

Kincardine United Church

5th Sunday of Lent

March 26, 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

Siciliana

G. Golterman

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

Kincardine United Church takes seriously

the commitments made to First Nations communities

through the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report,

especially through the Calls to Action to churches like us.

Therefore, we acknowledge, this day,

that we gather for worship

on the traditional territories of the Saugeen Ojibway,

and 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

MUSICAL INTROIT

Liebster Jesu

J.G. Walther

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

Come on this first Sunday of spring to be embraced by possibility.

We come feeling a little dead after a winter that still seems too persistent.

Come as the snows of March are blown away by the wind of transformation.

We come hoping the Spirit breathes into us enlivening insight.

As we come, let us open our hearts in prayer:

Living, loving God, we come to be invigorated as the days lengthen.

Unknot the worries filling our minds through your calming touch.

Open our fatigued hearts to the possibilities of renewed and burgeoning life.

Teach us your path of grace as gift and as goal, in Jesus' name. Amen.

***VOICES UNITED #378** Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart

SHARING TIME "Lovely Day" based on the lyrics by Bill Withers
and illustrated by Olivia Dutchess

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**God within us, God beyond us, God among us,
may the Mystery always be named and known
among all peoples and in all times.**

May Creation give way to the rule of love and the power of life.

Satisfy our hunger, granting us a hunger to see the whole world fed.

Restore us to right relationship

with you, with Creation, with others, with ourselves.

Strengthen us to reject all that would lead us away from you.

Come to us when we choose death over life.

Give us courage to follow your call in this moment.

For in your love we find the only power,

**the only home, the only honour we will ever need,
in this life and the life to come. Amen.**

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

BIBLE READING Ezekiel 37:1-14 in the Old Testament from *The Message*

¹⁻² GOD grabbed me. GOD's Spirit took me up and set me down in the middle of an open plain strewn with bones. He led me around and among them—a lot of bones! There were bones all over the plain—dry bones, bleached by the sun.

³ He said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?"

I said, "Master GOD, only you know that."

⁴ He said to me, "Prophecy over these bones: 'Dry bones, listen to the Message of GOD!'"

⁵⁻⁶ GOD, the Master, told the dry bones, "Watch this: I'm bringing the breath of life to you and you'll come to life. I'll attach sinews to you, put meat on your bones, cover you with skin, and breathe life into you. You'll come alive and you'll realize that I am GOD!"

7-8 I prophesied just as I'd been commanded. As I prophesied, there was a sound and, oh, rustling! The bones moved and came together, bone to bone. I kept watching. Sinews formed, then muscles on the bones, then skin stretched over them. But they had no breath in them.

9 He said to me, "Prophesy to the breath. Prophesy, son of man. Tell the breath, 'GOD, the Master, says, Come from the four winds. Come, breath. Breathe on these slain bodies. Breathe life!'"

10 So I prophesied, just as he commanded me. The breath entered them and they came alive! They stood up on their feet, a huge army.

11 Then God said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Listen to what they're saying: 'Our bones are dried up, our hope is gone, there's nothing left of us.'

12-14 "Therefore, prophesy. Tell them, 'GOD, the Master, says: I'll dig up your graves and bring you out alive—O my people! Then I'll take you straight to the land of Israel. When I dig up graves and bring you out as my people, you'll realize that I am GOD. I'll breathe my life into you and you'll live. Then I'll lead you straight back to your land and you'll realize that I am GOD. I've said it and I'll do it. GOD's Decree.'"

***VOICES UNITED 264** Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

BIBLE READING Romans 8:6-11 from the New Testament

6 To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. 7 For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. 10 But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. 11 If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in 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 "Embodied Mysticism"

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

ANTHEM How can I keep from singing? African folk hymn. Arranged by Andy Beck

STARTING WITH WHY - WHY I GIVE

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION *(in unison)*

Breathe into these gifts we offer, O God, with your creative inspiration,
transforming them from coin, paper and electronic funds
into resources for your mission in the world.

Breathe into us as we give, living Spirit,
that we may be similarly transformed by following the Way of Jesus,
the Way of self-giving love. Amen

***VOICE UNITED 586** We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection

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 Christ Lag In Todesbanden BWV 625 J. S. Bach