

Kincardine United Church

Advent 1

December 3rd, 2023

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

Lo, how a rose Op. 122, No. 8.

J. Brahms

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

For thousands of years, First Nations peoples have walked this land,
weaving their identity and their spirituality intimately with the land.

European colonisation came about in large part

because of the Doctrine of Discovery,

a flawed understanding that ignores Indigenous presence on the land.

Affirming the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

and, therefore, repudiating the wrong of such a doctrine,

we begin our worship this morning by acknowledging

the traditional 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

INTROIT

Nun Komm' der Heiden Heiland

Marcel Dupré

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

In a world filled with tragedy and chaos, we arrive weary, wary and worn out.

**We come to find shelter from our fears,
to discover hope as we practice our faith in worship.**

We're tired of this marathon of difficulty,
longing for relief through a return to what we once thought "normal."

We come because the vulnerable Christ child enlightens us with possibility.

On this first Sunday of Advent, we light this first candle symbolizing hope –
the assurance that the risen Christ transforms all things in love.

(the first advent candle is lit)

VOICES UNITED 7 *(verse one only)*

Flickering and fragile, this tiny flame opens us to wonder –
to the heart of God – which transforms us as we join together in prayer:

We come to be sustained in life, O God, even as we wrestle.

Inspire us to perceive the Way of Jesus as the path of wholeness.

Unite us to become a community of faith woven as one by the Spirit.

Teach us how to live by loving-kindness,

becoming catalysts for hope in the hearts of those we encounter. Amen.

VOICES UNITED 1 *(Verses 1,2,6 and 7 only) O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

SHARING TIME What Are Your Superpowers?

THE LORD'S PRAYER *We Sing*

**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 Isaiah 64:1-3 in the Old Testament

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence—

² as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil—

to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!

³ When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down; the mountains quaked at your presence.

MORE VOICES 157 *(verse 1 only)* "I Am a Child of God"

I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God's new creation.

I am a child of God, I am a child of God.

BIBLE READING Isaiah 64:4-5a in the Old Testament

From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.
⁵ You meet those who gladly do right,
those who remember you in your ways.

MORE VOICES 157 (verse 2 only) "I Am a Child of God"
**I am an endless prayer, I am a yearning for contemplation,
I am an endless prayer, I am an endless prayer.**

BIBLE READING Isaiah 64:5b-7 in the Old Testament

But you were angry, and we sinned;
because you hid yourself we transgressed.
⁶ We have all become like one who is unclean,
and all our righteous deeds are like a filthy cloth.
We all fade like a leaf,
and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.
⁷ There is no one who calls on your name
or attempts to take hold of you,
for you have hidden your face from us
and have delivered us into the hand of our iniquity.

MORE VOICES 157 (verse 3 only) "I Am a Child of God"
**I am an angry voice, I am compassion and consternation,
I am an angry voice, I am an angry voice.**

BIBLE READING Isaiah 64:8-9 in the Old Testament

⁸ Yet, O LORD, you are our Father;
we are the clay, and you are our potter;
we are all the work of your hand.
⁹ Do not be exceedingly angry, O LORD,
and do not remember iniquity forever.
Now consider, we are all your people.

MORE VOICES 157 (verse 4 only) "I Am a Child of God"
**I am a cry for peace, I am commitment and dedication.
I am a cry for peace, I am a cry for peace.**

BIBLE READING Mark 13:24-31 in the New Testament

²⁴ "But in those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
²⁵ and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.
²⁶ "Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in clouds' with great power and glory. ²⁷ Then he will
send out the angels and gather the elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of
heaven.

²⁸ “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. ³⁰ Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

MORE VOICES 157 (verse 5 only) “I Am a Child of God”
I am a song of joy, I am the moment of jubilation,
I am a song of joy, I am a song of joy

BIBLE READING Mark 13:32-37 in the New Testament

³² “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Beware, keep alert, for you do not know when the time will come. ³⁴ It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. ³⁵ Therefore, keep awake, for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening or at midnight or at cockcrow or at dawn, ³⁶ or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. ³⁷ And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

DOXOLOGY 321 (verse 4 only) “Maker 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.

PRAYER BEFORE REFLECTION

REFLECTION Upside Down or Right Side Up?

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

ANTHEM Lo, How a Rose Traditional Arranged by David Hamilton

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Spirited God, your gift of hope comes to us through the advent of the Christ child.

We offer these gifts back to you as signs of hope:

hope that nestles into your loving presence,

hope that these donations help turn the world upside down,

hope that trusts in your promise of transformation,

hope that opens us to strangers, to neighbours, to enemies and to friends.

Bless our becoming whole on the Way of Jesus. Amen.

***KNOWN UNKNOWNNS 96 (Tune #374 Voices United)** God’s Surprise

1. Who would think that what was needed to transform and save the earth might not be a plan or army, proud in purpose, proved in worth?
Who would think, despite derision that a child might lead the way?

God surprises earth with heaven coming here on Christmas Day.

- 2. Shepherds watch and wise men wonder, monarchs scorn and angels sing;
such a place as none could reckon hosts a holy, helpless thing.
Stable beasts and bypassed strangers watch a baby laid in hay;
God surprises earth with heaven coming here on Christmas Day.**

- 3. Centuries of skill and science span the past from which we move,
yet experience questions whether, with such progress, we improve.
While the human lot we ponder, lest our hopes and humour fray,
God surprises earth with heaven coming here on Christmas Day.**

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT *Gloria # 37 Voices United*

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE Nun Komm' der Heiden Heiland BWV 599 J. S. Bach