

Kincardine United Church
Advent 3
December 12, 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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CAROL SING (*In Person*)

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 Miniature Suite for Organ - Trio *Healey Willan*

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

(based on Philippians 4:4-7)

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this candle symbolizing JOY –
acknowledging the reality that joy often bursts out of pain, hardship and failure.

(The third candle is lit)

Joy often comes to us unexpected, especially when we have given up on life.

Joy reminds us that nothing is impossible – even in weakness.

In our joy, we are powerfully reminded that God is always near.

Therefore, let us rejoice!

Let us sing as we celebrate the good news in this divinely new-born baby.

VOICES UNITED 7 verse 3 only (we sing)

Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn,

telling the world that the Saviour is born.

When God is a child there's joy in our song.

The last shall be first and weak shall be strong, and none shall be afraid.

Rejoice! And again, I say, rejoice!

Our joy erupts from the assurance that God is with us in our here and now.

Let us join prayerfully in thanksgiving and through divine conversation

to discover peace and strength for our living and our loving:

Open our understanding, O God, rooted in coming home to your loving.

Free our perceptions from the chains of judgement and of polarization.

Equip us to perceive the good in one another while sharing right relation.

Inspire us for new life and new vision in all we think and do,

that we might dance joyfully in Jesus' name. Amen.

***VOICES UNITED** 59 Joy to the World

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Silent Prayer)*

SHARING TIME Pippin the Christmas Pig

LORD'S PRAYER

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and what shall be.

Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope

and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,

now and for ever. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

BIBLE READING Zephaniah 3:14-18a in the Old Testament on page 876.

¹⁴ Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

¹⁵ The LORD has taken away the judgments against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

¹⁶ On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;
do not let your hands grow weak.

¹⁷ The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

^{18a} as on a day of festival.

***VOICES UNITED #62** Once in Royal David's City

BIBLE READING Zephaniah 3:18b-20 in the Old Testament on page 876.

^{18b} I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.

¹⁹ I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.

And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.

²⁰ At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD.

DOXOLOGY Bring Many Names #268 *Voices United* (verse 6 only)

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

MEDITATION Coming Home

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

CHOIR ANTHEM A Tiny Child Will Come *Nancy Price and Don Besig*

OFFERING INVITATION**DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL GIFTS, POINSETTIAS AND OFFERING**

Advent is our time of preparation as we wait for the great self-giving of Jesus –
a gift of vulnerability, of humility, of unconditional love, of transformation.

**The gifts we bring, we offer humbly and unconditionally,
praying they will transform the vulnerability of our shared ministry,
joyful that they make a difference in our community and in the world.**

Life is a gift.

Faith is a gift out of which to live life abundantly.

Our humble caring for each other enriches the blessings of abundant life.

The Memorial Gifts that have been donated this past year

create a legacy upon which this and future generations will continue our ministry.

We accept the generosity of those Memorial Gifts as loving signs of faith alive.

The small poinsettias here

will be delivered to those who are less able to participate regularly
in the life and the ministry of Kincardine United Church.

**We dance with joy that we are not alone –
though physically distanced from one another –
because we trust the Spirit who unites us.**

Let us join together in a prayer of dedication:

**Humble, loving God, who joins us together into one family of faith,
bless these Memorial Gifts and their legacy of faith in the midst of loss,
bless these poinsettias and those who donated them,
while blessing those who deliver them
to be servants of your good news.**

Bless those who receive them with relationships that nurture life abundant.

**Out of your blessing, may we continue to be a blessing for others –
in company with the saints before us –
while the vulnerable infant Jesus leads us
with love, with hope, with peace and with joy. Amen.**

***VOICES UNITED 76** See Amid the Winter's Snow

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT *Gloria # 37 Voices United*

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE Prelude in D Minor *BMV 554 J. S. Bach*