

Kincardine United Church
First Sunday of Advent
December 1st, 2024 11:00 a.m.

Bold print in the bulletin invites you to say the words.

Kincardine United Church

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CAROL SING

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

We acknowledge that we are gathered here on the “Traditional Territory” of the Anishinabek Nation; and give Thanks to the Saugeen Ojibway First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land. We also remember the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation; and the Metis Nation of Ontario, who’s history and people are well represented in Bruce County.

We give them “Thanks” for the hope and optimism they offer all of us, despite their tortured past; and their desire to “Sojourn Onwards ” with all Canadians towards the better future for everyone! Miigwich! Thank You!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you all

And also with you

GOD GATHERS US

INTROIT Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland

Marcel Dupré

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Written by Érie Hhébert-Daly, Gathering Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-22, pg 69.
Used with permission.

Hope admits that we're not quite there yet.

Hope means that something good is within reach.

Hope calls out to us, so that we come to see the good that awaits.

God is our hope.

Let us taste, see, hear, feel, smell, and anticipate this hope.

May hope be found in a manger and throughout the world.

(1st Advent Candle lit)

VOICES UNITED #6 A Candle Is Burning (verse 1)

CALL TO WORSHIP

The time has come to wait:

For a world to end and a life to begin.

The time has come to listen:

For the thunder of change and the whisper of hope.

The time has come to watch:

For a dead branch to blossom and a barren tree to bear fruit. The time has come to wake.

OPENING PRAYER #11 in Voices United

God of all wisdom,

our hearts yearn for the warmth of your love, and our minds search for the light of your Word.

Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour, and strengthen us to grow in love,

that at the dawn of his coming we may rejoice in his presence

and welcome the light of his truth. This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

***HYMN** God, We Praise You for the Morning VU #415

PRAYER OF CONFESSION Based on Psalm 25:1-4

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

I put my trust in you, O God, do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;

let those be ashamed who neglect your faithfulness, and who act with evil intent.

Teach me your ways, O God and guide me in your paths.

We bring to mind these things for which we are ashamed -

for willfully acting with less than good intentions -

for abusing the faithfulness of God by our failure to live faith-full lives.

(A time of silence to reflect on these words)

Forgive us, O God

cleanse our hearts and minds of all that prevents us from loving you and loving our neighbour. May our lives be marked by faith active in hope as we watch and wait for your breaking into our world once more. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

SHARING TIME Are You Ready?

THE LORD'S PRAYER Sung (*Voices United* #960):

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.**

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

EPISTLE READING: 1 Thessalonians 3 :9-13 (The Message)

⁹⁻¹⁰ What would be an adequate thanksgiving to offer God for all the joy we experience before him because of you? We do what we can, praying away, night and day, asking for the bonus of seeing your faces again and doing what we can to help when your faith falters.

¹¹⁻¹³ May God our Father himself and our Master Jesus clear the road to you! And may the Master pour on the love so it fills your lives and splashes over on everyone around you, just as it does from us to you. May you be infused with strength and purity, filled with confidence in the presence of God our Father when our Master Jesus arrives with all his followers.

HYMN God Whose Almighty Word #313

GOSPEL READING: Luke 21:25-36

The Coming of the Son of Man

²⁵ “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. ²⁶ People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ²⁷ Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. ²⁸ Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

The Lesson of the Fig Tree

²⁹ Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; ³⁰ as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. ³¹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. ³² Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. ³³ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

Exhortation to Watch

³⁴ “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, ³⁵ like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. ³⁶ Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place and to stand before the Son of Man.”

DOXOLOGY #321 (*verse 4*) “*Master in Whom We Live*”

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.

REFLECTION “Hope”

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

ANTHEM Are You Dressed for the Wedding

Joseph Martin & David Angerman

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

ADVENT COMMUNION

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God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

In the rich dark of winter, God makes an astounding promise: “I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up.” (Jeremiah 33:15)

In the wilderness, a voice cries out, longing for the Refiner’s fire, repair, and renewal, the promised birth (and rebirth) of hope.

Called to bear the weight and fruit of promise, Mary sings ancient trust—the song of generations— that God comes to fill the hungry and lift the humble. She sings that love and truth will meet, that justice and peace will kiss. In the midst of uncertainty, Jesus assures his disciples: Just as the tree blooms, so the signs are clear that the kingdom of God is near. In the deep of our own winter, we look for them: bud of hope, branch of peace, sprig of joy, blossom of love.

While around us the snares of fear and conflict lie in wait of infant hope, you, O Wisdom, O Endless Love, O Radiant Dawn, are there, keeping vigil with us, in this season of expectation.

We gather at this table, praying that crooked ways be made straight, that valley’s peace be lifted up and mountain’s might brought low so that all God’s people might rejoice together, saying:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is the one that comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

We give thanks for the mystery and wonder revealed that first night,
**as humble people led by hope gathered in a quiet stable
and were witness to your promise reborn.**

We give thanks for the blessing and love Jesus shared
with all whom he met, in food and story.

We remember that, on the night before he was handed over to die, Jesus broke bread with his friends, blessed it, gave thanks, and said, “Take, eat. This is my body, which I give for you. When you share it, remember me.”

We remember that he took the cup and, giving thanks, said, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood. When you drink it, remember me.”

Revealed in stable, cross, and empty tomb, we give thanks, O God, for your limitless love for all. With your people of all times and places, we await with hope the fulfillment of your vision for all creation.

Bless us, O God, and these your gifts. Encourage us to share your life and love, which make us, and the gifts we share, truly holy.

Transform us, God, and your world, and bless your children:

those who feel alone or afraid...

those who whose souls and homes are broken by violence...

those who will go hungry, thirsty, and cold tonight...

those who long only to hear that they are loved...

God made known in Jesus Christ,
hear our prayer.

We pray these things, trusting in God’s faithfulness revealed:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

SHARING THE BREAD & CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

At this table, Christ is the host, welcoming all who hunger. At our tables, may Christ be our guest this day and always, that we might welcome hope, peace, joy, and love into our lives, and become hosts to God’s presence and people.

God of Love, guide us to the stables of our world, where the lonely and longing gather. Lead us to the mangers of our time, where hope and renewal are born again.

Make us heralds of your hope, peace, love and joy. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “May the God of Hope Go With Us” #424

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT VU #37 “Gloria”

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE Nun Komm der Heiden Heiland BWV 559 J.S. Bach
