

Kincardine United Church

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 10th, 2024 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

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PRELUDE Fugue in G Major BWV 557 J.S. Bach

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

(Slightly modified from the version 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

May the peace of Christ be with you all
And also with you

GOD GATHERS US

INTROIT

Trio

Healey Willan

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Let us pray:

Loving God, we thank you that you are with us, and that we may call upon you no matter where we are, or what we are feeling. Keep us mindful of your presence and trusting in your promise—that you are working with us in the moment-by-moment unfolding of our lives. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

When life seems to close in upon us,

And we lose patience with God for not answering our prayers, remember that God's faithfulness endures

and the power of his Spirit will see us through.

Come, let us worship our dependable God.

O God, thank you for never giving up on us, even when we are intent on giving up on you. When in our despair we have turned to you, you have given us another chance, a new life of joy and service, of sharing and love. We come therefore to give you thanks and to praise your Holy Name. Amen.

VOICES UNITED #112 “O God How We Have Wandered”

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord, we confess that we are not only an impatient people, but we are quick to complain. We bemoan our lot in life when we should be counting our blessings. When we do not have all the material things we think are our due, we fail to see all the intangible blessings that are ours -- like freedom, companionship, and love. Forgive our shortsightedness and give us grateful hearts. We pray in Jesus name. Amen.

SHARING TIME

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.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

HEBREW READING Numbers 21:4-9

⁴ From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. ⁵ The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶ Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷ The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸ And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹ So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

RESPONSIVE PSALM #107 Parts 1 and 2 on page 831 in V.U.

EPISTLE READING Ephesians 2:1-10

From Death to Life

2 You were dead through the trespasses and sins ² in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³ All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, doing the will of

flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else, ⁴ but God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵ even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved— ⁶ and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷ so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— ⁹ not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰ For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we may walk in them.

HYMN “Take, O Take Me As I Am” MV #85

GOSPEL LESSON John 3:14-21

⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸ Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹ And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰ For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

DOXOLOGY 104 MV (sung twice) Know That God Is Good
Know that God is good, know that God is good.
Know that God is good, God is good, God is good.

PRAYER BEFORE REFLECTION

REFLECTION

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

ANTHEM

How Long Has It Been

Mosie Lister

MISSION & SERVICE STORY

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lord, you offer us your Son and we struggle with the gift. We also struggle with our gift giving. Accept our offerings today, multiply and use them according to your mighty power. Amen.

VOICES UNITED #412 “This Is The Day”

BENEDICTION

**SONG OF COMMITMENT “Go Now in Peace” #964 Voices United
God now in peace, go now in peace.**

May the love of God surround you everywhere, everywhere you may go.

POSTLUDE

Prelude in G Major BWV 557

J.S. Bach