

Kincardine United Church

21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 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.

Kincardine United Church, 721 Princes St. Kincardine ON, N2Z 0A3

Office Email: kuchurch@bmts.com Phone: 519-396-2391

Gord Dunbar: gord.kuc@bmts.com Phone: 519-386-6346

Donation Steward: kucdonate@bmts.com

Web site: www.kincardineunitedchurch.org

PRELUDE

Worthy of Worship

Mark Blankenship

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

(Slightly modified from the one used at Saugeen Wesley United Church)

For thousands of years,

First Nations people have lived on this land and by these waters;
this relationship is at the centre of their lives and spirituality.

**We are gathered as a non-Indigenous community of faith
on the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibway Nation,
and acknowledge their stewardship through the ages.**

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

Jesus calls us into the world to love one another as we are loved by God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

GOD GATHERS US

MUSICAL INTROIT

Jesus, Our Redeemer BWV 626

J. S Bach

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

Welcome to worship where we can snuggle into God's restorative embrace.

**In that embrace we long to feel God's unconditional love,
we hope to become filled with the Spirit's inspiration**

and we come to learn to follow the Way of Jesus.

As we are gathered, upheld and sent,

may we learn to carry the good news within as we live our lives in the wider world.

We come to grow into our journey of faith within the nurture of divine love.

Let us commune with God in prayer:

When life happens, surprising God, reveal to us the gifts you have given to each of us.

Provide the time, the insight and the practice for our faith apprenticeship.

Enable us to wrestle with each event in our living through the lens of the risen Christ.

May we become people who seek justice, love kindness and walk humbly with you. Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 218** We Praise You, O God

SHARING TIME "Your Special Gifts" by Max Lucado

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and what shall be.

Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:

the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,

now and for ever. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

BIBLE READING 1st Thessalonians 1:1-10 from *The Message*

I, Paul, together here with Silas and Timothy, send greetings to the church at Thessalonica, Christians assembled by God the Father and by the Master, Jesus Christ. God's amazing grace be with you! God's robust peace!

MORE VOICES 146 The Kingdom of God

²⁻⁵ Every time we think of you, we thank God for you. Day and night you're in our prayers as we call to mind your work of faith, your labor of love, and your patience of hope in following our Master, Jesus Christ, before God our Father. It is clear to us, friends, that God not only loves you very much but also has put his hand on you for something special. When the Message we preached came to you, it wasn't just words. Something happened in you. The Holy Spirit put steel in your convictions.

⁵⁻⁶ You paid careful attention to the way we lived among you, and determined to live that way yourselves. In imitating us, you imitated the Master. Although great trouble accompanied the Word, you were able to take great joy from the Holy Spirit!—taking the trouble with the joy, the joy with the trouble.

MORE VOICES 146

The Kingdom of God

7-10 Do you know that all over the provinces of both Macedonia and Achaia believers look up to you? The word has gotten around. Your lives are echoing the Master's Word, not only in the provinces but all over the place. The news of your faith in God is out. We don't even have to say anything anymore—you're the message! People come up and tell us how you received us with open arms, how you deserted the dead idols of your old life so you could embrace and serve God, the true God. They marvel at how expectantly you await the arrival of his Son, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescued us from certain doom.

MORE VOICES 146

The Kingdom of God

BIBLE READING Matthew 22:15-22 from the New Testament

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. 16 So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" 21 They answered, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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** "Small Changes"**GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND****COMMUNITY PRAYERS****ANTHEM**

Down to the River to Pray

Ken Medema and arranged by Mary McDonald

OFFERING INVITATION**PRAYER OF DEDICATION****You have generously given us gifts for living.****Bless these gifts we return to you, O God,****that the world may be transformed one small step at a time.****Nurture our generosity as we give of ourselves in Jesus' name. Amen.**

***KNOWN UNKNOWNNS 31 (Tune: #625 VU) How Can We Stand Together?**

- 1. How can we stand together if we don't agree to meet?
Why should we walk in circles if no fetters bind our feet?
How dare we talk of losing when defeat is far from sure?
How can the Lord be neutral when the privileged fleece the poor?**
- 2. "Stand up" says God, "and see the crime which subtly stalks the land.
Integrity is not a word the powerful understand.
The mansions of the rich are blessed by state and sinecure.
And shall the Lord be neutral when the privileged fleece the poor?"**
- 3. "The sound of empty praise and prayer which drowns the cries of need;
the masquerade of charity which covers up for greed;
the lust to do what's 'proper' – these are things I won't endure.
Shall I, the Lord, be neutral when the privileged fleece the poor?"**
- 4. Because he came among us, washed our feet and broke our bread;
because he sat with beggars and ensured that all were fed;
because he dared to question laws which caused more hurt than care,
we see God can't be neutral when the privileged fleece the poor.**

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

Faith of Our Fathers

Hemy-Walter