



**Kincardine United Church
Advent 1 Communion Service
December 3, 2017 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.

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PRELUDE

WELCOME, ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

GOD GATHERS US

MUSICAL INTROIT Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

J. Brahms

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING

In this season of expectant waiting, we wonder
and we hope.

So many marvels. So much that confounds us. So much that is unique.
 So much richness. So many things we can touch, taste, smell, see, hear.
Hope rises within us.

Look at life abundant in growing complexities and with bewildering intricacies.
 Look at the variety! Look how they work together – connected.

Hope bubbles to the surface.

We bask in wonder at God’s creativity, at blessings showered abundantly –
while hope flames into promise.

(The first Advent Candle is lit)

SUNG RESPONSE “All the Wonder that Surrounds Us”

Words by Iona Community (used with permission) (tune #227 *Voices United*)

**All the wonder that surrounds us springs from God’s care:
 all that marvels or confounds us, raw, rich or rare;
 touch and texture, sights and voices, nature’s countless forms and choices:
 all for which the heart rejoices springs from God’s care.**

***VOICES UNITED** 2 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

SHARING TIME “Christmas Moccasins” by Ray Buckley

THE LORD’S PRAYER (sing 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 INVITES US TO THE TABLE**INVITATION****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 praise.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

From the moment of creation we have never been alone.

Even when we don’t know where to go or how to faithfully follow,

God’s grace waters and nourishes us where we are planted.

When Abram and Sarai left their home and their wealth behind,

they trusted God's assurance of covenant and a new home,
journeying to the place God showed them.

When Moses led his people from Egypt into the unknown,
Miriam danced with abandon and with joy at the possibilities.

Throughout their 40-year sojourn in the wilderness,
by trusting in God's grace despite many challenges,
they created a new home within God's heart.

When Ruth chose to accompany her mother-in-law and leave home,
she placed her hopes and dreams in God's hands,
pledging that home would be where her heart dwelt.

When Jeremiah protested he was too green to answer God's call,
God enflamed Jeremiah's lips with divine wisdom,
assuring him he would never be alone.

We, too, continue to be showered by God's grace,
trusting in God's love within and among us.

MORE VOICES #203

O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.

All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.

Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.

And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!

Despite God's unconditional assurances, despite our home within God's heart,
despite our covenant relationship with God,
we forgot who we were and who's we were.

In response, Jesus came to return us to the path of self-giving love,
to remind us of God's promises and of God's abundant grace.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Even with the intimacy of Christ's table, we were unwilling to dare,
we were afraid to follow in serving the God of Love.

Only after Jesus was crucified – rising on the third day –
only then did the power of God's covenant sink in.

In response, we sing of despair rising into hopeful anticipation:

MORE VOICES #204

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!

PRAYER RECOGNISING THE SPIRIT

Let us pray:

**Bless us once more, Loving Spirit,
that as we gather around Christ's table,
we may know your presence inside and out.**

**Bless this grape juice and this bread as symbols of our home,
that we may partake as family,
strengthening our relationships by our actions.**

May you grace us with your covenant of self-giving

that we may dare to follow and to serve you,
entering fully into your covenant. Amen.

FRACTION

In the brokenness is bread for the journey.
In the pouring out is refreshment for new life.

MORE VOICES #205

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!

The gifts of God for the people of God.

DISTRIBUTION

*Communion will be served at the front of the church.
The ushers will direct you forward using the centre aisle to receive the bread,
to receive the small glass of grape juice, to prayerfully partake of each,
and return to your seat using the side aisles.*

Gluten-free crackers are available separately from the bread.

*Please let an usher know if you wish to be served in your seat.
An appropriate response when receiving the bread or grape juice is "Amen."*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray, once more, together:

Through communion with you, O Christ, we are made new.
Through what we have said and done, we remember your self-giving.
Through your Spirit, we become empowered in your name,
to go into the world to tell your story, sharing our talents freely.
Thank you, O God, for the gift of such abundance. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

***VOICES UNITED 68** All Poor Ones and Humble

BIBLE READING Mark 13:24-37 in the New Testament page 50

GLORIA

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.

MEDITATION "Blowed Up Real Good!"

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

ANTHEM Gabriel's Message

Dent Davidson

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

OFFERING INVITATION AND OFFERTORY

Siciliano from Concerto: Op 3, No. 11

Vivaldi, arr. J.S. Bach

***OFFERTORY HYMN 541 VU** Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known: Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

***OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)**

We return to you, O God, your gifts we received in hope.
May you bless us in our giving that these gifts may transform the world,
even as we ourselves are changed by our offering. Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 1** O Come, O Come Emmanuel

***BENEDICTION**

***SONG OF COMMITMENT 37 VU** Gloria
Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE Come, Saviour of the World

J.S. Bach

AV MINISTRY TEAM 📺 Thank you
COMMUNION SERVERS ♦ Ken and Kendra Zurbrigg,
 Bill McTavish, Jean Johnson
COUNTERS 🗃️ Don and Angela Hazlewood
DECEMBER HOUSE LEADER 🏠 Sheila Bauer
MUSIC 🎵 David Hamilton, KUC Choir
NURSERY ATTENDANT ♦ Sadie Shewfelt
SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER ♦ Catharine Crawford
SCRIPTURE READER 📖 Thank you
WORSHIP ✝️ Gord Dunbar