

Kincardine United Church

13th Sunday after Pentecost, & Communion

August 27, 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

I Call to Thee

Marcel Dupré

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

Interlude

J. C. Kittel

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

Life comes at us fast and hard, challenging us to keep loving.

That's why we come to worship:

**to be reminded of God's amazing grace,
to give thanks and praise for the abundance of God's gifts,
to learn new ways of transforming ourselves and the world.**

You're willing to say all of that, even in the midst of rapidly changing circumstances?

We come because we are rooted in God's never-ending love.

We come to be renewed and to be inspired.

What more can be said? Let us chat with God in prayer:

Thank you, O God, for giving us a path for wholeness through the Way of Jesus.

**Our gratitude overflows to know that you love us enough to shape us,
to place us on the potter's wheel of your grace for our becoming.**

While we often avoid change,

our trust in you is deep enough to appreciate how we grow in your hands.

Continue to teach us by the power of your Spirit, we pray. Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 378** Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart

SHARING TIME "Thank You and Good Night" by Jon Gordon and illustrated by Donald Wallace

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Lord's Prayer translated from Aramaic directly into English rather than from Aramaic to Greek to Latin to English:

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 our 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 of the present moment.**

**For you are the ground and the fruitful vision, the birth, power, and fulfillment,
as all is gathered and made whole once again.**

And so it is!

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

BIBLE READING Exodus 1:13-22 in the Old Testament

¹³ The Egyptians subjected the Israelites to hard servitude ¹⁴ and made their lives bitter with hard servitude in mortar and bricks and in every kind of field labor. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them. ¹⁵ The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, ¹⁶ “When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women and see them on the birthstool, if it is a son, kill him, but if it is a daughter, she shall live.” ¹⁷ But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. ¹⁸ So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this and allowed the boys to live?” ¹⁹ The midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.” ²⁰ So God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very strong. ²¹ And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. ²² Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, “Every son that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every daughter live.”

***VOICES UNITED 670**

Precious Lord, Take My Hand

BIBLE READING Exodus 2:1-8 in the Old Testament

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. ² The woman conceived and bore a son, and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him three months. ³ When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. ⁴ His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him. ⁵ The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. ⁶ When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. “This must be one of the Hebrews’ children,” she said. ⁷ Then his sister said to Pharaoh’s daughter, “Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?” ⁸ Pharaoh’s daughter said to her, “Yes.” So the girl went and called the child’s mother.

DOXOLOGY Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

PRAYER BEFORE REFLECTION

REFLECTION “Drifting on a Prayer”

GOD INVITES US TO TABLE

INVITATION

Come to this table – Christ’s table – which is set to welcome each and all of us.

We give thanks for that unconditional invitation.

No one is refused at Christ’s table.

We gather around this table with anticipation and joy.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give God our thanks and our praise.

It is right to give God our thanks and our praise.

We bless you, O God, who has given us life and for the wonders of creation.

We thank you for the richness of the fields,
for the power of growth and the goodness we gain
from crops and other products we are able to produce
for ourselves and for a hungry world.

**We give thanks for the miracle of seed and germination, growth and ripening;
for the abundance of water and good air;
for the progress of the seasons,
and the skills and talents with which you have endowed us.**

We thank you for the abundance we enjoy –
abundance which allows us and encourages us,
demanding that we share our plenty with others.

**Thank you, O God, for the food we eat and the friends with whom we share it,
for the love and care of families and for all the joys we share.**

We thank you, O God, who has given us life - an abundant life!

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND FRACTION

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

We thank you, O God, for the gifts of friends and family,
and for the relationships we treasure.

There is nourishment for our hearts in those connections.

We lift to you the names of those for whom we care, trusting in your healing power.

We pray for all those living with illness, or injury, or disease,
thankful that your Spirit guides them, strengthens them and holds them.

We pray for all those convalescing at home after surgery and those getting ready for surgery,
grateful for your calming, strengthening presence as they wait.

We pray for all those we hold in our hearts, lifting them to you in silent prayer or spoken aloud.
(Silent prayer)

PRAYER FOR THE SPIRIT'S BLESSING

Let us continue our prayer aloud:

As we gather at Christ's table, feed us, O God, with food for our souls.

**Through this bread and through this grape juice,
may your blessings flow,**

**taking what we say and do here as our communion in and through you,
uniting us as one by the Spirit's power.**

We pray that this may be so as we share your self-giving in sacrament. Amen.

PARTAKING

If you are worshipping at home, please take the bread and beverage you have prepared and partake.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray, once more, together:

Thank you, O Christ, for making us new at your table.

Thank you, gracious God, for loving us into wholeness.

Thank you, O Spirit, for empowering us to live always in gratitude. Amen.

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

ANTHEM I Know Who Holds Tomorrow by Ira Stanphill

Solo by Diane Henkenhaf

OFFERING INVITATION

MEMORIAL LEGACY TREE DEDICATION *(in unison)*

Thank you, God of abundance, for your gifts of time, of talent and of treasure.

Bless what we return to you for your mission in the world:

whether through our regular offerings,

whether through bequests in our wills,

whether through arranging an annuity,

whether through a percentage of our life insurance,

whether through RRSPs, RRIFs or TFSAs –

bless all that we return by way of a legacy of generosity.

When we give as a sign of our gratitude for your presence in our lives,

may you bless our journeying on the Way of Jesus. Amen.

***MORE VOICES 144** Like a Healing Stream

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT #150 *(Verse 4 only) More Voices*

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.

Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.

Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn...

Spirit God, be our song.

POSTLUDE Prelude in F major

BWV 556

J. S. Bach