

Kincardine United Church

Palm/Passion Sunday

April 2, 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: 519-386-1440

Donation Steward: kucdonate@bmts.com

Web site: www.kincardineunitedchurch.org

YouTube: [KUC YouTube Channel](#) Facebook: [KUC Facebook Page](#)

PRELUDE Prelude in g minor BWV 558 J. S. Bach

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND (#2)

For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land.

Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and of their spirituality.

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 Four preludes, No. 3. J. C. Kittel

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

BIBLE READING Matthew 26:6-13 from *The Message*

⁶⁻⁹ When Jesus was at Bethany, a guest of Simon the Leper, a woman came up to him as he was eating dinner and anointed him with a bottle of very expensive perfume. When the disciples saw what was happening, they were furious. “That’s criminal! This could have been sold for a lot and the money handed out to the poor.”

¹⁰⁻¹³ When Jesus realized what was going on, he intervened. “Why are you giving this woman a hard time? She has just done something wonderfully significant for me. You will have the poor with you every day for the rest of your lives, but not me. When she poured this perfume on my body, what she really did was anoint me for burial. You can be sure that wherever in the whole world the Message is preached, what she has just done is going to be remembered and admired.”

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

In the name of the Anointed One, in Jesus’ name,

come into this space to celebrate the Message of good news.

We come, and we even have our palm branches ready; see? (*wave branches*)

I see and it is amazing how this backwater teacher – this Jesus – has filled our hearts.

Are you ready to thumb your noses at those who oppress others?

We come, ready for a parade, demonstrating we are ALL important and ALL worthy of love.

Since we are ready and willing, let us pause in prayer:

God who is Love, may your Spirit so inspire us that we are forever changed.

May we, like the woman who anointed Jesus, see that death becomes new life.

Lift our joyful hearts in celebration of self-giving sacrifice that transforms us. Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 123** Hosanna, Loud Hosanna (*Wave branches while singing*)

REFLECTION “Two Parades”

VOICES UNITED 126 (verse 1 only) Ride On, Ride On, the Time Is Right (*Tune #100 VU*)

BIBLE READING Matthew 26:14-16 from *The Message*

¹⁴⁻¹⁶ That is when one of the Twelve, the one named Judas Iscariot, went to the cabal of high priests and said, “What will you give me if I hand him over to you?” They settled on thirty silver pieces. He began looking for just the right moment to hand him over.

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

We don’t offer 30 pieces of silver; we offer our very selves.

We don’t offer our power and our privilege; we offer our humility at your call.

We don’t offer the people hired; we offer our talented selves.

We don’t offer empty words; we offer our hearts to Jesus’ Way of loving justice.

Bless us and all we offer, O God, that we may be transformed through our sharing. Amen.

GOD INVITES US TO SHARE A TABLE OF GRACE

BIBLE READING Matthew 26:17-19 from *The Message*

¹⁷ On the first of the Days of Unleavened Bread, the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Where do you want us to prepare your Passover meal?" ¹⁸⁻¹⁹ He said, "Enter the city. Go up to a certain man and say, 'The Teacher says, My time is near. I and my disciples plan to celebrate the Passover meal at your house.'" The disciples followed Jesus' instructions to the letter, and prepared the Passover meal.

VOICES UNITED 126 (verse 2 only) Ride On, Ride On, the Time Is Right (*Tune #100 VU*)

INVITATION

To this table and all our tables on this day of two parades, Jesus invites us all.

To the table he prepared in the Upper Room,

Jesus welcomed Judas who would betray him with a kiss,

Jesus welcomed Peter who would deny him three times,

Jesus welcomed all his disciples who would abandon him out of fear.

Jesus welcomed all of them with no hesitation, welcoming us with the same expansive love.

We gather at this table, separate yet one, to be fed by the living Christ.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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 our praise.

It is right to give God our thanks and our praise.

We remember that the story of faithful covenant has many sides,
many perspectives, many conflicting messages.

**Adam and Eve tasted of the fruit of the knowledge of good and evil,
banished from the garden to wrestle with the uncertainties of life.**

Yet Noah learned the rainbow promise carried within God's grace.

Moses, with Miriam, led oppressed slaves to become a people of faith.

Yet those same people grumbled and protested every step of the way.

David and Solomon helped create a mighty kingdom in God's name.

Yet the prophets decried as faithless the corruption of the powerful,
the selfishness of the wealthy and the neglect of those most on the margins.

John the Baptizer heralded the coming of one greater than he.

In response, Jesus modelled the embodiment of the Way of self-giving –
the light of the world, the living water, the bread of life.

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Just as Jesus gathered disciples around him – a community of believers –
so, too, we take the time to lift up those in our family of faith,
as well as in the wider community and around the world, in prayer.

Hear, O God, our silent prayers for healing, for hope, for transformation:

(Silent Prayer)

VOICES UNITED 960 THE LORD'S PRAYER (We sing)
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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND FRACTION

PRAYER FOR THE SPIRIT'S BLESSING

Let us pray for the Spirit's blessing upon what we say and do:
Living Spirit, who guides our living and inspires our journey of faith,
bless the bread and the grape juice that has been prepared.
Transform us by our partaking as we commune in and of you. Amen.

PARTAKING

If you are worshipping at home, please take the bread and beverage you have prepared and partake.
If you are worshipping here in person, please take the elements you have been given and partake.
As you partake, remember the Way of Jesus as our path of loving.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us join together once more in prayer:
May what we have received allow us to truly live:
live as people of community,
live as people of faith,
live as people of sacrifice,
live as people of self-giving love. Amen.

VOICES UNITED 126 (verse 3 only) Ride On, Ride On, the Time Is Right (*Tune #100 VU*)

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

BIBLE READING Matthew 26:36-46 from *The Message*

³⁶⁻³⁸ Then Jesus went with them to a garden called Gethsemane and told his disciples, "Stay here while I go over there and pray." Taking along Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he plunged into an agonizing sorrow. Then he said, "This sorrow is crushing my life out. Stay here and keep vigil with me." ³⁹ Going a little ahead, he fell on his face, praying, "My Father, if there is any way, get me out of this. But please, not what I want. You, what do *you* want?"

⁴⁰⁻⁴¹ When he came back to his disciples, he found them sound asleep. He said to Peter, "Can't you stick it out with me a single hour? Stay alert; be in prayer so you don't wander into temptation without even knowing you're in danger. There is a part of you that is eager, ready for anything in God. But there's another part that's as lazy as an old dog sleeping by the fire."

⁴² He then left them a second time. Again he prayed, "My Father, if there is no other way than this, drinking this cup to the dregs, I'm ready. Do it your way." ⁴³⁻⁴⁴ When he came back, he again found

them sound asleep. They simply couldn't keep their eyes open. This time he let them sleep on, and went back a third time to pray, going over the same ground one last time.

⁴⁵⁻⁴⁶ When he came back the next time, he said, "Are you going to sleep on and make a night of it? My time is up, the Son of Man is about to be handed over to the hands of sinners. Get up! Let's get going! My betrayer is here."

VOICES UNITED 126 (verse 4 only) Ride On, Ride On, the Time Is Right (*Tune #100 VU*)

VOICES UNITED 758 Psalm 31 (*Part Two and Three only*)

VOICES UNITED 126 (verse 5 only) Ride On, Ride On, the Time Is Right (*Tune #100 VU*)

BIBLE READING Matthew 26:47-56 from *The Message*

⁴⁷⁻⁴⁹ The words were barely out of his mouth when Judas (the one from the Twelve) showed up, and with him a gang from the high priests and religious leaders brandishing swords and clubs. The betrayer had worked out a sign with them: "The one I kiss, that's the one—seize him." He went straight to Jesus, greeted him, "How are you, Rabbi?" and kissed him.

⁵⁰⁻⁵¹ Jesus said, "Friend, why this charade?"

Then they came on him—grabbed him and roughed him up. One of those with Jesus pulled his sword and, taking a swing at the Chief Priest's servant, cut off his ear.

⁵²⁻⁵⁴ Jesus said, "Put your sword back where it belongs. All who use swords are destroyed by swords. Don't you realize that I am able right now to call to my Father, and twelve companies—more, if I want them—of fighting angels would be here, battle-ready? But if I did that, how would the Scriptures come true that say this is the way it has to be?"

⁵⁵⁻⁵⁶ Then Jesus addressed the mob: "What is this—coming out after me with swords and clubs as if I were a dangerous criminal? Day after day I have been sitting in the Temple teaching, and you never so much as lifted a hand against me. You've done it this way to confirm and fulfill the prophetic writings."

Then all the disciples cut and ran.

DOXOLOGY #89 More Voices (verse 4 only)

**Love is the Maker and Spirit and son;
love is the kingdom their will has begun;
love is the path which the saints all have trod;
God is where love is, for love is of God.**

REFLECTION "My Body – My Blood – For You"

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

ANTHEM The Royal Banners Forward Go Dent Davidson

***VOICE UNITED 357** Tell Me the Stories of Jesus

BIBLE READING AS BENEDICTION Philipians 2:5-8 from *The Message*

⁵⁻⁸ Think of yourselves the way Christ Jesus thought of himself. He had equal status with God but didn't think so much of himself that he had to cling to the advantages of that status no matter what. Not at all. When the time came, he set aside the privileges of deity and took on the status of a slave, became *human!* Having become human, he stayed human. It was an incredibly humbling process. He didn't claim special privileges. Instead, he lived a selfless, obedient life and then died a selfless, obedient death—and the worst kind of death at that—a crucifixion.

SONG OF COMMITMENT Lead Me, God # 662 *Voices United*

**Lead me, God, lead me in your righteousness;
make your way plain before my face.
For it is you, and you, God only,
who makes me to dwell in safety.**

POSTLUDE

Fugue in g minor BWV 558

J. S. Bach