

# Kincardine United Church

## 15th Sunday after Pentecost

### September 10, 2023 9:30 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**

Jesus Christus, Unser Heiland

D. Buxtehude

#### **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**

Jesus Christus, Unser Heiland

BWV 626

J. S. Bach

#### **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

## **CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH**

It is always delightful to be worshipping with each one of you!

**We come to praise God with our whole selves:**

**in our dancing we reflect God's gift of joy;  
through our singing we echo God's harmonies of companionship;  
by our listening and learning we mirror God's nurturing presence;  
across our differences we exercise God's self-giving in relationship.**

Come and worship God with thanksgiving and with growing insight.

**We come to be one with the living Christ:**

**who inspires our faithfulness by Spirit breath;  
who models loving kindness in every moment;  
who heals our hurts and frees us for new ways of being.**

Let us be one, then, with God in prayer:

**It is easy for us to flood you with words and yet more words.**

**Instead, in communion in and with you – hear our silent prayers.**

*(Silent prayer)*

Ah, time within your heart renews us and refreshes us, slowing us down and focusing our own hearts.

**Thank you, loving God, for your nurture and your grace. Amen.**

**\*VOICES UNITED 232** Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

**SHARING TIME** Gathering People

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*A version of the Lord's Prayer based on Luke 11:2-5 written by John Philip Newell:*

**Ground of all being, Mother of life, Father of the universe.**

**May we know your presence here, seeking your will upon earth.**

**Grant all your creatures food for today and strength for our families.**

**Pardon our falseness as we forgive those who are untrue to us.**

**Do not forsake us in our need but lead us to new birth.**

**For the glory of life and the light of life, are yours forever. Amen.**

## **GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD**

**BIBLE READING** Matthew 18:15-20 from the New Testament

<sup>15</sup> "If your brother or sister sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If you are listened to, you have regained that one. <sup>16</sup> But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If that person refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church, and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

**\*VOICES UNITED 396** Jesus, Stand Among Us

**BIBLE READING** Romans 13:8-14 from the New Testament

Owe no one anything, except to love one another, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup> The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; you shall not murder; you shall not steal; you shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup> Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. <sup>11</sup> Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup> the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup> let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup> Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

**DOXOLOGY 217 VU** (*verse 5 only*) “All Creatures of Our God and King”

**Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness:  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, three in one:  
sing praises, hallelujah!**

**PRAYER BEFORE REFLECTION**

**REFLECTION** “When Love Hurts”

**GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND**

**COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

You have told us, living Christ, that whenever two or three are gathered in your name, you are there. So, here we are – gathered – initiating a conversation with you in complete trust. Are you here among and within us?

**MORE VOICES 14** Where Two or Three Are Gathered

**Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there, I am there.** (*Sing three times*)

Embraced by your living presence, your deep, abiding listening and your compassionate heart, we raise to you in either silent prayer or spoken aloud into this safe space, the names of those we entrust to your restoration and wholeness.  
(*Silent prayer and names spoken aloud*)

**MORE VOICES 14** Where Two or Three Are Gathered

**Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there, I am there.** (*Sing three times*)

You are here, passionate Spirit, as the energy that makes and sustains change. Hear the prayers of our own hearts – open, vulnerable and honest – as we seek wholeness for ourselves through the challenges and joys, the disappointments and the achievements in our living.  
(*Silent prayer*)

**MORE VOICES 14**            Where Two or Three Are Gathered  
**Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there, I am there.** *(Sing three times)*

We are gathered in your name, O God, for your name is Love:  
love alive within us,  
love connecting and enlivening us,  
love overcoming our fears and our prejudices,  
love teaching and nurturing us.

We rest in the dynamic calm of your love through the silence of shared companionship.  
*(Silent prayer)*

**MORE VOICES 14**            Where Two or Three Are Gathered  
**Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there, I am there.** *(Sing three times)*

In Christ's name we pray. Amen.  
**Amen and amen.**

## **MISSION AND SERVICE STORY**

### **OFFERING INVITATION**

#### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION** *(in unison)*

**We present our offering to you, O God, our offering of love.**

**You have called us to give of our abundance for one another –  
to share without complaint –**

**even sharing with strangers a world away or just next door.**

**May you bless our these gifts for your mission in the world, we pray. Amen.**

#### **\*KNOWN UNKNOWNNS 38**            Fellow Travellers    Tune: #372 *Voices United*

- 1. Is God, who made and loves the earth, who gave each self and star its birth, convinced that Christians know it all? Or is that image much too small?**
- 2. Did Jesus Christ, the faithful Jew, claim God was fond of just a few, content to serve a chosen race and limit heaven's warm embrace?**
- 3. Did Christ not show immense respect for those of a less favoured sect, enjoying, when the faith shone clear, the faithful other people fear?**
- 4. Do we presume the Muslim mind, what Buddhists claim or Hindus find is purely human in design, detached from all that is divine?**
- 5. God, bless the faith we call our own, each word we love, each seed we've sown; yet humble us till we believe you are much more than we conceive.**
- 6. Encourage us to look with care on sacred gifts which others share – our fellow-travellers led by light, who walk by faith and not by sight.**

## **BENEDICTION**

**SONG OF COMMITMENT**            “Go Now in Peace” by Don Besig and Nancy Price

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of ev’ry day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know he will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

**POSTLUDE**

Toccata in Seven

John Rutter