

Kincardine United Church
Fourth Sunday of Advent - Love
December 22nd, 2024 11:00 a.m.

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

Kincardine United Church

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PRELUDE Carol Sing

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

We acknowledge that we at Kincardine United Church live, work, worship and play on the traditional territories of the Saugeen Ojibway, and the other Indigenous peoples who preceded them. As we celebrate the birth of Jesus once again, we remember everything this birth means for our whole world and all people: hope, peace, joy and love. May we live our lives moving gently in creation, listening, learning and striving to be people of reconciliation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIGHTING OF ADVENT CANDLE

Written by Eric Hebert-Daly, gathering Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-2022, pg. 69. Used with Permission.

Love is not always what we expect.

It may come through unexpected people and at unexpected times.

God's love is not always what we expect.

God's love comes to us in gentle whispers as well as with an insistent voice that we can't ignore.

God's love finds us when we are lost and heals us when we are broken.

May we allow God to love us into wholeness today.

So that we may share that love tomorrow.

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

VOICES UNITED #6, A Candle is Burning (verses 1-4)

THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

INTROIT In Sweet Rejoicing *BWV 751 J.S. Bach*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Love in the midst of apathy – hate is not the opposite of love, apathy is.

When apathy sets in, love is a choice. Love is always a verb.

Love is less what we feel and more what we do.

An act of Love. A labour of love.

We come choosing love when apathy is easier, choosing love when it means it may come with pain.

Let us pray for Emmanuel, for love that resists apathy, for wisdom to choose the way of love even when it is woven together with pain and sorrow.

Whitney Bruno, Little Current and Sheguiandah U.C., Little Current,
Ont.

OPENING PRAYER

Gill Le Fevre, Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville, Ont

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Holy One, as we prepare ourselves to welcome the Christ Child, may we let go of all that does not create hospitable space, the times that we are prickly and short with others, the negativity and

gossip that creeps into our conversations, the subtle suffering we habitually ignore or the “isms” into which we heedlessly stumble. Soften our hearts, our tongues, our thoughts and our actions, that we may gently embrace this tender babe and enfold and reflect the light of Christ in our daily living. Amen

Elise Feltrin, Chemainus U.C., Chemainus, B.C.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Elise Feltrin, Chemainus U.C., Chemainus, B.C.

VOICES UNITED #48 Hark the Herald Angels Sing

SHARING TIME Twas the Evening of Christmas
written by Glenys Nellist

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 our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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

VOICES UNITED #7 Hope is a Star

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 98, VU pg 818

Sing to God a new song,

for God has done marvellous things.

Your right hand and your holy arm have brought victory.

**You have made known your salvation,
and revealed before the nations your saving power.**

You have remembered your steadfast love
and faithfulness to the house of Israel;

**all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation
of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
break into joyous praise, sing psalms.
 Sing psalms to God with the harp,
with the harp and melodious voice.
 With trumpets, and the sound of the horn
make a joyful noise before our sovereign God.

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world, and its inhabitants.
 Let the rivers clap their hands,
the hills sing together for joy before God.
 You come to judge the earth, O God,
**to judge the world with righteousness,
 and the peoples with equity.**

GOSPEL READING John 3:16 and John 13:34-35

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

ANTHEM God the Son
Andrew Bergthold, David Taylor, Matt Redman, Quinton Trotter

EPISTLE READING 1 John 4:9-16

⁹ God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. ¹¹ Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. ¹² No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us, and his love is perfected in us. ¹³ By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴ And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. ¹⁵ God abides in

those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. ¹⁶ So we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them.

DOXOLOGY VU #321, Verse 4

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 Gifts Of Christmas: Love
(written by Scott Bayles)

ANTHEM Born is a Baby *Stan Pethel*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING RESPONSE

We place our love in our gifts gracefully given, Loving God, and you place your love in us as the gifts are used. Our love of skill and talent well-used. Our love to overcome loneliness compassionately. Our love of worship, faithfully offered. Our love of neighbourhood needs, joyfully met. Our love in mission projects that bring new life. We realize that with our gifts comes our commitment to serve in the Way of Jesus, so we ask you, Loving God, to offer your loving blessing to our service.

David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.

VOICES UNITED #59 Joy to the World

BENEDICTION

Laura J. Turnbull, Penticton, B.C.

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

POSTLUDE A Meditation on Go Tell It On The Mountain
By David Hamilton