joan Knowles*

First Lesson

Psalm 98

*Sing to God a new song,
for God has done marvelous things.
Your right hand and your holy arm have brought victory.
You have made known your salvation,
and revealed before the nations your saving power.
You have remembered your steadfast love
and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen
the salvation of our God.
Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
break into joyous praise, sing psalms.
Sing psalms to God with the harp,
with the harp and melodious voice.
With trumpets, and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before our sovereign God.
Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world, and its inhabitants.
Let the rivers clap their hands,
the hills sing together for joy before God.
You come to judge the earth, O God,
to judge the world with righteousness,
and the peoples with equity.*

Epistle

1 John 5: 1-6

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. For the love of God is this,

that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.

RESPONSE: *This is the word of God.*

Thanks be to God

The Gospel

John 15: 9-17

~Rev. Don Johnson

As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

RESPONSE: *The Gospel of Christ.*

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: **"No Greater Love Than This"**

~Rev. Don Johnson (see the attached sermon)

WE RESPOND TO THE WORD

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Methodist Church, England

We believe in God the Father, who made the world.

We believe in Jesus Christ, his Son, who redeemed humankind.

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
who gives life to the people of 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 PRAYER FOR MOTHER'S DAY

(Angela Ashton)

**Thank you, God,
that you are tender as a mother,
as well as strong as a father.
You give us life,
and care for us
like a mother who will not forsake her children.
We pray for our mothers today,
putting them into your hands
for time and for eternity;
and we ask your blessing on all our relationships
in the families of our homes,
our churches,
and our communities. 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: VU#580 VU "Faith of Our Fathers"

~words by F. Faber & J.R. Alfred

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~Michael McKay

- 4 Faith born of God, O call us yet;
bind us with all who follow you,
sharing the struggle of your cross
until the world is made anew.
Faith born of God, O living faith,
we will be true to you till death.