

# Kincardine United Church

## Epiphany Sunday

January 1, 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.

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**PRELUDE** The Old Year Has Passed Away *BWV 614 J.S. Bach*

### **WELCOME**

Welcome to all of you who have joined our service this morning - whether in person, by Zoom, on YouTube or on Rogers cable channel. We are glad that you feel welcome here on this the first day of the New Year.

### **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 colonization 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 Nation.

**We are all Treaty people, parties to Crown Treaty 45 ½ in 1836.**

**May we grow into living with respect on this land,  
walking into reconciliation through peace and friendship,  
while honouring all those who live, work and worship on  
it.**

**We pray the holy Spirit breathes forgiveness, hope and love  
into all our relations and sets us free from the evil of  
colonialism.**

### **SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

As we stand at the door of a New Year and prepare to cross its'  
threshold, let us carry the peace of Christ's love in our hearts and our  
lives that we may make peace possible in our time.

**The Peace of Christ be with you....**

And also with you.

### **GOD GATHERS US**

**MUSICAL INTROIT** The Old Year Has Passed Away     *Marcel Dupré*

### **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Let this candlelight so shine throughout our lives and our days that all may  
know we follow in Christ's way and that the light shines for all of God's  
children. May it be so.

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

#### **PRAYER OF APPROACH**

**Here we stand in your presence, O God,  
assured of Your saving grace and blessing.  
We have come seeking knowledge and insight  
into our world -which is broken and hurting.  
We come with confidence that You will always be with us,  
hearing our requests for Your strength and acceptance.**

## **HYMN - MVU #28 God of the Bible**

### **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

In these uncertain times, we look to You, O Creator, for guidance and inspiration, but we remain uneasy in our relationship with you and so I remind you all what Paul said in difficult times for trust and patience and faith:

**“For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Here we are - a new beginning, a fresh start, - all the usual clichés. However, they don't really solve the problem. How do we make sure we do what is right and kind and good worthy not only in God's eyes but in our own.

**That is the easy part**

**and one we often start and fail to follow through.**

**It is easy to think that tomorrow someone else will act**

**or maybe next week, next month ...**

**We are so good at procrastination.**

**And that is how we are disrespectful to all of God's children, every day and even more so in times of chaos, violence, abuse...even war.**

**Because we do not experience something**

**does not mean that it does not occur ...**

**it only means that it does not occur to us.**

That is a very lame excuse and not worthy of our promises to God – to protect our world, give aid those in need, protect the young and the infirm, celebrate the life of everyone you know -

**They are our neighbours, our families, our global kin –**

**they are us - and they deserve our respect and our support**

**and our gift of giving in the name of God, the Creator. Amen.**

## **SHARING TIME - A CHEROKEE LEGEND**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (Sing together)**

**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**

The Teacher stands before us - hands outstretched- and says, "Come,  
Follow me - be my hands, my eyes, my ears, my heart - that I may be with  
you always, even unto the end of the age.

### **SCRIPTURE READING** Psalm 148

### **HYMN VU #79** Spirit, Open My Heart

### **SCRIPTURE READING** Matthew 2:13-23 (NRSV)

### **DOXOLOGY VU # 321** Maker in Whom We Live

### **MEDITATION** Sanctuary and a Promise

## **GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND**

### **ANTHEM** In Thee is Gladness *Marcel Dupré*

## **COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

Gracious and loving God, we have come today to thank you for your gifts of unconditional love, everlasting forgiveness, compassion and acceptance of who we are.

We remember your promises to us - the rainbow, gift of Your Son, Christ Jesus, the statement that You are always with us.

Help us to keep our promises to You - to tend this world we call home, to care for all creatures who dwell in it -on land, in air, and in sea.

O Lord, hear our prayers,

**And in Your Love, answer**

We enter Your house today, with anxious feelings about the future, taking comfort from Your presence, drawing upon Your strength as we face an uncertain world.

You are our strength and our shield, of whom shall we be afraid?

O Lord hear our prayers;

**and in Your love, answer.**

In the uncertainty in which we live, facing a new kind of normal that we do not recognize and struggle to understand, and many unfamiliar problems; we look to you for confidence and courage to do what is right in Your sight.

You alone know what we need to do to be able to walk the path with Christ Jesus, to love our neighbours and ourselves as we are loved by You, to stand for the oppressed and feed the hungry, hold the fearful in strength and love, and to care for all Your children.

O Lord, hear our prayers;

**And in Your love answer.**

For those who are living in the hardship of war, experiencing hunger and fear, seeing destruction and death all around them, worrying about their families, we turn to You for comfort, assurance and the knowledge that we are not alone in all of this sadness and fear.

O Lord, hear our prayers;

**And in Your love answer.**

As we leave here today, help us to see new ways of responding to our community; to be more positive and creative in dealing with aggression, racism and bigotry.

We must remind each other that we are all God's children.

Hold us in Your love and compassion that we may learn to share these truths with our global families.

O Lord, hear our prayers for;

**We are not alone. We live in God's world. Thanks  
be to God. Amen.**

### **OFFERING INVITATION**

It is easy to write a cheque, drop a bill or two on the plate, but the underlying need remains -we need to care - which is shown in how we give. Charity begins at home, says the proverbs - so how do we keep our "home" and all who dwell there safe and well. It is an ongoing process - visible proof that we really do live our promise.

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

**As we give, so are we given;**

**where our time and talents are useful and used,  
so may we see the values of others' offerings;  
where we hold out the hand of family,  
may we welcome with joy  
all of those who are seeking a home;  
we are all God's children.**

**Thanks be to God.**

**HYMN VU #7 Hope is a Star**

### **BENEDICTION**

And I said to the man who stands at the gate of the year:

Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown!"

And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way".

May the Lord bless you, and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Amen

**SONG OF COMMITMENT** VU #37 Gloria

**Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia.**

**POSTLUDE** In Thee is Gladness *BWV 615* *J.S. Bach*