



**Kincardine United Church**  
**Advent 3**  
**December 15th, 2019 10:30 a.m.**

Welcome. You bless us with your presence. If you are a first time worshipper, please sign our guest register at the front entrance of the church. Thank you for turning off your cell phones and for refraining from flash photography. Please join us for coffee and fellowship in the downstairs hall following the service.

**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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*Office hours: Tuesday through Friday from 1-4:30 p.m.*

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**PRELUDE** Carol sing

**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,  
 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

INTROIT Intermezzo

*H. Willan*

## ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

We come to worship as the celebration of Jesus' birth looms with promise.  
**It's hard to wait, though, because we want that promise here and now.**  
 God invites us, then, to wait as we make preparation,  
 as we open our hearts to the possibilities of loving connection.  
**In our waiting, we ponder the story of such an unlikely birth,  
 awed at how we might be part of the fulfilment of such a beginning.**  
 As we listen for the Spirit's whispers of possibility,  
 we light this Advent candle of love which calls us into vulnerability.  
*(The third Advent Candle is lit.)*

**(we sing #28 More Voices, verse 3)**

**Those without status, those who are nothing,  
 you are made royal, gifted with rights,  
 chosen as partners, midwives of justice,  
 birthing new systems, lighting new lights.**

**Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
 God always faithful, you do not change.**

**Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
 God always faithful, you do not change.**

In our waiting and in our preparing, let us join as one in prayer:

**You call us to give time and reverence to one another,  
 to work with you, O Christ, to share your light with the world.**

**Equip us, we pray,  
 to partner with you, to use the gifts you shower upon us for loving,**

to risk relationships with strangers and with friends,  
to dare to midwife your reign on earth.

May the Spirit be our strength and our guide to answer your call,  
creating the environment for wholeness and for healing. Amen.

**\*VOICES UNITED** 9 People, Look East

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (*Choir sings "Come and Fill Our Hearts" #16 MV*)

**ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

**SHARING TIME** Making Connections

**BLESSING OF POINSETTIAS AND CHRISTMAS CARDS**

Life is a gift.

Faith is a gift out of which to live life abundantly.

Our humble caring for each other enriches the blessings of abundant life.

The small poinsettias here

will be delivered to those who are less able to participate regularly  
in the life and the ministry of Kincardine United Church.

Along with the poinsettias, these Christmas Cards –

lovingly created by our Sunday School children in their caring –  
will add a splash of joy to those who receive them

Let us join together in a prayer of dedication:

**Humble, loving God, who joins us together into one family of faith,**

**bless these poinsettias and those who donated them,**

**bless these cards and those who created them,**

**bless those who deliver them to be servants of your good news.**

**Bless those who receive them with relationships**

**that nurture life abundant.**

**Out of your blessing, may we continue to be a blessing for others –**

**in company with the saints before us –**

**while the vulnerable infant Jesus blesses us**

**with love, with hope, with peace and with joy. Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** (say together)

**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** Isaiah 35:1-10 from the paraphrase *The Message*

**\*VOICES UNITED** 44 It Came upon the Midnight Clear

**BIBLE READING** James 5:7-10 from the New Testament page 231

**DOXOLOGY** Bring Many Names #268 Voices United verse 6 only  
**Great, living God, never fully known,  
 joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,  
 closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:  
 Hail and hosanna, great, living God!**

**MEDITATION** Waiting on Hold

**GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND**

**ANTHEM** A Tiny Child Will Come

*Price/Besig*

**COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

**OFFERING INVITATION**

**OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)**

**We offer these gifts of promise to you, O God, seeking your blessing.  
 May we be blessed in the giving,  
 may we thereby become your promise alive in the world  
 and may we grow more fully into your reign of generosity,  
 in Jesus' name, we ask it. Amen.**

**\*VOICES UNITED** 64 O Little Town of Bethlehem

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\*SONG OF COMMITMENT** Gloria #37 Voices United

**Gloria, Gloria, in excelsis Deo!  
 Gloria, Gloria, alleluia, alleluia.**

**POSTLUDE** Finale

*H. Willan*



**AV MINISTRY TEAM** 🗣️ Greg Hartwick, Dave Leaning,  
Stu Mowry

**COUNTERS** 💰 Stu & Donna Mowry

**DECEMBER HOUSE LEADERS** 🏠 Vacant

**MUSIC** 🎵 David Hamilton, KUC Choir

**NURSERY ATTENDANT** ♦ Thank you

**SCRIPTURE READER** 📖 Thank you

**SLIDE PRESENTATION** ♦ Sarah MacKenzie

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER** ♦ Thank you

**WORSHIP** 🏹 Gord Dunbar

## Mission & Service in Changing Times

In these times of change, people are asking, “What’s happening with the Mission & Service of the church?”

Our congregational and our Mission & Service revenues are both declining quite slowly at this point—two to three percent a year—so we have time to make changes, and we have time to do things differently.

The good news is that together we are making important changes, and we are taking the time to do things differently.

We are restructuring the four courts of the church to three so that we live within our means.

We are clarifying funding, so that assessments will be funding governance and shared services, and Mission & Service donations will be funding purely mission and ministry.

We are continuing to keep decisions about the funding of local mission and ministry in local hands, so that regions will be deciding what mission and ministry will be funded in that region, and by that region.

We are focusing on finding and trying out new models of being church by funding innovation in congregations through Mission & Service programs such as Embracing the Spirit, the New Ministries Fund, *Edge*, and the granting programs of The United Church of Canada Foundation.

These changes will support the capacity for Mission & Service donations to continue to provide core funding to so much great work that’s been going on across Canada and around the world.

If Mission & Service giving is already a regular part of your life, thank you so much! If you have not given, please join me in making Mission & Service giving a regular part of your life of faith. Loving our neighbour is at the heart of our Mission & Service.