

Kincardine United Church

Transfiguration & Holy Humour Sunday

February 11, 2024 11:00 a.m.

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

*invites you to stand as you are able.

Kincardine United Church

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PRELUDE

Pastorella

F. W. Marpurg

WELCOME

MISSION AND SERVICE STORY

...Krista Ritchie

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

GOD GATHERS US

INTROIT

Light in the Dark

Wally Jirgens

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

February is both the shortest and the longest month of the year.

It is the shortest month by the number of days,

but the longest month as winter drags on and on.

Dreary as it is, let's have a little fun.

After all, didn't Jesus have fun at a wedding, for example?

That sounds delightful!

Come, then, as we consider the follies of life,

celebrating good news through holy silliness.

Now that's more like it!

Are we going to laugh, or chortle, or giggle this morning?

Let's do all three on this Holy Humour Sunday

as we embrace life's irony along with our own humanity.

Let's celebrate – despite the gloom – shining a light of jubilant joy.

Let's enjoy God's good humour as we pray:

God who laughs, teach us to shrug off despair as you illuminate our living.

May giggles of delight bubble forth as we celebrate a lightness of being.

Guide us to loosen up when we stop taking ourselves too seriously.

**Then, may we relax with a smile, ready to live your in your light –
a light revealed from within. Amen.**

***VOICES UNITED 327 All Praise to Thee (Gord's words)**

- 1. When winter blows around our frozen toes,
a word of hope thaws what we thought was froze.
It shines a light that lifts us from our lows.
Hallelujah, hallelujah.**
- 2. In laughter, then, a ray of light does shine,
to break on through depression's tangled vine.
It keeps us sane, our hearts to realign.
Hallelujah, hallelujah.**
- 3. There is no rule forbidding sheer delight.
It turns life's fright into a blazing light.
We leap in freedom, taking glorious flight.
Hallelujah, hallelujah.**
- 4. So let us, then, guffaw when life is tough,
to take the measure of a path that's tough.
In laughing we find God is stronger stuff.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.**

SHARING TIME

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father-Mother, who is in the heavens,

may your name be made holy, may your dominion come,

may your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today the bread we need;

and forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors;

and do not put us to the test, but rescue us from evil.

For yours is the dominion, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

MORE VOICES 18 Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy tried and true;
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

BIBLE READING Mark 9:2b-9 in the New Testament

^{2b-4} Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain. His appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes. His clothes shimmered, glistening white, whiter than any bleach could make them. Elijah, along with Moses, came into view, in deep conversation with Jesus.

⁵⁻⁶ Peter interrupted, "Rabbi, this is a great moment! Let's build three memorials—one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah." He blurted this out without thinking, stunned as they all were by what they were seeing.

MORE VOICES 18 Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary
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⁷ Just then a light-radiant cloud enveloped them, and from deep in the cloud, a voice: "This is my Son, marked by my love. Listen to him."

⁸ The next minute the disciples were looking around, rubbing their eyes, seeing nothing but Jesus, only Jesus.

⁹⁻¹⁰ Coming down the mountain, Jesus swore them to secrecy. "Don't tell a soul what you saw. After the Son of Man rises from the dead, you're free to talk." They puzzled over that, wondering what on earth "rising from the dead" meant.

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BIBLE READING 2nd Corinthians 4:3-6 from *The Message*

³⁻⁴ If our Message is obscure to anyone, it's not because we're holding back in any way. No, it's because these other people are looking or going the wrong way and refuse to give it serious attention. All they have eyes for is the fashionable god of darkness. They think he can give them what they want, and that they won't have to bother believing a Truth they can't see. They're stone-blind to the dayspring brightness of the Message that shines with Christ, who gives us the best picture of God we'll ever get.

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⁵⁻⁶ Remember, our Message is not about ourselves; we're proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Master. All we are is messengers, errand runners from Jesus for you. It started when God said, "Light up the darkness!" and our lives filled up with light as we saw and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful.

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 “Shine, People, Shine!”

JESUS INVITES US TO TABLE

INVITATION

Come to the table where all those curious, all those uncertain, all those seeking –
where each of us are welcome and cherished.

**We come to this table that Jesus has prepared,
inviting us from every corner of life.**

Come to this table without barriers.

We come, as we are, to be nourished through transformation.

CALL TO GIVE THANKS

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give God our thanks and praise.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

As the Spirit moved over the waters of the deep,
God spoke as light exploded into being.

And it was good.

Jacob dreamed of a ladder to heaven which revealed God’s unnoticed presence.

And the place was anointed as of God.

Moses encountered God in a burning bush,
pushing him out of hiding toward liberation.

And God will be who God will be.

The Psalmist declared that the word of God is light for our Way.

And we are inspired.

Jesus told us to let our light shine before others.

And we are invited so to shine.

Jesus’ transfiguration revealed his very self.

And we follow Jesus: the Light of the World.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND FRACTION

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

God who lights our lives from within with love,
rest within our hearts that we may shine light upon both our concerns and our joys.

**As we name people, places and events touching our lives, may you, O God,
illuminate our compassion and our celebration in silent prayer:**

(Silent prayer)

Thank you, God,

for we no longer huddle in the dark, afraid of what is and what might be.

**Instead, we celebrate your light which reveals our path of loving –
a path that gathers us as one with all our relations.**

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION

As we prepare to partake of this grape juice and of this bread, let us pray:

Transform these elements on this table, O Spirit,

that we may carry your light into the world as agents of possibility.

May you similarly transform each of us, according to our gifts,

that we may become people of light in Jesus' name. Amen.

PARTAKING

If you are worshipping at home,

please take the bread and beverage you have prepared and partake,

sharing with anyone who is with you.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us join once more in prayer:

Let what we have partaken, O God,

nourish us for self-giving, sustain us for your mission in the world

and encourage us to shine with the Light of Christ. Amen.

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

ANTHEM

Glory Be to the Father

Jay Althouse

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We ask you to bless what we offer, O God,

that our generosity may cause ripples of joy-filled laughter to spread.

Through these gifts gratefully given,

may your blessing become our dance of delight while sharing our abundance.

Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 586** We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection (*Gord's words*)

- 1. We shall go out with hope of resurrection.
In laughter's healing we have found our home.
It is delight in freedom we have cherished,
chains Christ cast off in giving us his light.
We'll shine within by acts of daring justice.
We'll shine without by daring still to love.
We'll find the human in despair and hardship:
a place of healing where we smile instead of cry.**

2. It is with humour that we can consider
when flawed and failed we still have deeper worth.
It gives perspective to the complex weavings
of all relationships that feed our seeking souls.
It is Christ's light within that blazes brightly,
that shows the world the Way we choose to walk.
We are transfigured by the good news message
to change the world one person loving at a time.

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT *Gloria # 37 Voices United*

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

POSTLUDE

Fughetta in g minor

J. E. Rembt