

Kincardine United Church

4th Sunday of Easter

April 30, 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

Four Preludes, No. 3

J. C. Kittel

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

As we gather for worship, we acknowledge that we are gathered
on the traditional territory of First Nations Peoples –

Peoples who have lived on this land and by these waters for thousands of years.

We gather as a non-Indigenous community of faith

**on the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibwe Nation,
giving gratitude for their stewardship through the ages.**

We are newcomers to this land and we have gained so much in coming.

Our gain, however, has come at a great cost to First Nations Peoples.

We acknowledge that we have gained much within racist systems of our creation,
systems which have benefitted those who are white, Christian and heterosexual.

**Our acknowledgement is only the beginning of our journey toward reconciliation,
toward healing of all our relations with those we have belittled in this culture.**

Our words must now be followed up with action.

We pray the Holy Spirit breathes forgiveness, hope and love

into all our relations and sets us free from the evil of colonialism.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

GOD GATHERS US

MUSICAL INTROIT

Four Preludes, No. 4

J. C. Kittel

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

Come into this worship space during April rains to discover God's rainbow promise.

We come to understand and to know, to make the right choices in living as we walk in faith.

Come, instead, for relationships and for love transformed *because* of suffering.

We come, but we're not sure we want to suffer.

Isn't there another path to deeply connect with God?

Come during this season of Easter, the season of resurrection that transformed the cross.

We come, but we need guidance and strength on this path of becoming.

Come, then, as we pray:

God who is Love, calm our heartbeats, deepen our breathing, still our minds.

Open us to your presence within and without, freeing us through our silent contemplation.

(Silent prayer)

Thank you, God, for the gift of time spent with you.

**Thank you for all the gifts you freely bestow – both suffering and love –
for they weave complexity and beauty in life. Amen.**

***VOICES UNITED 227** For the Fruit of All Creation

SHARING TIME "How We Say I Love You" by Nicole Chen and illustrated by Lenny Wen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

O Cosmic Birther of all radiance and vibration!

Soften the ground of our being and carve out a space within us

where your presence can abide.

Fill us with your creativity,

so that we may be empowered to bear the fruit of your mission.

Let each of our actions bear fruit in accordance with your desire.

Endow us with the wisdom to produce and share

what each being needs to grow and flourish.

Untie the tangled threads of destiny that bind us,

as we release others from the entanglement of past mistakes.

Do not let us be seduced by that which would divert us from our true purpose,

but illuminate the opportunities for the present moment.

For you are the ground and fruitful vision – the birth, power and fulfilment,

as all is gathered and made whole again.

May the Lord bless, protect us and bring us to the fullness of life. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

BIBLE READING 1st Peter 2:19-25 in the New Testament

¹⁹ For it is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. ²⁰ If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

²² "He committed no sin,
and no deceit was found in his mouth."

²³ When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.

***MORE VOICES 89** Love Is the Touch (*verses 1-3 only*)

BIBLE READING Acts 2:42-47 in the New Testament

⁴³ Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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 "Quirks and Quarks"

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

ANTHEM On Eagle's Wings by Michael Joncas and arranged by Edwin Earl Ferguson

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(in unison)*

Bless these gifts we offer, O God,

that they may transform suffering into compassion,

that they may weave us more closely to our neighbours,

that they may open our hearts to become ever more self-giving, in Jesus' name.

Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 713** I See a New Heaven

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

Tuba Tune

Paul Fey