

Kincardine United Church

Advent 4

December 18, 2022 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 Der Tag der ist so Freudenreich J.S. Bach

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

Kincardine United Church takes seriously

the commitments made to First Nations communities

through the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report,
especially through the Calls to Action to churches like us.

Therefore, we acknowledge, this day,

that we gather for worship

on the traditional territories of the Saugeen Ojibway,

and 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 BWV 603 J.S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP:

Leader: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

People: on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

Leader: The Light that is the Word of God, God incarnate.

People: We see again the light God promises in the midst of our darkness.

Leader: May our worship recall us to what is centred in life; to the One who gives us breath and purpose in life

People: We come to embrace God's touching us as we strive to be renewed in faith, hope, and love.

All: Let us worship as we wait for the newborn king!

OPENING PRAYER:

Leader: God of hope, who brought love into this world

People: be the love that dwells between us.

Leader: God of hope, who brought peace into this world,

People: be the peace that dwells between us.

Leader: God of hope, who brought joy into this world,

People: be the joy that dwells between us.

Leader: God of hope, the rock we stand upon,

People: be the centre, the focus of our lives

Leader: In this Advent of expectation draw us together in unity,

People: that our praise and worship might echo in these walls

All: Advent God, we journey with you to Bethlehem's stable and a new-born king ears attuned to the song of angels.

ADVENT CANDLE LITURGY

Love abundant overflows, pouring into our midst: (a) Rise, take heart, and love deeply.

(the fourth candle is lit)

The glow of God the Divine Lover lightens our hearts.

We are together and never alone. Gathered on this fourth Sunday in Advent we witness to God's deep love and tender compassion for the whole world. Our witness is love.

God's love comes to ground, and like an arc, large to hold, embrace, heal, and restore.

God-who-never-ceases-to-love, kindle our hearts that we may burn anew with your love. Bless us with the flame of lively living and believing. Take our words and release them to speak of you; take our minds and broaden them to reflect your overflowing love; take our hearts and set them alight with your desire for goodness. In the name of the One full of love.

HYMN #62 VU Once in Royal David's City

WORDS OF HOPE AND HEALING

To all who turn from sin in sorrow, to all who turn to God in hope, this is God's word of grace: our trust in our loving God is filled with hope. This is God's word of grace; we are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved. This gift we have from God. Thanks be to God.

SHARING TIME An Interesting Comparison

ANTHEM Goin' to Bethlehem Words and music by Jay Althouse

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, and the power and the glory,

For ever and ever. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

BIBLE READING Isaiah 7: 10-16 in the Old Testament

HYMN #64 VU O Little town of Bethlehem

BIBLE READING Matthew 1:18-25 in the New Testament

DOXOLOGY "Maker in Whom We Live" #321 Voices United (verse 4 only)
**Eternal, Triune God, let all the hosts above,
let all on earth below record and dwell upon your love.**

**When heaven and earth have fled before your glorious face,
may all the saints your love has made sing everlasting praise.**

MEDITATION “The Importance of Touch”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

ANTHEM Mary, Mary Words and music by Mary Donnelly and George L. Strid

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**In the name and in the spirit of Jesus, we bring our gifts to you,
O God. Help us to give with them a ready mind, a willing spirit, and a joyful
heart trusting in your love for all of us as your faithful servants. Amen.**

HYMN #69 VU Away in a Manger

BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE Preludium Johann Kreiger