

Kincardine United Church

Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 17th, 2024 11:00 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

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PRELUDE Fugue in C Major BWV 533 J.S. Bach

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND (unison)

For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land.

Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and of their spirituality.

We begin our worship this morning

**by acknowledging the traditional territory
of the Saugeen Ojibwe.**

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

**Keep us mindful of the covenants that have been made –
and broken – with First Nations peoples.**

May we grow into living with respect on this land,

**walking into reconciliation through peace and friendship,
while honouring all who live, work and worship on it.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you all.
(and also with you.)

GOD GATHERS US

MUSICAL INTROIT

Interlude

J.C. Kittel

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE (responsive)

In times of struggle,

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

In times of Wonder,

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

In times of anxious anticipation,

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

In this time and place, here and now, and in all the days of our lives,

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World.

As we continue to journey toward the cross, let the light of this Christ candle remind us of who we are and whose we are, struggling, wondering and anxiously anticipating people of the Way.
Jessica Knoyle, Ottawa, Ont.

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant.

The new covenant of God is written on our hearts.

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I shall be your God and you shall be my people.

The new covenant of God is written on our hearts.

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when all people shall know me, from the least to the greatest.

The new covenant of God is written on our hearts.

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will remember your sin no more.

Thanks be to God.

Let us now worship.

Bill Steadman, Goulais River U.C., Goulais River, Ont.

OPENING PRAYER (unison)

God, we like the idea of walking with Jesus. It feels good to step alongside someone we love and admire. But this Lenten journey demands more than admiration. While we walk with Jesus, we must ask him – and ourselves – some important questions. What does Lent mean to our faith. Are we strong enough to stay with Jesus when we come to the unbearably painful parts of the story? Holy one, bless our Lenten path and ignite our imaginations, so that we might make this a season of questions, a season of reflection, and a season of discovery. Amen

Susan Ivany, Westminster U.C., Thunder Bay, Ont

HYMN VU #402 We are One

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

George Allan, Chatham, On.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (unison)

Jesus, we have not always lived as if you love us. We have hurt ourselves, in body and spirit, withheld from ourselves, as punishment for not being:

“good enough,” “strong enough,”

“smart enough,” “beautiful enough...”

We have treated ourselves, God’s image in the world, badly. Forgive us and help us to heal.

Jesus, we have not always lived as if you love others. We have hurt our neighbours, in body and spirit, withheld from others, as punishment for not being:

“quiet enough,” polite enough,” “smart enough,” “normal enough...”

**We have treated the stranger, God's image in the world,
badly. Forgive us, heal those we have hurt and help us to
live and love as you have us do. Amen**

Tori Mullin, Hampton U.C., Hampton, N.S.

SHARING TIME The Legend of the Easter Egg

THE LORD'S PRAYER (unison)

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Catherine Tovell, Kilworth, U.C., London, Ont.

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 51, VU pages 776-777

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

HYMN MV #79 Spirit Open My Heart

GOSPEL READING: John 12:20-33

²⁰ Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²² Philip went

and told Andrew, then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.
²³ Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain, but if it dies it bears much fruit. ²⁵ Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.
²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.
²⁷ “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say: ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰ Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹ Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people^[a] to myself.”
³³ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

DOXOLOGY 104 MV (sung twice) Know That God Is Good
Know that God is good, know that God is good.
Know that God is good, God is good, God is good.

REFLECTION The Secret of Life

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

ANTHEM Dona Nobis Pacem Anonymous Arr. David Hamilton

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

You care for us, Loving God; you care for those closest to us.

When there is joy within the family circle, you celebrate with us.

You care for us, Loving God; you care for those closest to us.

Where there is sorrow within the family, you grieve with us.

You encourage us, Loving God; you are support in times of trouble.

When the hard times arrive, you listen to our anguish.

You care for us, Loving God; you care for those closest to us.

In the midst of conflict, you are the voice that counsels peace.

You care for us, Loving God; you care for those closest to us.

God you are with us all the time: With us when the war clouds swirl;

with us, working for peace.

With us when there are fires and floods;

with us, enabling us to be helpers.

With us, meeting the needs of the lonely;

with us, giving an invitation to community.

With us when there is hard testing;

with us, encouraging patient endurance.

With us when the harvest fails;

with us, offering to share from our plenty.

With us when our faith is downplayed,

calling us to live out our Christianity, hour by hour and day by day.

When it seems the time of trial will never end,

in Christ, our hope is eternal. Amen.

—David Sparks

OFFERING INVITATION

When we give, we are contributing to more than our own well-being. Also, our giving is not just to pay the bills and wages.

Our giving is something more. Our giving is a sign of commitment to participate in the work of God by watering the parched earth with our acts of caring and conservation, not only for our sake but for every person and creature of earth. Our gifts, large and small, bring about possibilities that are blessed by God. Let us now receive our offerings of treasure and discipleship.

Kelly Sprinkle, Mountain Ridge United Church of Christ,
Fairport, N.Y.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Teach us, O God, to offer the very best of who we are in the service of your will. Through the mission of this church may we offer hope, may we offer joy, may we offer reconciliation in a world so much in need. Receive what we give for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen

Kate Crawford, Huron Shores U.C., Grand Bend, Ont.

HYMN VU #703 In the Bulb There is a Flower

BENEDICTION

Lori Van Santboort-Jansekovich, Broadway U.C.,
Thunder Bay, Ont.

SONG OF COMMITMENT "Go Now in Peace"

#964 Voices United

God now in peace, go now in peace.

May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.

POSTLUDE Prelude in C Major BWV 533 J.S. Bach