

# Kincardine United Church

## Christmas 1

December 31st, 2023

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

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**PRELUDE** Hail the Brightest of Days J.S. Bach

### **WELCOME**

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND (unison)**

**We acknowledge that we are gathered on the unceded territory of the Saugeen Ojibway, the traditional lands of Treaty 45½. As we celebrate the beginning of a new year, we remember everything the birth of Jesus 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.**

Jamie Mill, First U.C., Dryden, Ont.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

May the peace of Christ be with you all.

*(and also with you.)*

**MUSICAL INTROIT** Praise God, You Christians, All Together J.S. Bach

## **LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Sharon Winegarden, Lion's Head Pike Bay P.C., Lion's Head, Ont.

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Bob Root, Peterborough, Ont.

## **OPENING PRAYER (unison)**

**Be with us, God, as we set out on the journey of a new year. Like those who have travelled though uncharted territories in the past, give us the courage to face new challenges. Like those who have known the uncertainty of what lies ahead, give us the confidence to listen to your message to us and the faith to know that you are there to guide us. Like those who have assumed they had all the answers even before the questions were asked, give us the humility to be surprised by your presence and open to being upheld by your people everywhere. Give us the strength we need, the sensitivity others need from us and the wisdom to respond in ways that nurture all creation. This we pray in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen**

Bill Steadman, Goulais River U.C., Goulais River, Ont.

## **VOICES UNITED #506 Take My Life and Let It Be**

## **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

Beth W. Johnston, Bridging Waters P.C., Nipawin, Sask.

## **PRAYER OF CONFESSION (responsive)**

As we begin a new year, let's be honest with ourselves.

**We know we have messed up.**

Let's be honest with ourselves.

**We know we question your callings to us.**

Let's be honest with ourselves.

**We know we could be disciples and better people.**

Now is the time to take a deep breath and come to God in confession:

**Loving God, we confess those times when we have dismissed your call because we have been too preoccupied with our own schedules and wants and not attentive enough to the needs of others. Help us to**

**discern the direction of your call to us and to balance our needs and wants with those of others. Open our spirits and our hearts, we pray.**

**Amen**

Beth W. Johnston, Bridging Waters P.C., Nipawin, Sask.

**SHARING TIME** God's Dream

by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Douglas Carlton Abrams

**THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)**

**PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

**RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 148 Voices United pg 871

**MORE VOICES #84** In You There is a Refuge

**GOSPEL READING** Matthew 2:13-23

**DOXOLOGY**

**REFLECTION** Trusting in God's Word

**ORGAN SOLO** I Come From Heaven on High Johann Pachelbel

**COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

**OFFERING INVITATION**

**PRAYER OF DEDICATION (unison)**

**Abundant and renewing God, guide us in the endeavours of this new year ahead, that we might serve you to bring about the redemption of your world and healing for all your children.**

**May these resources enrich the outreach and ministry of this community of faith, as we praise you with our lives, so that all may know that we are your disciples. Amen**

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

**VOICES UNITED #707** For the Faithful Who Have Answered

**BENEDICTION**

Sharon Winegarden, Lion's Head Pike Bay P.C., Lion's Head, Ont.

**SONG OF COMMITMENT**

**POSTLUDE** Praise God, You Christians, All Together Dietrich Buxtehude