

# Kincardine United Church

## 5th Sunday of Lent

April 6th, 2025 11:00 a.m.

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

*Kincardine United Church*

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**PRELUDE** Precious Lord, Take My Hand *arr. David Hamilton*

### **WELCOME**

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND**

We acknowledge the Traditional Territory of the Anishinabek Nation.

**The People of the Three Fires known as Ojibway, Odawa and Pottawatomie Nations.**

We further give thanks to the Chippewas of Saugeen, and the Chippewas of Nawash –now known as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation –as the traditional keepers of this land.

**Our thanks compel us to live fully into our journey of reconciliation – a seven-generation process of intentional listening and learning.**

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

**Therefore, we commit ourselves to follow Jesus' calling us into the world, loving one another as we are loved by God.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## GOD GATHERS US

**INTROIT**    God Will Take Care of You    *arr. David Hamilton*

### **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

### **LENTEN LITURGY**

#### **Donna Mowry: Entering the Sacred Space**

When we arrived this morning, we stepped into the familiar bustle of a Sunday church service—friends greeting one another, choir members preparing, children filling the space with energy and excitement. Now that we are gathered together in the pews, I invite you to close your eyes and settle into this moment.

#### **Shirley Steele: Reflecting on Sanctuary**

Consider the word *sanctuary*. A sanctuary is a place set apart for sacred things, a space of refuge and protection. This very room is a sanctuary. And beyond these walls, the season of Lent itself is a kind of sanctuary—an extended space in time for reflection, renewal, and transformation.

#### **Kathy Chant: The Sanctuary Within**

But Lent teaches us something deeper: *You* are also a sanctuary. Within you, there is a sacred space, a place where God dwells. In this season, may you come to know that holy space within yourself—where God abides, where you are held, and where transformation begins.

*(Silent time.)*

**Shirley Steele:** As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of war and oppression in the world.

*(A candle is extinguished.)*

**HYMN VU 121** (fifth verse only) God of all our fear and sorrow, God who lies beyond our death; hold us close through each tomorrow, love as near as every breath, love as near as every breath.

Let us pray:

**Loving God, we open our hearts to you. We invite you into our inmost being, only to find you already there. Strengthen us in our quiet places and then lead us into the work of justice and peace. Amen.**

## PRAYER OF APPROACH

We now come together in prayer:

**Gracious God,**

**As we gather today, we open our hearts to Your healing presence. Just as the prodigal son returned home to Your embrace, we too come to You with repentance and hope. Help us to see with Your eyes, to love with Your heart, and to live as Your reconciled children. May we trust in Your forgiveness, just as You forgave us, and find our true belonging in Your eternal grace. Guide us in this season of Lent to walk in Your light, to surrender our hearts, and to experience the fullness of Your love. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.**

**HYMN VU 149** When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

## PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord Our Father, we confess to you on this last Sunday of Lent.

**This week is about rending our hearts, and our hearts are heavy.**

Our call to confession and repentance is never complete.

**Jesus, who sat at the table with outcasts and sinners, we confess that our words and actions are inconsistent with our beliefs too often.**

Often, we ignore the needy, show indifference to the lonely, and reject those who seem different from us.

**Lord, you know we constantly need renewal and recommitment; forgive us, we pray.**

Lord, You have told us that the critical goal of our Lenten practice here is the development of habits that shape our hearts.

**Open our hearts. Empower us in love and acceptance.**

(Silent Prayer)

## ASSURANCE OF GRACE

**SHARING TIME** Lenten Journey with Mother Mary

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*Sing Together*) VU 960

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

### **GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION:** Lord, open our hearts and minds as we hear Your Word today. Illuminate the scriptures with Your wisdom and understanding. May Your Holy Spirit guide us, revealing the truth You have for us, and strengthen our faith to live according to Your will. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS (CEV): John 12: 1-8** <sup>12</sup> Six days before Passover Jesus went back to Bethany, where he had raised Lazarus from death. <sup>2</sup> A meal had been prepared for Jesus. Martha was doing the serving, and Lazarus himself was there.

<sup>3</sup> Mary took a very expensive bottle of perfume and poured it on Jesus' feet. She wiped them with her hair, and the sweet smell of the perfume filled the house.

<sup>4</sup> A disciple named Judas Iscariot was there. He was the one who was going to betray Jesus, and he asked, <sup>5</sup> "Why wasn't this perfume sold for 300 silver coins and the money given to the poor?" <sup>6</sup> Judas did not really care about the poor. He asked this because he carried the moneybag and sometimes would steal from it.

<sup>7</sup> Jesus replied, "Leave her alone! She has kept this perfume for the day of my burial. <sup>8</sup> You will always have the poor with you, but you won't always have me."

**HYMN VU 16** Mary, Woman of the Promise

**SCRIPTURE READINGS (CEV):**

**Philippians 3:7-14** <sup>7</sup> But Christ has shown me that what I once thought was valuable is worthless. <sup>8</sup> Nothing is as wonderful as knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have given up everything else and count it all as garbage. All I want is Christ <sup>9</sup> and to know that I belong to him. I could not make myself acceptable to God by obeying the Law of Moses. God accepted me simply because of my faith in Christ. <sup>10</sup> All I want is to know Christ and the power that raised him to life. I want to suffer and die as he did, <sup>11</sup> so that somehow, I also may be raised to life.

## Running toward the Goal

<sup>12</sup> I have not yet reached my goal, and I am not perfect. But Christ has taken hold of me. So I keep on running and struggling to take hold of the prize. <sup>13</sup> My friends, I don't feel I have already arrived. But I forget what is behind, and I struggle for what is ahead. <sup>14</sup> I run toward the goal, so I can win the prize of being called to heaven. This is the prize God offers because of what Christ Jesus has done.

**DOXOLOGY MV 104** (sung 2X) "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.**

**MEDITATION** Mary Moments

### GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

**COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

**ANTHEM** Go Make a Difference *Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek*

**OFFERTORY INVITATION & PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**HYMN VU 560** O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

**BENEDICTION**

**SONG OF COMMITMENT** VU #964 (sung 2X)  
"Go Now in Peace"

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

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**POSTLUDE** Go Make a Difference *arr. David Hamilton*