

Kincardine United Church
5th Sunday of Epiphany
February 4, 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
721 Princes Street, Kincardine, ON N2Z 2X5
Phone: 519-396-2391

Gord Dunbar: gord.kuc@bmts.com Gord's Phone: 519-386-6346

PRELUDE

Our Father, In Heaven.

G. P. Telemann

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

Jesus, Our Redeemer

D. Buxtehude

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

Come on in no matter who you are or from where you come,
whether through our YouTube channel, or by live-stream, or in person –
you are welcome and celebrated in this space.

**Some of us come out of routine, some of us out of loneliness,
some of us confident and comfortable, some veiling our hidden self –
yet all of us come seeking meaning and purpose in this community.**

We gather for this worship service as ordinary, flawed and unique people,
longing for a divine touch of wholeness.

**We come in our brokenness to be cracked open through faith,
to be fashioned for loving because of our human flaws.**

Let us, then, open ourselves to God in prayer:

Sometimes, God, we don't understand how you can love us.

Aren't we supposed to be "perfect offerings" for you?

Aren't we supposed to follow the Way of Jesus without fail?

Aren't we supposed to guard our faith with certainty?

(Silent prayer)

Okay, now I get it. You love us because we are created for relationship.

Love is the relationship you share *with* and *for* us – a transforming connection.

We thank your Spirited presence holding us in love.

It only takes your spark to get our fires going,

flames of possibility fed by the broken kindling of our living. Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 289** It Only Takes a Spark

SHARING TIME Playing Telephone

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 1st Corinthians 9:19-23 from *The Message*

¹⁹⁻²³ Even though I am free of the demands and expectations of everyone, I have voluntarily become a servant to any and all in order to reach a wide range of people: religious, nonreligious, meticulous moralists, loose-living immoralists, the defeated, the demoralized—whoever. I didn't take on their way of life. I kept my bearings in Christ—

but I entered their world and tried to experience things from their point of view. I've become just about every sort of servant there is in my attempts to lead those I meet into a God-saved life. I did all this because of the Message. I didn't just want to talk about it; I wanted to be *in* on it!

***KNOWN UNKNOWNNS 64 (Sung to Tune: 271 VU) Sing, My Soul**

- 1. Sing, my soul, when hope is sleeping, sing when faith gives way to fears;
sing to melt the ice of sadness, making way for joy through tears.**
- 2. Sing, my soul, when sickness lingers, sing to dull the sharpest pain;
sing to set the spirit leaping: healing needs a glad refrain.**
- 3. Sing, my soul, of him who shaped me, let me wander far away,
ran with open arms to greet me, brought me home again to stay.**
- 4. Sing, my soul, when light seems darkest, sing when night refuses rest,
sing though death should mock the future:
what's to come by God is blessed.**

BIBLE READING Mark 1:29-39 in the New Testament

²⁹ As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰ Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹ He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them.

³² That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed by demons. ³³ And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴ And he cured many who were sick with various diseases and cast out many demons, and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

³⁵ In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. ³⁶ And Simon and his companions hunted for him. ³⁷ When they found him, they said to him, "Everyone is searching for you." ³⁸ He answered, "Let us go on to the neighboring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also, for that is what I came out to do." ³⁹ And he went throughout all Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

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 "Hiding Out?"

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

VOICES UNITED 400 Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying
LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING,
LORD, SEND YOUR SPIRIT IN THIS PLACE
LORD, LISTEN TO YOUR CHILDREN PRAYING,
SEND US LOVE, SEND US POWER, SEND US GRACE.

ANTHEM Light of the World Words: Nancy Price and Don Besig.
Music: Don Besig

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Even as we offer these gifts to you, O God, we know you are with us always.
In our giving, we embrace the essence of the risen Christ's self-giving.
Through this humble act of generosity, we are led by the Spirit.
May you bless both us and our gifts,
that others may know they, too, are not alone. Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 644** I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT *Gloria # 37 Voices United*
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE A Mighty Fortress J. G. Walther