

Kincardine United Church

Holy Humour Sunday

February 12, 2023 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.

Kincardine United Church, 721 Princes St. Kincardine ON, N2Z 0A3

Office Email: kuchurch@bmts.com Phone: 519-396-2391

Judy Zarubick (Supply Minister): jzarubick@hurontel.on.ca Phone: 519-386-1440

Donation Steward: kucdonate@bmts.com

Web site: www.kincardineunitedchurch.org

YouTube: [KUC YouTube Channel](#) Facebook: [KUC Facebook Page](#)

PRELUDE Jesus, Our Redeemer D. Buxtehude

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

(Slightly modified from the one used at Saugeen Wesley United Church)

For thousands of years,

First Nations people have lived on this land and by these waters;
this relationship is at the centre of their lives and spirituality.

**We are gathered as a non-Indigenous community of faith
on the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation,
and acknowledge their stewardship through the ages.**

We seek to live together in respect, friendship and peace.

Jesus calls us into the world to love one another as we are loved by God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

GOD GATHERS US

MUSICAL INTROIT Jesus, Our Redeemer BWV 626 J.S. Bach

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

Come into this space for Holy Humour Sunday.

Are you saying that we are allowed to laugh?

We are free to giggle at life's contradictions?

Absolutely! We need a sense of humour as part of life's balance.

Well, that must be true,

or we wouldn't have put up with you as our minister this long!

Touché!

Indeed, since we are created in God's image,

humour is woven into the very fabric of our being.

Then let's get on with it.

Let's embrace irony and grin wryly at life's foibles because of our faith.

Let us pray:

Loving God, we often despair at the world's complexity.

We long for simpler times and yet we rely on complex technology.

Open our hearts for your joy –

a joy that bubbles into life by the Spirit's movement. Amen.

***VOICES UNITED #624 Give to Us Laughter**

SHARING TIME EMOJI Life

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

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

Take my life and let it be consecrated, all for thee;

take my moments and my days; let them flow with ceaseless praise.

BIBLE READING Deuteronomy 30:15-20 in the New Testament from *The Message*

¹⁵ Look at what I've done for you today: I've placed in front of you

Life and Good

Death and Evil.

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

This is ominous – worries me, good and evil there to see.

Where's the cushion saving us? Why have death; can we discuss?

¹⁶ And I command you today: Love GOD, your God. Walk in his ways. Keep his commandments, regulations, and rules so that you will live, really live, live exuberantly, blessed by GOD, your God, in the land you are about to enter and possess.

***VOICES UNITED #506** Take My Life and Let It Be
What is love that you command? Don't you think it's too "off-brand?"
Isn't love reciprocal? Isn't Love Christ's pinnacle?

¹⁷⁻¹⁸ But I warn you: If you have a change of heart, refuse to listen obediently, and willfully go off to serve and worship other gods, you will most certainly die. You won't last long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess.

***VOICES UNITED #506** Take My Life and Let It Be
Threats and warnings chain us down. Isn't Love our joy and crown?
In self-giving won't we know gifts of grace that you bestow?

¹⁹⁻²⁰ I call Heaven and Earth to witness against you today: I place before you Life and Death, Blessing and Curse. Choose life so that you and your children will live. And love GOD, your God, listening obediently to him, firmly embracing him. Oh yes, he is life itself, a long life settled on the soil that GOD, your God, promised to give your ancestors, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

***VOICES UNITED #506** Take My Life and Let It Be
Heaven's witness on this earth is our Christ of mystic birth.
In his living and his death is the fire of Spirit breath.

In his rising out of Love freedom pushes with a shove,
moving us to holy space, finding joy in life's embrace.

Take my love: and I will pour at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

PRAYER BEFORE MEDITATION

MEDITATION Tears of Laughter

DOXOLOGY #321 Voices United (verse 4 only)

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 you love has made sing everlasting praise.

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

ANTHEM O Come Ye Servants of the Lord

Christopher Tye

MINUTE FOR MISSION

Melinda Smegal

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*in unison*)

O God, your laughter echoes within all your Creation.

May we join fully in your mirth as we dedicate our selves –

along with these resources we give –

joyfully giving in a world that thrives in relationships of love.

Bless what we give as well as blessing who we are in our giving,

that we may evermore be followers of the Way of Jesus. Amen.

***VOICE UNITED 626** I Feel the Winds of God

In life, in death, we're not alone for God is with us here.

Through days of pain and days of joy we need your presence near.

This life of faith is often fraught with challenges galore,

but laughter, joy and mirth are there as love, our hope, restore.

Our great good cheer that giggles free our fear and deep despair

is evidence and surety we're bound within God's care.

The good news is our anchor true, that gifts us pure delight.

Thus, humour – through perspective new – frees us from every plight.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;

look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."

I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;

and in that light of life I'll walk 'till travelling days are done.

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT *Gloria # 37 Voices United*

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

POSTLUDE

The Prince of Denmark's March

Jeremiah Clarke