

Kincardine United Church

4th Sunday of Lent

March 19, 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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YouTube: [KUC YouTube Channel](#) Facebook: [KUC Facebook Page](#)

PRELUDE

In Thee Lord Have I Put My Trust BWV 640

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

We acknowledge the Traditional Territory of the Anishinabek Nation:

The People of the Three Fires

known as Ojibway, Odawa and Pottawatomie Nations.

We further give thanks to the Chippewas of Saugeen, and the Chippewas of Nawash –
now known as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation –
as the traditional keepers of this land.

**Our thanks compel us to live fully into our journey of reconciliation –
a seven-generation process of intentional listening and learning.**

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

**We, thus, commit ourselves to follow Jesus' calling us into the world,
loving one another as we are loved by God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

GOD GATHERS US

MUSICAL INTROIT

Prelude

J. C. Kittel

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

Have you ever wondered why we gather?

**Sometimes, but whether we're online at home or here in person,
it's kind of what we do.**

Do you come for all the words, or for the singing, or for the coffee, or for the prayers –
or, for some of you, because two delightful little girls are being baptized?

A little bit of this and a little bit of that.

Why do you ask?

What if you came because you were invited on an exciting journey of discovery?

What if you were here because your heart yearns for meaning and purpose in community?

Now that you ask, maybe that's what we hope for.

To be truthful, we don't always get that.

If that's true, perhaps we can pray for what we long:

Loving God, reveal yourself to us so that our hearts may leap for joy.

Fill our hearts with your presence that we may find meaning and purpose.

Connect us with each other in this community of faith –

**whether friends or enemies, whether relatives or strangers, whether believing or
skeptical.**

We ask all of this in the name of the one who invites us, in Jesus' name. Amen.

*VOICES UNITED #79 Arise, Your Light Is Come

GOD TRANSFORMS THROUGH SACRAMENT

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE *(Romans 6:3-6 from The Message) Heather Shewfelt*

Let us remember the gift of God's grace poured out in baptism.

“...when we went under the water, we left the old country of sin behind;

**when we came up out of the water, we entered into the new country of grace –
a new life in a new land!**

That's what baptism into the life of Jesus means.

When we are lowered into the water, it is like the burial of Jesus;

when we are raised up out of the water, it is like the resurrection of Jesus.

Each of us is raised into a light-filled world by God

so that we can see where we're going in our new grace-sovereign country.”

SHARING TIME Why Water?

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.

Presentation

...Rod Coates

On behalf of the congregation of Kincardine United Church,
I present Scotlynn Jean AI, daughter of Sadie and Derek AI,
and I present Halley Grace Richards, daughter of Elsie and Brady Richards,
for initiation into the body of Christ through baptism.

PROFESSION OF FAITH *(to Brady, Elsie, Derek and Sadie)*

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you promise to resist evil,
turning away from sin and toward God, to live in love and justice?

I DO, BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

Do you believe in God, Source of Love, in Jesus Christ, Love Incarnate
and in the Holy Spirit, Love's Power?

I DO, BY THE GRACE OF GOD.

Will you join with the people of this family of faith
in the mission and the ministry of Christ's Church?

I WILL, GOD BEING MY HELPER.

GODPARENTS' COMMITMENT

(to Elsie and Brady)

Brady and Elsie, will you pray for Scotlynn, taking care that she may learn and live the faith?

I WILL, GOD BEING MY HELPER.

(to Sadie AI and Chad Richards)

Sadie and Chad, will you pray for Halley, taking care that she may learn and live the faith?

I WILL, GOD BEING MY HELPER.

CONGREGATIONAL COMMITMENT

...Rod Coates

As we rise in body or in spirit,
let us pledge to Halley and Scotlynn our support and our care.

**As a baptised and baptising church, Christ's body,
we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within this faith community
as we live out our baptisms in the light of God's grace.**

VOICES UNITED 918 A New Creed

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God:

**who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:

**to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,**

**to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING
AND THE POURING OF THE WATER**

God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give God thanks and praise.

(Please be seated as the water is poured into the font)

Gracious and loving God, we thank you for your blessing in the gift of life and,
within it, the gift of water.

**Now, loving God, may your Holy Spirit embrace what we do,
blessing this water that it may be a sign of new life in Christ. Amen.**

BAPTISM

Scotlynn Jean Al,

I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

I mark you with the sign of the cross, claiming you as Christ's forever.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

May the power of the Holy Spirit work within you,
that being born of water and of the Spirit,
you may be a faithful witness to Jesus Christ.

PASSING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Christ, as the light of the world, shares that light with us.
May this candle remind you of the light you share,
proclaiming God's love to the world.

INTRODUCING SCOTLYNN TO THE CONGREGATION

BAPTISM

Halley Grace Richards,

I baptise you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

SIGNING WITH THE CROSS

I mark you with the sign of the cross, claiming you as Christ's forever.

LAYING ON OF HANDS

May the power of the Holy Spirit work within you,
that being born of water and of the Spirit,
you may be a faithful witness to Jesus Christ.

PASSING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

Christ, as the light of the world, shares that light with us.
May this candle remind you of the light you share,
proclaiming God's love to the world.

INTRODUCING HALLEY TO THE CONGREGATION

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

WELCOME

...Rod Coates

Into union with Christ, into the household of faith,
we welcome you both, Halley and Scotlynn, with joy and with thanksgiving.

We are members of the body of Christ

We are inheritors of God's promise.

In the name of Christ, we welcome you!

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

BIBLE READING John 9:1-41 in the New Testament

9 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. **2** His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" **3** Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. **4** We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. **5** As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." **6** When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, **7** saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. **8** The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" **9** Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." **10** But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" **11** He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." **12** They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

MORE VOICES 161 (verse 1 only) I Have Called You by Your Name

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. **14** Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. **15** Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." **16** Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the

Sabbath.” Others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

MORE VOICES 161 (verse 2 only) I Have Called You by Your Name

¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

MORE VOICES 161 (verse 3 only) I Have Called You by Your Name

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

MORE VOICES 161 (verse 4 only) I Have Called You by Your Name

BIBLE READING Ephesians 5:8-14 from the New Testament

⁸ for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!
Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

DOXOLOGY #89 More Voices (verse 4 only)
Love is the Maker and Spirit and son;
love is the kingdom their will has begun;
love is the path which the saints all have trod;
God is where love is, for love is of God.

PRAYER BEFORE MEDITATION

MEDITATION “Qualities of Light and Dark”

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

ANTHEM Psalm of Quietness Words and Music by John F. Wilson
Choral arrangement by Jack Schrader

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*in unison*)
May what we offer this morning, Living God,
be blessed by you as signs of our love
as we follow your mission in the world.
May we discover our giving as your pathway,
the Way of commitment through self-giving love. Amen

***VOICE UNITED 605** Jesus, Teacher, Brave and Bold

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT Lead Me, God # 662 *Voices United*
Lead me, God, lead me in your righteousness;
make your way plain before my face.
For it is you, and you, God only,
who makes me to dwell in safety.

POSTLUDE Fughetta in c minor J. Krieger