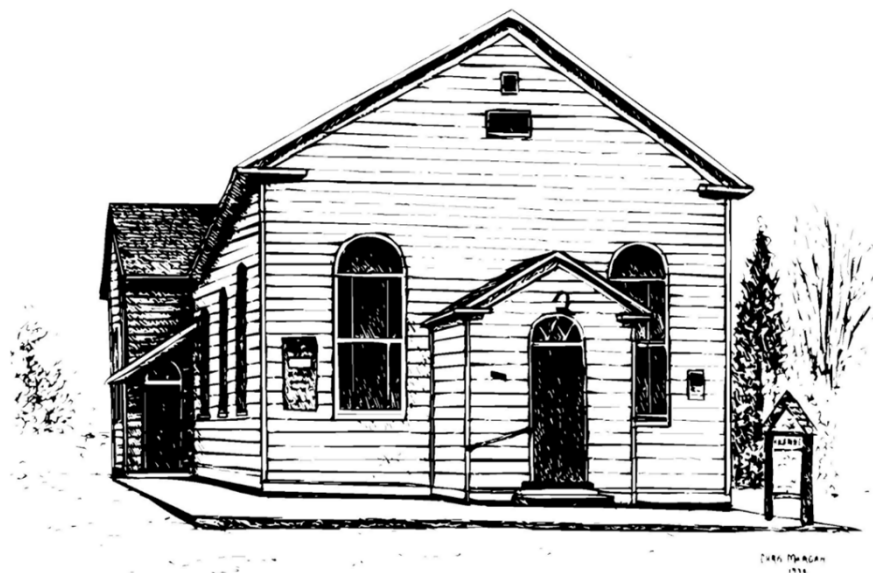


Kilbride United Church 166th Anniversary Service



The United Church of Canada Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge October 18, 2026 Kilbride United Church Anniversary Service

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*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**.*

Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Gathering Music: MV 8 – And On This Path

Words: Lynn Bauman 2000; Music: Linnea Good 2003

Lynn Bauman and Linnea Good's inclusive and welcoming hymn is given an energetic performance by the Journey Band in an arrangement by Jonathan Wong. Jon Wong and Chuck Kroeker lead this band from St Mary's Road United, an affirming church located on Treaty 1 territory in Winnipeg, the original lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene peoples as well as the homeland of the Métis Nation.

And on this Path

- 1 And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide!
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide! The gates are open wide!
- 2 So enter in – the gates of holiness are open wide,
so enter in – the gates of holiness are open wide,
so enter in – the gates of holiness are open wide!
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide! The gates are open wide!

Invitation to Worship: *(words excerpted and adapted from TLUS 113)*

So long ago they gathered in this place,
reached out in faith and built this holy space.
Laughter and tears and prayers have graced these walls,
in word and rite and sacrament we found
this humble place became your holy ground.

In memory and hope, we gather.

In gratitude and faith, we gather.

Come let us worship in this place.

Prayer of Approach: *(Celebrate God's Presence)*

Fit us, O God, for this new day.
Through your Spirit, grant us courage,
so that today's uncertainties may not overwhelm us.
Through your Christ, fill us with love,
so that differences may not divide us.
Through your creative energy, make us new,
so that the past may not enslave us.
Spirit, Christ, Creator, lead us into newness of life.
Amen.

Kilbride United History: Helen Callaway

Hymn: The Church in the Wildwood

Words & Music: William S. Pitts

This beloved gospel hymn is performed by Yimba Music, a six-member a cappella

gospel group from Uganda. Although we at Kilbride like to change the lyrics to match the colouring of our little *white* building, the original Little Brown Church in the Vale in Nashua, Iowa, tells the story of the hymn's composition: the young music teacher William Pitts only *imagined* a church in the charming setting when he wrote his poem "Church in the Wildwood" in 1857 and later set it to music. But several years later, a church was indeed built there . . . and coated with brown Ohio Mineral Paint, the cheapest paint available.

Church in the Wildwood – Official Acapella Rendition | Yimba Music

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 brown church in the vale.

*(Oh come, come, come, come....)
Come to the church in the wildwood,
oh, come to the church in the dale;
no spot is so dear to my childhood,
as the little [white] church in the vale.*

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

There, close by the church in the valley,
lies one that I loved so well;
she sleeps, sweetly sleeps, 'neath the willow;
disturb not her rest in the vale. R

There, close by the side of that loved one,
to trees where the wild flowers bloom,
when the farewell hymn shall be chanted
I shall rest by her side in the tomb. 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 recreate 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.

Response: MV 8 – And On This Path

Words: Lynn Bauman 2000; Music: Linnea Good 2003

[And on this Path](#)

1 And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,
and on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide!
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide! The gates are open wide!

2 So enter in – the gates of holiness are open wide,
so enter in – the gates of holiness are open wide,
so enter in – the gates of holiness are open wide!
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide! The gates are open wide!

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

Hebrew Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14 *The dry bones of Israel*

37:1 The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.

37:2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.

37:3 He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know."

37:4 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.

37:5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.

37:6 I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

37:7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

37:8 I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them.

37:9 Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live."

37:10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

37:11 Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.'

37:12 Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.

37:13 And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

37:14 I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act," says the LORD."

Gospel: John 21:1-8

21 After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. ²Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. ³Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will go with you." They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. ⁵Jesus said to them, "Children, you have no fish, have you?" They answered him, "No." ⁶He said to them, "Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some." So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. ⁷That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. ⁸But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

Reflection

Hymn: VU 509 – I, the Lord of Sea and Sky

Words & Music: Daniel L. Schutte 1981, alt.; harm. Michael Pope, Daniel L. Schutte, and John Weissrock 1983

The National Youth Choir of Scotland sing Dan Schutte's popular 1981 hymn, which has been translated into more than twenty languages. In 2013 the BBC's *Songs of Praise* conducted a national survey to vote for the UK's favourite hymns . . . and this one ranked #5 out of 100!

[The Lord of sea and sky by National Youth Choir of Scotland](#)

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin
my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?
*Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you need me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them;
they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? R

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them;
my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? R

Prayers of the People & Prayer of Jesus:

Sing into prayer: VU 400 – Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

The Marble Collegiate Church Choir in New York sings Ken Medema's piece in an arrangement by Kenneth Dake.

[Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying](#)

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

Special Music: Volare (Nel blu, dipinto di blu)

Composer: Domenico Modugno 1957

Performed by Lynda & Al Eady

Offertory: VU 544 – In Gratitude and Humble Trust

Words: Frank von Christerson 1960, alt.; Music: English traditional melody, harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams 1905

FOREST GREEN is an English folk tune not only used for this offertory, but also sometimes for the carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem." This lovely newer arrangement by Dale Wood is performed by organist John Ferguson and the St Olaf Handbell Choir. Forest Green "O Little Town of Bethlehem" (Arr. D. Wood for Organ & Handbells)

In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

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.

Hymn: VU 602 – Blest Be the Tie That Binds

Words: John Fawcett 1782, alt.; Music: attrib. Johann G. Nägeli 1728, arr. Lowell Mason 1845

While she uses John Fawcett's 1782 words, American singer-songwriter and recording artist Sara Groves sets them to completely new music in this intimate video recording. Over her 25+ career, Groves has produced 15 albums and has shone her light into her St Paul's, Minnesota, community through Art House North. Since 2011 Sara and her husband Troy Groves have jointly run this unique community art centre designed "to foster Creative Community for the Common Good." As they state, "We believe that beauty matters, and that community really matters, and when the two are joined, there is a renewal of faith and hope, a sense of belonging and shared humanity."

Sara Groves - Blessed Be the Tie

- 1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love;
 the unity of heart and mind is like to that above.
- 2 Before our Maker's throne we pour our ardent prayers;
 our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our comforts and our cares.
- 3 We share each other's woes, each other's burdens bear;

and often for each other flows the sympathizing tear.

- 4 This glorious hope revives our courage on the way;
that we shall live in perfect love in God's eternal day.

Commissioning & Benediction

Postlude/Special Music: Summer Side of Life

Composer: Gordon Lightfoot 1971

Performed by Lynda & Al Eady

Many thanks to Lynda and Al Eady for graciously sharing their musical talents with us on this special anniversary Sunday.

Online Postlude: Good Morning Jesus

Here is another tune from Yimba Music. "Yimba" means "sing" in several Bantu (African) languages, which certainly fits this a cappella vocal ensemble! Yimba Music was founded in 2019 by a group of young Seventh-day Adventists that perform gospel and inspirational music.

[Good Morning Jesus | YIMBA MUSIC](#)



Please join us for fellowship & refreshments following the service.

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.