

Kincardine United Church

Reign of Christ Sunday

November 26th, 2023

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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BEFORE WORSHIP

Swedish Hymn of Praise arranged by Robert Longfield
Amberwood Overture by Anne McGinty
River Song arranged by Douglas E. Wagner

PRELUDE

Prayer by Engelbert Humperdinck, arranged by Henry Clark Smith

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

ANTHEM INTRIOOT Bist Du Bel Mir by J. S. Bach, arranged by Anne McGinty

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

It's reigning, it's pouring, we come in praise adoring.

Why are you singing a children's ditty to us?

It's reigning, restoring, God's grace is ever soaring.

Are you trying – badly, we might add – to mark the Reign of Christ Sunday?

Christ reigning, within us, I want to make a major fuss.

Okay, okay! You've made your point.

Just stop singing – please!

Alright, since you asked nicely, but I'm still pumped!

Let's dive into the wonder of God who is Love, a love that reigns within and around us.

That seems just a tad intimidating to have God dwell within.

That's our personal space, you know.

We may think so, but we are *made* for love, for relationship, for loving kindness.

Let's explore that love with God in prayer:

God who is Love, take our timid acceptance of your love for us,

multiplying it each time we share love with another,

enriching it every moment we reach out to care for a stranger,

deepening it whenever we act for justice with those on the margins,

nurturing it during those dark nights of the soul by transformation.

In our gratitude for your constant work in us and others by the Spirit,

we sing our praises of gratitude and commitment. Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 820** Make a Joyful Noise

SHARING TIME "Scaredy Squirrel" by Melanie Watt

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father-Mother, who is in the heavens,

may your name be made holy, may your dominion come,

may your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us today the bread we need;

and forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors;

and do not put us to the test, but rescue us from evil.

For yours is the dominion, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

MORE VOICES 146

"The Kingdom of God"

The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Come, Lord, and open to us the gates of your kingdom.

BIBLE READING Matthew 25:31-34 in the New Testament

³¹ “When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, ³³ and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. ³⁴ Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world....’

MORE VOICES 146

“The Kingdom of God”

**The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open to us the gates of your kingdom.**

BIBLE READING Matthew 25:35-36 in the New Testament

³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’

MORE VOICES 146

“The Kingdom of God”

**The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open to us the gates of your kingdom.**

BIBLE READING Matthew 25:37-38 in the New Testament

³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’

MORE VOICES 146

“The Kingdom of God”

**The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open to us the gates of your kingdom.**

BIBLE READING Matthew 25:39-43 in the New Testament

⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’ ⁴¹ Then he will say to those at his left hand, ‘You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, ⁴² for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, ⁴³ I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’

MORE VOICES 146

“The Kingdom of God”

**The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.
Come, Lord, and open to us the gates of your kingdom.**

BIBLE READING Matthew 25:44-46 in the New Testament

⁴⁴ Then they also will answer, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?’ ⁴⁵ Then he will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ ⁴⁶ And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life.”

MORE VOICES 146

“The Kingdom of God”

The kingdom of God is justice and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Come, Lord, and open to us the gates of your kingdom.

BIBLE READING Ephesians 1:15-23 in the New Testament

¹⁵ I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason ¹⁶ I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, ¹⁷ that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, ¹⁸ so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, ¹⁹ and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. ²⁰ God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. ²² And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

DOXOLOGY 315 (*verse 4 only*) “Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty”

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;

holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,

God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

PRAYER BEFORE REFLECTION

REFLECTION “It’s the Little Things”

ANTHEM Servants of Almighty God by Mark Patterson

JESUS INVITES US TO TABLE

INVITATION

Bread and grape juice, simple yet nourishing.

The invitation is simple, too.

Come to this table – Christ’s table – to be fed.

Each of us is welcome for no barriers are raised within the reign of Christ.

We come freely to receive this gift of grace, invited, welcomed and upheld.

CALL TO GIVE THANKS

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give God our thanks and praise.

It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The reign of Christ has always been God’s gift of grace in life and living.

The power of the Spirit swept Creation into being with a word: light.

In that light God equipped the flawed and the imperfect through love.

Established and settled Abram and Sarai became wanderers, seeking a new home.

Moses forever sought the promised land he never touched while forging a people of faith.

Rahab the prostitute and traitor became the ancestor of Jesus of Nazareth.

Prophets were ordinary people who answered God's call for justice and equity.

Even the disciples were works in progress, yearning to live fully into the love Jesus shared.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND FRACTION

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

The reign of Christ lives within us through the loving relationships we nurture.

Let us lift our hearts to join with God's heart in silent prayer for those people we treasure:

(Silent prayer)

Thank you, God, for holding us – and those for whom we have prayed –
in your healing, restorative power.

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION

We now know that we are all an integral part of your love in Christ,
for communion represents our very connection one to another.

**As we are nourished by these elements we are about to partake,
may you, O God, transform us for your kin-dom in the world,
loving even our enemies and those who persecute us.**

Through our loving, may we be your agents for compassion and loving kindness. Amen.

PARTAKING

*If you are worshipping at home,
please take the bread and beverage you have prepared and partake,
sharing with anyone who is with you.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray once more:

We don't want your reign in us to be an afterthought, O Christ.

Strengthen us by what we have shared this morning,

**that we may dare to face our fears,
loving one another as you love us. Amen.**

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

MEMORIAL LEGACY TREE

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

So often, loving God, we feel like "the least of these,"
yet you call us to give of ourselves and of our bounty.

We ask for your blessing on these gifts, then, knowing that small things count,
especially when they are collected together.

May what we offer become justice and peace the world 'round. Amen.

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT 481 (*verse 2 only*) “Sent Forth by God’s Blessing”

**With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the task of our everyday life we will face.**

**Our faith ever sharing in love ever caring,
embracing God’s children of each tribe and race.**

**With your feast you feed us, with your light now lead us,
unite us as one in this life that we share.**

**Then may all the living with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.**

POSTLUDE

Bridgewater March by Steve Hodges