

Kincardine United Church

20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 15, 2023 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.

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PRELUDE Three Liturgical Preludes No.1 George Oldroyd

WELCOME

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 colonisation 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.

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

GOD GATHERS US

MUSICAL INTROIT Three Liturgical Preludes No. 2 George Oldroyd

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

Come into this place populated with ordinary people –
we who have messed up, made mistakes and carry doubts.

Are you talking about us as flawed people?

I'm inviting all of us into this space, for I am no different than you, and just as imperfect.
Come in where you don't have to be pushed around by any fears you carry.

We come, hoping for meaning and purpose in community.

We come to dream God's dream of possibility.

Then let us dream together in prayer:

God who is Love, we come to be bathed in the Spirit and changed by Christ's words.

**May you open our hearts that we may love flawed people –
people who are very much like each of us.**

May you strengthen our listening to one another that we may learn through compassion.

May you liberate us from our fears that we may welcome our transformation. Amen.

*VOICES UNITED 472 O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

SHARING TIME Knitting God's Love

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.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

BIBLE READING Philippians 4:1-9 from *The Message*

My dear, dear friends! I love you so much. I do want the very best for you. You make me feel such joy, fill me with such pride. Don't waver. Stay on track, steady in God.

² I urge Euodia and Syntyche to iron out their differences and make up. God doesn't want his children holding grudges.

³ And, oh, yes, Syzygus, since you're right there to help them work things out, do your best with them. These women worked for the Message hand in hand with Clement and me, and with the other veterans—worked as hard as any of us. Remember, their names are also in the Book of Life.

⁴⁻⁵ Celebrate God all day, every day. I mean, *revel* in him! Make it as clear as you can to all you meet that you're on their side, working with them and not against them. Help them see that the Master is about to arrive. He could show up any minute!

⁶⁻⁷ Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life.

⁸⁻⁹ Summing it all up, friends, I'd say you'll do best by filling your minds and meditating on things true, noble, reputable, authentic, compelling, gracious—the best, not the worst; the beautiful, not the ugly; things to praise, not things to curse. Put into practice what you learned from me, what you heard and

saw and realized. Do that, and God, who makes everything work together, will work you into his most excellent harmonies.

***KNOWN UNKNOWNNS 14 (Tune: #806 VU) Do Not Be Vexed**

- 1. Do not be vexed or envy those obsessed with doing wrong.
Their fortune is like fields of grass whose growth cannot last long.**
- 2. Trust in the Lord, do what is right, take root in God good ground.
Delight in God in whose great will your heart's desire is found.**
- 3. Give God your trust, and let the Lord direct your future way.
The justice of your cause shall rise and shine as clear as day.**
- 4. Do not be jealous or dismayed should evil folk succeed.
Wait patiently for God who comes in quietness to your need.**
- 5. Better the pennies of the poor than wicked people's gain.
God breaks their power; but humble folk will never live in vain.**

BIBLE READING Matthew 22:1-14 from the New Testament

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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 “Rejoice by Living Faithfully”

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

ANTHEM

Praise the Lord

Hal H. Hopkins

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Take what we offer this morning, O God,

 blessing our giving as a sign of your grace.

Bless what we give back to you

 to help to transform life on earth into the harmony of heaven, in Jesus' name. Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 575** I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

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

Three Liturgical Preludes No. 3

George Oldroyd