



Kincardine United Church

4th Sunday of Advent

December 20, 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 61 "Of the Father's Love Begotten" *(verses 1, 4 & 6)*

VOICES UNITED 69 "Away in a Manger" *(all verses)*

VOICES UNITED 71 "'Twas in the Moon of Wintertime" *(verses 1, 4 & 5 – words as written by D. L. Seaborn)*

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land. Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and of their spirituality.

We begin our worship this morning by acknowledging the unceded territory of the Saugeen Ojibwe.

We are all Treaty people, parties to Crown Treaty 45 ½ in 1836.

Keep us mindful of the covenants that have been made – and broken – with First Nations peoples.

May we grow into living with respect on this land,
 walking into reconciliation through peace and friendship,
 while honouring all who live, work and worship on it.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

GOD GATHERS US

MUSICAL INTROIT In Dulci Jubilo

Marcel Dupré

ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

We're getting tired of waiting, of preparing, of marking time, yet we come.

**We come because we need perspective, the bigger picture of faith –
 along with a desire for clear directions for the road ahead.**

We long for what might yet be, yearning to know this waiting is purpose-full.

**We come anxious in our uncertainty,
 seeking colour in our lives which too often feel monotone.**

We struggle to figure out how to make this Christmas one to remember fondly
 instead of remembering it as the season of our discontent.

We come in expectation for God's Word of good news.

As we come, let us open ourselves to the shining of the Light of the world.

(the fourth Advent candle is lit)

(Voices United #6, verse 4, we sing)

**A candle is burning, a candle of love,
 a candle to point us to heaven above.**

**A baby for Christmas, a wonderful birth,
 for Jesus is bringing God's love to our earth.**

Let us join as one community of faith in prayer:

That's what begins, isn't it, God: new life filled with new possibility.

Tell us the story once again that we may grow anew into your resurrection:

**hope arising from dread, peace blossoming from conflict,
 joy bubbling from despair and love transforming polarization.**

Strengthen us to welcome your mission of daring and of risk –

not as something enforced or coerced –

but created within a life of daunting, though generous self-giving.

Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 36** Angels, from the Realms of Glory

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Silent Prayer)*

SHARING TIME "Baby Gord"

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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 SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

BIBLE READING Luke 1:26-38 in the Old Testament page 56

***VOICES UNITED 46** Gentle Mary Laid her Child Tune: Good King Wenceslas

BIBLE READING Luke 1:46-55 in the New Testament page 57

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 Son, 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 Surprise! Now What?

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

ANTHEM Way Down Yonder in Bethlehem

Michael Barrett

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*in unison*)

We offer into your mission, living Christ, these gifts rooted in our loving.
 Sometimes we become weary in the giving, so bless us with your joy.
 Sometimes we are challenged by the need, so bless us with your generosity.
 In faith, we are inspired by your call,
 so bless our gifts as you bless us in our giving in Jesus' name. Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 43** Go, Tell It on the Mountain

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT 37 "Gloria"
 Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
 Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE In Dulci Jubilo

J. S. Bach