



Kincardine United Church

3rd Sunday of Advent

December 13 2020 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** (*begins at 10:20 a.m.*)

**VOICES UNITED 35** "Good Christian Friends, Rejoice" (*all verses*)

**VOICES UNITED 38** "Angels We Have Heard on High" (*all verses*)

**VOICES UNITED 50** "He Is Born" (*verses 1 & 2 with refrain in French*)

**WELCOME**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND**

Jesus calls us into the world to love one another as we are loved by God.

As we came to this land,

First Nations peoples welcomed us, sustained us and taught us.

**We did not hear them when they shared their vision.**

**In our zeal to tell them the good news of Jesus Christ,**

**we were closed to the value of their spirituality.**

We confused Western ways and culture

with the depth, breadth, length and height of the gospel of Christ.

**We imposed our civilization as a condition of accepting the gospel.**

As a result, the image of the Creator in us is twisted, blurred,

and we are not what we are meant by God to be.

**In our journey toward reconciliation, we acknowledge, this day,**

**that we gather for worship on the traditional territories**

**of the Saugeen Ojibway, and more recently the Saugeen Metis,**

**as well as the other indigenous peoples who preceded them –**

**the original nations of this land –**

**and we acknowledge, with respect,**

**their history, their spirituality, and their culture.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

## GOD GATHERS US

### MUSICAL INTROIT

Puer Natus In Bethlehem

*Dietrich Buxtehude*

### ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

Do you feel like you just don't have any energy these days?

Are you dispirited, discouraged, exhausted and weary?

**Well, too many days it certainly feels that way.**

**This pandemic is wearing me down, tiring me out and isolating me.**

Then you've come to the right digital worship space –

not because this service will try to put a happy, happy face on everything –

but *because* of the reality of our world.

In worship we are going to simply and clearly witness the good news.

**I didn't tune into this live streamed worship for anything less.**

**I need to anchor myself in faith, in grace and in possibility.**

Then let us light the third candle of our Advent Wreath,

a candle that proclaims light despite the overcasting of today's gloom.

*(the third Advent candle is lit)*

**(Voices United #6, verse 3, 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:

**Loving, nurturing God, you know how I feel this morning.**

**There are times when all colour drains out of my living,**

**when my longing for a simple touch from friends or family weighs heavily,**

**when my worries and anxieties overwhelm my every thought.**

**Conceive within me renewed passion for justice through right relation.**

**Envelope me with Spirited nourishment to strengthen my becoming.**

**Labour to birth my trust in the assurance of your constant companionship.**

**Teach me to discern joy even in the midst of life's trials. Amen.**

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

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Silent Prayer*)

**SHARING TIME** “On a Snowy Night”

**THE LORD’S PRAYER**

**Our Father-Mother, who is in the heavens,**

**may your name be made holy, may your dominion come,  
may your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us today the bread we need;**

**and forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors;  
and do not put us to the test, but rescue us from evil.**

**For yours is the dominion, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD**

**BIBLE READING** Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 in the Old Testament page 691.

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,

because the LORD has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,

to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives,

and release to the prisoners;

<sup>2</sup> to proclaim the year of the LORD’s favor,

and the day of vengeance of our God;

to comfort all who mourn;

<sup>3</sup> to provide for those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a garland instead of ashes,

the oil of gladness instead of mourning,

the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

They will be called oaks of righteousness,

the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

<sup>4</sup> They shall build up the ancient ruins,

they shall raise up the former devastations;

they shall repair the ruined cities,

the devastations of many generations.

<sup>8</sup> For I the LORD love justice,

I hate robbery and wrongdoing;

I will faithfully give them their recompense,

and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

<sup>9</sup> Their descendants shall be known among the nations,

and their offspring among the peoples;

all who see them shall acknowledge

that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

<sup>10</sup> I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,

my whole being shall exult in my God;

for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,  
 he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,  
 as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,  
 and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

<sup>11</sup> For as the earth brings forth its shoots,  
 and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,  
 so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise  
 to spring up before all the nations.

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

**BIBLE READING** 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:16-24 from the paraphrase *The Message*.

<sup>16-18</sup> Be cheerful no matter what; pray all the time; thank God no matter what happens. This is the way God wants you who belong to Christ Jesus to live.

<sup>19-22</sup> Don't suppress the Spirit, and don't stifle those who have a word from the Master. On the other hand, don't be gullible. Check out everything, and keep only what's good. Throw out anything tainted with evil.

<sup>23-24</sup> May God himself, the God who makes everything holy and whole, make you holy and whole, put you together—spirit, soul, and body—and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ. The One who called you is completely dependable. If he said it, he'll do it!

**DOXOLOGY** NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD #236 VU (verse 3 only)

**All praise and thanks to God for all that has been given,  
 the thesSon, and Spirit blest who dwell in highest heaven,  
 the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

**MEDITATION** Bubbling? Joyful? Both?

### **GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND**

**ANTHEM** Our Hope Is in this Child *Don Besig and Nancy Price*

*She wrapped her tiny baby up in swadd'ling clothes,  
 and laid him so gently in the hay.*

*Her heart was filled with wonder at the promise of this child  
 and the hope which was born that very day.*

*She quietly reflected on the angel's words:*

*"Mary you are the chosen one to bear a child named Jesus,  
 the promised one, God's son, whose reign of love forever shall live on."*

*Our hope is in this child of Bethlehem,  
 the God who came here as a babe to create a world of goodness,  
 empowered by God's grace to fill the hungry, lift the humble, heal the wounded.  
 Our hope is in this child.*

*Angels announced his birth from the heavens, and filled the skies with song.  
 The prophets called this child (this child is called) Emmanuel, God is with us.*

*God is with us, we're not alone.*

*Our hope is in this child of Bethlehem,  
 the God who came here as a babe to create a world of goodness,  
 empowered by God's grace to fill the hungry, lift the humble, heal the wounded.*

*Our hope is in this child, our hope is in this child, this child.  
Our hope is in this child, this child. Our hope is in this child.*

## COMMUNITY PRAYERS

### OFFERING INVITATION

#### DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL GIFTS, POINTSETTIAS 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 sign 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 62** Once in Royal David's City

### BENEDICTION

#### SONG OF COMMITMENT 37 "Gloria"

**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.**

**POSTLUDE** Trumpet Tune In D Major

*Henry Purcell, arr. Walter E. Buzzin*