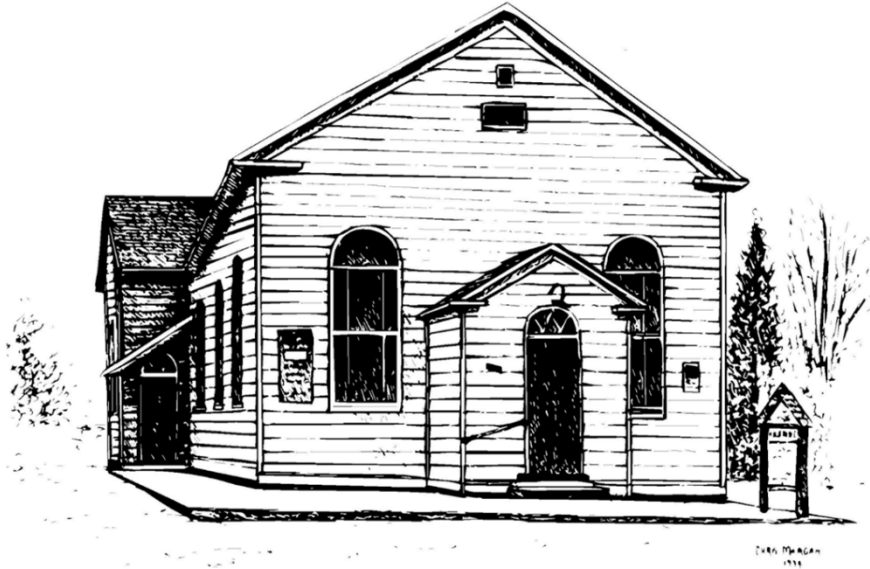


Kilbride United Church
165th Anniversary Service



October 19, 2025, 10am

The United Church of Canada

Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge

The decorations in the sanctuary this morning have been placed
in memory of Maureen Trenkler.

Worship Leader: Rev. M. Gayle MacDonald
Email: mgmacd@gmail.com; Cell: 289-442-8420
Music Leader: Dr. Heather Olaveson
Office Administrator: Andrea Osterroth McRae
Office: 905-689-8630



Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land

*Those who wish to do so are invited to stand for the Hymns and the Sending Forth/Benediction. Likewise, those who wish to do so are invited to respond aloud where indicated by **bold print**.*

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Gathering Music: MV 14 – Where Two or Three Are Gathered (repeat)

Words & Music: Bruce Harding 2002

*This track can be found on Cheryl and Bruce Harding's 2019 album **Like a Healing Stream**. Keep listening – eventually more voices are added to create a canon or round.*

Where Two or Three Are Gathered

Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.

Invitation to Worship:

For 16 1/2 decades there has been a gathering place, a centre for worship, a community of faith in this place.

For approximately 8 generations the faith has been shared and passed on.

At times the people who gathered here struggled, and at times they prospered, but always they gathered.

Because in community we can do more than we can do alone.

Because a burden shared is lighter than a burden carried alone.

Because love shared grows in the sharing.

For yesterday, today, and tomorrow, we give thanks, God of all our days.

Prayer of Approach:

May the stories we tell of yesterday become inspiration for tomorrow.

May the memories we celebrate today become a foundation for tomorrow.

Make us mindful of what we have received,
as well as mindful of what yet may be. Amen.

Kilbride United History: Helen Callaway

Hymn: The Church in the Wildwood

Words & Music: William S. Pitts

This Gaither Music TV recording spotlights singers Cynthia Clawson, Charlotte Ritchie, Wesley Pritchard, and George Younce. The hymn was composed in 1857 by William Pitts, a young American schoolteacher who later became a physician. To help pay his expenses at medical school, Pitts sold the rights to this hymn to a music publisher for \$25. While the lyrics describe a "little brown church," we at Kilbride like to change the colour to match our building's exterior!

Bill & Gloria Gaither - The Church in the Wildwood [Live]

There's a church in the valley by the wildwood,
No lovelier spot in the dale;
No place is so dear to my childhood,
As the little [white] church in the vale.

*Oh, come, come, come, come. . . .
Come to the church in the wildwood,
Oh, come to the church in the vale,
No spot is so dear to my childhood,
As the little [white] church in the vale.*

Oh, come to the church in the wildwood,
To the trees where the wild flowers bloom;
Where the parting hymn will be chanted,
We will weep by the side of the tomb. R

How sweet on a clear Sabbath morning,
To list to the clear ringing bell;
Its tones so sweetly are calling,
Oh, come to the church in the vale. R

From the church in the valley by the wildwood,
When day fades away into night,
I would fain from this spot of my childhood
Wing my way to the mansions of light. R

Prayer for Grace:

How lovely to remember our past with fondness! We are grateful for these memories.

Yet we admit that sometimes we can be stuck in what was. We long to re-create them at the cost of leaving little or no room for what is new or making it difficult for new people to relate.

We pray, God of all our days, that you grace us with the openness of heart that allows what is new and life-giving to meld with what is known and loved. Lead us to a faithful, grace-filled future. Amen.

Assurance of Grace:

The God who challenges us

is also the God who encourages us.

The God who confronts us is also the God who accepts us. Be assured that God is with us even now, accepting, guiding, and forgiving.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Special Music: *Flower Duet*

Composer: Leo Delibes

Performed by Lynda & Al Eady

Prayer for Illumination:

May the words of Scripture fall on fresh and eager ears. May the words we hear open our hearts and minds to your spirit at work within us and among us. Amen.

Readings from Our Christian Tradition

Psalms 121: *God watches over you*

121:1 I lift up my eyes to the hills – from where will my help come?

121:2 My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth.

121:3 He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber.

121:4 He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

121:5 The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand.

121:6 The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night.

121:7 The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

121:8 The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.

Gospel: Matthew 18:18-20

18-20 "Take this most seriously: A yes on earth is yes in heaven; a no on earth is no in heaven. What you say to one another is eternal. I mean this. When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, my Father in heaven goes into action. And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I'll be there."

Reflection

Special Music: *Autumn Leaves*

Composer: Joseph Kosma

Performed by Lynda & Al Eady

Prayers of the People & Prayer of Jesus:

Singing into Prayer: VU 400 – Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Words & Music: Ken Medema 1970

Ken Medema (b. 1943), an American singer-songwriter and pianist, performs his hymn with the Kingwood Methodist Chancel Choir during a worship service.

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying | Performed by Ken Medema

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

The Life and Work of the Church

Offering Prayer:

For all that makes our life together possible, we give you thanks. In gratitude for the blessings of faith and fellowship, we present from the abundance of our treasures. May all we offer bring your compassion and your justice to the world. Amen.

Offertory: MV 191 – What Can I Do?

The enthusiastic musicians of Golden Ears United perform Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy's offertory, arranged by Alan Whitmore in 2005.

MV 191 What Can I do

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

Hymn: VU 559 – Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Words: Robert Robinson 1758, alt.; Music: John Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II 1813

While authorship of both text and tune have been debated over the years, it is thought that the words to this hymn were penned by Robert Robinson (1735-1790) at the age of 22 after converting to Methodism. Robinson went on to become a preacher and scholar who published numerous theological and historical works. The hymn is performed by the Aeolians and University Choir at Oakwood University in Alabama, joined by guest musicians on harp, organ, and timpani.

Come Thou Fount

- 1 Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,

mount of God's unfailing love.

- 2 Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
precious presence, precious blood.
- 3 O, to grace how great a debtor
daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.

Commissioning & Benediction

Sung Sending Forth: VU 964 – Go Now In Peace (2x)

Words & Music: Natalie Sleeth 1976

Children and adult musicians from Highland United Methodist Church in Raleigh, North Carolina, prepared this virtual benediction during the pandemic, singing Natalie Sleeth's hymn in a three-part round.

[Go Now in Peace - Highland UMC](#)

Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere
you may go.

Online Postlude: The Church in the Wildwood

Please enjoy a couple more recordings of this gospel song: first is the 1932 vinyl recording of The Carter Family, an American folk/country music group that was active 1927-1956 and extremely influential in the development of bluegrass, country, southern gospel, and even early pop and rock music. Original members were Sara Carter, her husband A.P. Carter, and her sister-in-law and cousin Maybelle Carter. A second generation of The Carter Family and later a third generation revived the family band; June and Anita Carter, daughters of Maybelle, were members of the second generation. In the second video, these daughters are joined by June's husband Johnny Cash at an outdoor concert.

The Carter Family The Church In The WildWood - YouTube
June Carter Cash Church In The Wildwood



Please join us for fellowship and refreshments following the service.

Tickets for next Sunday's Afternoon Tea will be available after the service today. The Tea is in memory of Sharon Banks and is a fundraiser for our new water system.

Liturgy Credits:

By mgm except for Assurance of Grace which is from *Celebrate God's Presence*



Where Is It?

As you know, we have a resident "mouse" made by Debbie. Each Sunday it can be found in a new location. Well, it's been in the same place all summer until now. So, when you come in the church, look around. If you find the mouse, you can move it to a new location for the next Sunday.