

Kincardine United Church

4th Sunday of Easter

April 21, 2024 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.

Kincardine United Church

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PRELUDE

Liebster Jesu BWV 731

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

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

As we came to this land,

First Nations peoples welcomed us, sustained us and taught us.

We did not hear them when they shared their vision.

**In our zeal to tell them the good news of Jesus Christ,
we were closed to the value of their spirituality.**

We confused Western ways and culture

with the depth, breadth, length and height of the gospel of Christ.

We imposed our civilization as a condition of accepting the gospel.

As a result, the image of the Creator in us is twisted, blurred,

and we are not what we are meant by God to be.

**In our journey toward reconciliation, we acknowledge, this day,
that we gather for worship**

on the traditional territories of the Saugeen Ojibway,

as well as the other indigenous peoples who preceded them –

**the original nations of this land – and we acknowledge, with respect,
their history, their spirituality, and their culture.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

GOD GATHERS US

INTROIT

Prelude (Op. 21. No. 7)

Gustav Merkel

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

No matter who you are, from where you come, how you identify, welcome!

We come to cherish the wonderful diversity of God's good Creation.

Welcome with all your life experiences, with all your unique perspectives,
with all your joys and with all your struggles.

We gather as one

to hear our names spoken with love and affirmation by the risen Christ.

In all our rainbow variety, let us pray:

There are times, O God, when we wonder about our purpose in life.

We long for meaning that enlivens us.

There are so many things we don't understand,

so many aspects of our own selves with which we wrestle,

so many conflicts from which we want to hide,

so many demands overwhelming us.

Hold us by the Spirit, we pray, as we rest silently in your embrace.

(Silent prayer)

We breathe deeply in gratitude, O God, for now we are centred in you.

Thank you for the gift of mystery in you and in life.

Wonder, awe and gratitude springs from holy mystery as we sing. Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 232**

Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

SHARING TIME

My Shadow Is Purple written and illustrated by Scott Stuart

THE LORD'S PRAYER

God within us, God beyond us, God among us,

may the Mystery always be named and known

among all peoples and in all times.

May Creation give way to the rule of love and the power of life.

Satisfy our hunger, granting us a hunger to see the whole world fed.

Restore us to right relationship

with you, with Creation, with others, with ourselves.

Strengthen us to reject all that would lead us away from you.

Come to us when we choose death over life.

Give us courage to follow your call in this moment.

For in your love we find the only power,

the only home, the only honour we will ever need,

in this life and the life to come. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

BIBLE READING

Acts 8:26-31 from *The Message*

²⁶⁻²⁸ Later God's angel spoke to Philip: "At noon today I want you to walk over to that desolate road that goes from Jerusalem down to Gaza." He got up and went. He met an Ethiopian eunuch coming down the road. The eunuch had been on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem and was returning to Ethiopia, where he was minister in charge of all the finances of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians. He was riding in a chariot and reading the prophet Isaiah.

²⁹⁻³⁰ The Spirit told Philip, "Climb into the chariot." Running up alongside, Philip heard the eunuch reading Isaiah and asked, "Do you understand what you're reading?"

³¹⁻³³ He answered, "How can I without some help?" and invited Philip into the chariot with him.

***KNOWN UNKNOWNNS 72 (Tune #213 VU)** The Love of God Comes Close

- 1. The love of God comes close where stands an open door
to let the stranger in, to mingle rich and poor:
the love of God is here to stay embracing those who walk his way.**
- 2. The peace of God comes close to those caught in the storm,
forgoing lives of ease to ease the lives forlorn:
the peace of God is here to stay embracing those who walk his way.**
- 3. The joy of God comes close where faith encounters fears,
where heights and depth of life are found through smiles and tears:
the joy of God is here to stay embracing those who walk his way.**
- 4. The grace of God comes close to those whose grace is spent
where hearts are tired or sore and hope is bruised or bent:
the grace of God is here to stay embracing those who walk his way.**
- 5. The Son of God comes close where people praise his name,
where bread and wine are blessed and shared as when he came;
the Son of God is here to stay embracing those who walk his way.**

BIBLE READING Acts 8:31-39 from the New Testament

³¹⁻³³ He answered, "How can I without some help?" and invited Philip into the chariot with him. The passage he was reading was this:

As a sheep led to slaughter,
and quiet as a lamb being sheared,
He was silent, saying nothing.

He was mocked and put down, never got a fair trial.
But who now can count his kin
since he's been taken from the earth?

³⁴⁻³⁵ The eunuch said, "Tell me, who is the prophet talking about: himself or some other?" Philip grabbed his chance. Using this passage as his text, he preached Jesus to him.

³⁶⁻³⁹ As they continued down the road, they came to a stream of water. The eunuch said, "Here's water. Why can't I be baptized?" He ordered the chariot to stop. They both went

down to the water, and Philip baptized him on the spot. When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of God suddenly took Philip off, and that was the last the eunuch saw of him. But he didn't mind. He had what he'd come for and went on down the road as happy as he could be.

DOXOLOGY 104 MV (*sung twice*) "Know That God Is Good"

**Know that God is good, know that God is good,
know that God is good, God is good, God is good.**

PRAYER BEFORE REFLECTION

REFLECTION "Nosey Parker or Peter Parker?"

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

ANTHEM I Will Arise and Go to Jesus
Early American Folk Hymn arranged by Susan Byler.

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We offer to you, O God, the ways we are connected to one another:
the money we use to care for each other,
the relationships we grow and strengthen by loving others,
the time and talent that flavours our living and our giving,
our following the Way of Jesus to transform the world.**

May you bless all we offer for your purpose by the power of the Spirit. Amen.

***MORE VOICES 145** Draw the Circle Wide

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT (*sung twice*) "Go Now in Peace" # 964 *Voices United*
**Go now in peace, go now in peace.
May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.**

POSTLUDE Concerto on Praise to The Lord, The Almighty Paul Fey