

Kincardine United Church

3rd Sunday of Easter

April 23, 2023 11:00 a.m.

Bold print in the bulletin invites you to say the words.

*An asterisk in the bulletin indicates you may sit or stand.

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PRELUDE

Passacaglia

André Raison

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

(Slightly modified from the one used at Saugeen Wesley United Church)

For thousands of years,

First Nations people have lived on this land and by these waters;
this relationship is at the centre of their lives and spirituality.

**We are gathered as a non-Indigenous community of faith
on the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation,
and acknowledge their stewardship through the ages.**

We seek to live together in respect, friendship and peace.

Jesus calls us into the world to love one another as we are loved by God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

GOD GATHERS US

MUSICAL INTROIT

Prelude

William Harris

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

As God's good Creation emerges from winter sleep, Come.

We come to embrace dreams of new life as we walk the Way of the risen Christ – together.

As the grass continues to green, as trees come into bud,

as daffodils peek through the soil and as birds return to serenade the sunrise, Come.

We come to stretch into the wonder of possibility, the hope of mystical insight.

As we yearn for insight and for meaning in life, we pray:

Open our perceptions to love and to self-giving alive within us, O God.

Teach us to avoid assumptions and to embrace what gives life and joy.

Free us to embrace the gift of relationship with our neighbours and with all Creation.

**Compose the melody of harmony and of justice that we may sing with passion,
we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

***VOICES UNITED 173** Thine Is the Glory

SHARING TIME God's Dream by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and what shall be.

Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,

now and for ever. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

A CREATION PSALM *Written by Gord during a workshop on environmental stewardship
while living at the Iona Abbey and referring to some Scottish landscape features.*

Praise God, Creator of all that is:

of quantum entanglements and stellar clusters;

of whales and plankton and oceans alive;

of rats in their burrows and sky eagles soaring over folded landscapes;

of tectonic plates constantly moving and jet streams of atmospheric current;

of my neighbour, my enemies, my humanity reflected.

Lift my eyes, my ears, my will, O God.

Open my self to your incarnation within your good Creation.

Let me sing to the awesome wonder of your weaving,

that I may perceive my place within your integrated whole.

Humble my arrogance.

Dispel my hubris.

Enter my heart and strengthen my will,

for I despair there are too many challenges when caring for your Creation.

**Let me know, in all I do, in all I say, in all I live, in all I love,
that my life - all life - depends upon you.**

Plant your seeds of sustainability through wisdom shared, cultivated and harvested.

Germinate your seeds of possibility within me,

that I may plant those same seeds in my neighbours, in my enemies, in all humanity.

Praise you, O God, for the beauty of your blossoms,

the fruit bursting with the sweetness of your Creation's stewardship.

Praise you, O God, for all our relations.

VOICES UNITED 186

Now the Green Blade Rises (*verse 1 only*)

BIBLE READING Luke 24:13-18 in the New Testament

¹³ Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?"

VOICES UNITED 186

Now the Green Blade Rises (*verse 2 only*)

BIBLE READING Luke 24:19-23 in the New Testament

¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him."

VOICES UNITED 186

Now the Green Blade Rises (*verse 3 only*)

BIBLE READING Luke 24:25-31 in the New Testament

²⁵ Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day

is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight.

VOICES UNITED 186 Now the Green Blade Rises (*verse 4 only*)

BIBLE READING Luke 24:32-35 in the New Testament

³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

DOXOLOGY #89 More Voices (*verse 4 only*)

**Love is the Maker and Spirit and son;
love is the kingdom their will has begun;
love is the path which the saints all have trod;
God is where love is, for love is of God.**

PRAYER BEFORE REFLECTION

REFLECTION “Cross Roads”

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

ANTHEM Anxious for Nothing. Joe E Parks

WHY THIS COMMUNITY OF FAITH?

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*in unison*)

**Take these fruits of our labour, O God, take us and our loving,
take us and how we share our talents,
blessing it all for your mission in the world.
May we be transformed in our giving in and for love. Amen.**

***MORE VOICES 176** Three Things I Promise

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT Lead Me, God # 662 *Voices United*

**Lead me, God, lead me in your righteousness;
make your way plain before my face.**

**For it is you, and you, God only,
who makes me to dwell in safety.**

POSTLUDE

Toccata in e minor

J. Pachelbell