

Kincardine United Church
Sixth Sunday After Epiphany
February 16th, 2025 11:00 a.m.

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

Kincardine United Church

721 Princes Street, Kincardine, ON N2Z 2X5

Phone: 519-396-2391

Judy Zarubick: jzarubick@hurontel.on.ca Judy's Phone: 519-386-1440

PRELUDE Largo, from Xerxes *G.F. Handel*

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

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

As we came to this land,

First Nations peoples welcomed us, sustained us and taught us.

We did not hear them when they shared their vision.

In our zeal to tell them the good news of Jesus Christ,

we were closed to the value of their spirituality.

We confused Western ways and culture

with the depth, breadth, length and height of the gospel of Christ.

We imposed our civilization as a condition of accepting the gospel.

As a result, the image of the Creator in us is twisted, blurred,

and we are not what we are meant by God to be.

In our journey toward reconciliation, we acknowledge, this day,

that we gather for worship

on the traditional territories of the Saugeen Ojibway,

as well as the other indigenous peoples who preceded them –

the original nations of this land – and we acknowledge, with respect,

their history, their spirituality, and their culture.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

GOD GATHERS US

INTROIT Fairest Lord Jesus German Air. *Arr. Frank W. Asper*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Have you not known the God of the downtrodden:
the God of Hagar and Ruth and of Paul?

**Yes, we know this God
and surely God knows us.**

Have you not heard the gospel of the oppressed:
the story of liberation, freedom and salvation?

**Yes, we have heard this story
and surely this story lives in us.**

We know and we have heard that God is good,
all the time!

And all the time,

God is good. Amen!

PRAYER OF APPROACH

VOICES UNITED #577 “I’ve Got Peace Like a River”

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

The gospel is for all people

**Yet sometimes we hide the gospel,
keeping the good news to ourselves.**

Sometimes we proclaim our own version of the story;

A story that excludes those who challenge our
comfortable understandings;

A version that does not remind us of our complicity
with forms of human oppression.

**Forgive us, God, when we change history to feed our egos.
Forgive us when we celebrate an end result,
without remembering the long and difficult journey.
Forgive us, God. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

SHARING TIME

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 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

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

MORE VOICES #88 "Over My Head" T

BIBLE READING Galatians 4:21 – 31

In St. Paul's allegory of Hagar and Sarah, Paul compares the two women and their sons to the mountains.

Tell me, you who want to be under the law, are you not aware of what the law says? ²² For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the slave woman and the other by the free woman. His son by the slave woman was born according to the flesh, but his son by the free woman was born as the result of a divine promise.

These things are being taken figuratively: The women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with

her children. But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written:

“Be glad, barren woman, you who never bore a child; shout for joy and cry aloud, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband.”^[a]

Now you, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. At that time the son born according to the flesh persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now. But what does Scripture say? “Get rid of the slave woman and her son, for the slave woman’s son will never share in the inheritance with the free woman’s son.” Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of the slave woman, but of the free woman.

BIBLE READING Matthew 5:13-20

Salt and Light

¹³ “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

¹⁴ “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶ In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

The Law and the Prophets

¹⁷ “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. ¹⁹ Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. ²⁰ For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

DOXOLOGY #321 (verse 4) “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.

REFLECTION “Let Your Light Shine”

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

ANTHEM Arise! Shine! *Joseph Martin*

OFFERING INVITATION AND PRAYER OF DEDICATION

VOICES UNITED #266 “Amazing Grace”

**BENEDICTION (Based on Martin Luther King Jr.’s speech,
“I Have a Dream”)**

***SONG OF COMMITMENT VU #37 “Gloria”**
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE An Expression of Joy *David Hamilton and Ashton Dunk*