

Kincardine United Church
14th Sunday after Pentecost & Communion
August 29th 2021 10:30 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 "Paradise" by Coldplay ...arrangement by Nathan Williams

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 Prelude *J. C. Kittel*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

If you are carrying the stresses and strains of living in a complex world,

if you feel at times like God has abandoned you,
find the heartbeat of God's divine mystery within our gathering.
 If you are puzzled by the choices your neighbours or family members make,
 if you are wondering how to make your own choices with so many options,
come and discover the voice of Christ speaking wholeness to our hearts.
 Come in communion with God within us, God beyond us and God among us,
 growing into restorative relationship through prayer:
**Powerful Spirit, who breathes us into freedom and insight,
 guide us on the Way of Jesus.
 May we find zeal for faithfulness.
 Enflame our trust in you that we proclaim the good news.
 Strengthen us in the challenge of your call through the gift of loving. Amen.**

***VOICES UNITED 375** Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Silent prayer*)

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

BIBLE READING James 1:17-27 in the New Testament page 229.

¹⁷ Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. ¹⁸ In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures. ¹⁹ You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; ²⁰ for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. ²¹ Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. ²² But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. ²³ For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; ²⁴ for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. ²⁵ But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. ²⁶ If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. ²⁷ Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

***MORE VOICES 173 (verses 1-3 only)** Put Peace into Each Other's Hands

BIBLE READING Mark 7:1-8, 14-15 from the New Testament page 42.

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, ² they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. ³ (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; ⁴ and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) ⁵ So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶ He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honours me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
7 in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

8 You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." 14 Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: 15 there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile."

DOXOLOGY Love Is the Touch #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.**

MEDITATION Failure's Fruit

GOD INVITES US TO THE TABLE

ANTHEM Psalm of Quietness

Words and Music: John F. Wilson; Choral arrangement. by Jack Schrader

*How quiet is the night, how pleasant is the day;
in the midst of the rush, there's a calm and peaceful hush that comes my way.*

It's the presence of the Lord –

I feel his holy pow'r day and night, every moment, every hour.

How quiet is the night (how quiet is the night),

how pleasant is the day (how pleasant is the day);

in the midst of the rush, there's a calm and peaceful hush that comes my way.

It's the presence of the Lord (of the Lord),

I feel his holy pow'r day and night, every moment, every hour.

*What a peaceful feeling comes up on me when I kneel before my Lord and Saviour. In the midst of
all my busy day's activity,*

I can know the very presence, the presence of the Lord.

How quiet is the night (how quiet is the night);

how pleasant is the day (how pleasant is the day);

in the midst of the rush, there's a calm and peaceful hush that comes my way.

It's the presence of the Lord (of the Lord),

I feel his holy pow'r day and night, every moment.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

*It's the presence of the Lord I feel his holy pow'r day and night, every moment,
every hour; day and night, every moment, every hour.*

INVITATION

The risen Christ invites us to this table –

a table for gathering, a table for community and a table for transformation.

This table is not Kincardine United Church's table, but the table Christ sets for us all.

We come to Christ's table seeking belonging and becoming.

Jesus' invitation is for ALL of us, whether digitally connected or here in person.

This table is open to all who wish to partake,

to all who wish to explore following the Way of Jesus.

We come as a community of faith – people who believe the one we call Christ.

CALL TO GIVE THANKS

May God be with us.

God is here among us.

Let us open our hearts to God.

We open them to God and to one another.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THANKSGIVING

We thank you, God, Creator of us all;

from the beginning you made the world and all its creatures.

You made people to live for you and for one another.

We praise you, O God.

In your good Creation:

you gifted Adam and Eve with the garden,

you showed Noah a rainbow covenant,

you pushed Moses to free a people and taught Miriam to dance and sing,

you gave courage to Esther and loyalty to Ruth,

you gave David a harp to sing your praise and confidence to defeat a giant.

We praise you, O God.

You sent Jesus to the world to show how much you love us,

endeavouring to bring us back to you again.

We praise you, O God.

Jesus came as one of us, first an infant, then a child, later a youth, then an adult.

He rejoiced with those who rejoiced and wept with those who wept.

To the despairing, he spoke a word of hope.

To the sick, he gave healing.

To the hurting, he was a friend and companion.

We praise you, O Christ.

Still people turned from you, betraying Jesus and nailing him to a cross.

Even so, he rose from the grave – restored to transformed life –

that he might be with us and we with him: alive for evermore!

Therefore, with all the saints of every time and place,

we join the angels in their praise:

SONG OF CREATION 942 *Voices United* Communion Setting E

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might.

heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND FRACTION

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Just as Jesus gathered those who followed his Way,

so we gather as one, praying for our community of faith:

We open our hearts to you, O God, trusting in your compassion and faithfulness.

The challenges, delights and frustrations, the worries and celebrations –

both in our own lives and in the lives of our siblings in this family of faith –

we offer to you in the silence of our soul-deep connection in you.

(silent prayer)

Knowing that you listen carefully to each of us and to all of us,

we repeat a paraphrase of the words Jesus gave us to pray:

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

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION

We continue in prayer, seeking your Spirit's blessing:

By the power of the Holy Spirit resting upon us and within us,

may these gifts at table be touched and transformed,

becoming signs of life and love to one another and to the world. Amen.

***MORE VOICES 173 (verses 4a and 5a)** Put Peace into Each Other's Hands

PARTAKING

Please take the bread and beverage you have prepared and partake.

If you have others with you, serve one another in love.

As you partake, remember the Way of Jesus as our own path of becoming.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us join together once more in prayer:

Loving God who heals us, though we live in a world of need,

here we have tasted your goodness and hungered for a world more just.

Though afflicted by brokenness and division,

here we have heard your call to be a people of healing community.

Though daily we touch our limits,
here we have received the fullness of your grace.
 May we live into this, our transformation,
in faith, in hope and in love. Amen.

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

Take what we offer this morning, O God:

take our caring for neighbours;

take our phone calls, texts and social media greetings with one another;

take all we offer this morning in word, in action and in donation,

blessing us and our giving in Jesus' name. Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 600** When I Needed a Neighbour

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT 150 MV (verse 4 only) Spirit God, Be Our Breath

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 "Speed of Sound" by Coldplay *...arrangement by Nathan Williams*