



**Kincardine United Church  
Advent 3  
December 16, 2018 10:30 a.m.**

Welcome. You bless us with your presence. If you are a first time worshipper, please sign our guest register at the front entrance of the church. Thank you for turning off your cell phones and for refraining from flash photography. Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the downstairs hall following the service.

**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, 721 Princes St. Kincardine ON, N2Z 0A3*

*Office hours: Tuesday through Friday from 1-4:30 p.m.*

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**PRELUDE** Carols

**WELCOME**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND**

For thousands of years, First Nations peoples have walked this land,  
weaving their identity and their spirituality intimately with the land.

**European colonisation came about in large part  
because of the Doctrine of Discovery –**

**a flawed understanding that ignores indigenous presence on the land.**

Affirming the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

and, therefore, repudiating the wrong of such a doctrine,

**we begin our worship this morning by acknowledging**

**the unceded territory of the Chippewas of Nawash First Nation,  
the Saugeen Ojibwe and, more recently, the Saugeen Metis.**

**We are all Treaty people,  
parties to the Upper Canada, Haldimand, Huron and Niagara Treaties.**

Keep us mindful of the covenants that have been made –  
and broken – with First Nations peoples.

**May we grow into living with respect on this land,  
walking into reconciliation through peace and friendship  
while honouring all who live, work and worship on it.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

#### GOD GATHERS US

INTROIT      Voluntary

Late 18<sup>th</sup> Century

#### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

Our Advent journey continues our time of celebration.

We celebrate the coming of the Christ child who turns the world upside down.

**We come to dance joyfully in anticipation of this season of new life,  
new life which challenges and guides, which comforts and confronts.**

Out of pain comes possibility; out of anguish comes transformation;

out of loneliness comes community; out of labour comes birth;

we come in joy but not to distract us from life's pains;

instead, joy emerges out of each disruption and within each disappointment.

**We come to heal one another in the midst of all life's challenges.**

We light the first candle reminding us of the way of hope.

*(the first Advent candle is lit)*

We light the second candle reminding us of Christ's path of peace.

*(the second Advent candle is lit)*

We light our third candle which dances in joy even as it burns.

*(the third Advent candle is lit)*

**(we sing) A candle is burning, a candle of joy,  
a candle to welcome brave Mary's new boy.  
Our hearts fill with wonder, and eyes light and glow  
as joy brightens winter like sunshine on snow.**

Let us join as one community of faith in prayer:

**We come to worship as we hold images of the baby Jesus in our mind's eye,  
O God.**

**We imagine the boundless love pouring out for this child,  
just as we imagine the colicky nights and the diapering days.**

**Teach us to stop drawing boundaries between joy and labour,  
allowing us to lean into the wholeness and complexity of life.**

**Bless us this morning with an openness to all of life's realities,  
knowing we are never alone in the struggle nor in the celebration. Amen.**

\*VOICES UNITED 36 Angels, from the Realms of Glory

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(based on Philippians 4:8-9)*

It's getting closer and closer to Christmas, to the stories we know so well.

Now is the time to open our hearts to our vulnerable God,

sharing our own soul-stories in confession as we pray:

**Loving, living God, we long for honour, for justice, for purity.**

We yearn to please you with commendable, excellent discipleship.  
 We ache for your call to walk Christ's path of teaching and of self-giving.  
 Read freely the stories of our selves that we may become whole.

*(Silent Prayer)*

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE** *(based on Philippians 4:4-7)*

**SHARING TIME** "Nanny's Journey"

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** *(say together)*

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**

**BIBLE READING** Isaiah 12:2-6 in the Old Testament on page 641

**\*VOICES UNITED 44** It Came upon a Midnight Clear

**BIBLE READING** Luke 3:7-18 in the New Testament on page 60

**DOXOLOGY 268 VU** Bring Many Names (verse 6 only)

Great, living God, never fully known, joyful darkness far beyond our seeing, closer yet than  
 breathing, everlasting home: Hail and hosanna, great, living God!

**MEDITATION** "Hippy Dippy, You Bet!"

**GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND**

**ANTHEM** The Angel Gabriel

**COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

**OFFERING INVITATION**

**OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)**

In humility we present our offerings to you, gracious God,  
 sharing your bounty with a world of inequity and of polarization.  
 May you bless these gifts for the healing of our divides,  
 blessings us to be joyful healers in your name. Amen.

**\*VOICES UNITED 49** No Crowded Eastern Street

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*SONG OF COMMITMENT MV 37 VU** Gloria

Glory to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!  
 Glory to God, glory to God, hallelujah, hallelujah!

**POSTLUDE** Trumpet Tune Bonduca

*Purcell*