

Kincardine United Church
World Wide Communion Sunday
October 3, 2021 10:30 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 Christ lag in Todesbanden BWV 625 *J.S. Bach*

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 Four Preludes Number 3 *J.C. Kittel*

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

Come into this safe space, whether digitally or in person,

welcomed by God who perceives each of us as worthy.

We come eagerly and with anticipation,

committed to creating a faith community of welcome and of inclusion.

Come into this building, which has been locked up for too long,

to realise that this church was never closed but planted soul deep.

We come to celebrate our faith alive, empowered by the Spirit's strength.

Come, then, as we join our hearts in prayer as one in God's heart:
There are some of us here in worship in person, O God,
along with many of us digitally connected from our homes.
Yet even across those obvious divides, you call us to be one.
Crack open our hearts to empathize with those who choose differently.
Break open our judgements to embrace one another with compassion.
Fracture our preconceptions to open our minds to understanding.
Transform our self-righteousness into insight,
in Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.

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

DEDICATION OF COMMUNION QUILTS AS ASSURANCE OF GRACE

The sacrament of communion is one of the central practices of our faith.
 Communion is a sign-act which proclaims unconditional welcome
 and our becoming a community which is united in the risen Christ.
 Jesus' invitation to this table is a gift of reckless love of which we are a part.
 These quilted additions to our communion table
 declare our coming together as a community of faith –
 gathered, upheld and sent out by our gracious God.

We are one, in fabric, in design, in talent and in faith.

These quilts represent our coming together as one,
 through fabric donated by *many* in this family of faith,
 crafted lovingly and skillfully by Elaine Holmes, Shirley Marie Harris,
 Esther Marshall and Janet Palmateer,
 and which are now part of our collective worship life.

We are one, and these quilted gifts are concrete symbols of our becoming.
Bless these gifts, O God, by the power of your Spirit and in Jesus' name,
that we may perceive your love within and around us in this fabric.
May we know your grace each day as you sew us into your heart.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

In response to God's blessing through loving grace,
 may we open our hearts to God in silent prayer for renewal and for new life.
 (*Silent Prayer*)

SHARING TIME Sew What?

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.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

BIBLE READING Psalm 26 from the paraphrase *The Message*.

- ¹ Vindicate me, O LORD,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in the LORD without wavering.
- ² Prove me, O LORD, and try me;
test my heart and mind.
- ³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you.^[a]
- ⁴ I do not sit with the worthless,
nor do I consort with hypocrites;
- ⁵ I hate the company of evildoers,
and will not sit with the wicked.
- ⁶ I wash my hands in innocence,
and go around your altar, O LORD,
- ⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.
- ⁸ O LORD, I love the house in which you dwell,
and the place where your glory abides.
- ⁹ Do not sweep me away with sinners,
nor my life with the bloodthirsty,
- ¹⁰ those in whose hands are evil devices,
and whose right hands are full of bribes.
- ¹¹ But as for me, I walk in my integrity;
redeem me, and be gracious to me.
- ¹² My foot stands on level ground;
in the great congregation I will bless the LORD.

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

BIBLE READING Mark 10:13-16 in the New Testament page 46.

¹³ People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." ¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

DOXOLOGY Praise with Joy the World's Creator #312 *Voices United* (verse 1 only)

**Praise with joy the world's Creator, God of justice, love, and peace,
source and end of human knowledge, God whose grave shall never cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory, power to rescue and release.**

MEDITATION Cracked Open

GOD INVITES US TO CHRIST'S TABLE

INVITATION

This table is for everyone, a table of new light and of generous welcome.

To this table we bring our fears and our dreaming.

The risen Christ invites the whole human race to become light and love.

With hundreds of millions of our siblings worldwide,

we are gathered by God's invitation –

in all our diversity and in all our difference.

The call to this table is for each person:

doubtful or certain, broken or whole, stranger or friend, neighbour or foe.

No one is barred.

All are welcome to be nourished in Christ's name.

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.

God's reign among and within us has been as pervasive as a weed –

a mustard seed of profound persistence.

When God spoke and Creation was called into being,

the intricate web of life was woven with interdependence and in connection.

When God commanded Abraham and Sarah to venture far from home,

they became rooted in their growing identity as people of the Way.

When God challenged Moses to liberate a people from oppression,

Miriam danced in joyful celebration as they began their journey of becoming.

When royals and rulers sought power *OVER* the people

instead of following God's challenge to *SERVE* the people,

like stubborn weeds, God planted prophets to disrupt their control.

Yet still we did not listen.

In response, Jesus came to live with, among and beside us,

showing us the reign of God is not in some heaven light years away.

God's reign is here and now – within and among us.

Though the unfolding of our lives is a mystery –

all of us long for wholeness.

We are the old and the young, we are the rich and the haughty,

we are the meek and the humble, we are the proud and the strong,

we are the blind and the lame, yet we are God's own together.

In our belonging, we find our home in the living hope of the risen Christ.

ANTHEM "He Became a Lamb" Mary Kay Beall

He became a lamb, he became a lamb,

when the father needed a sacrifice, he sent his Son and he became a lamb.

Scarred, bruised, suffering for sins not his own, for sins not his own.

Scarred, bruised, willing to give up his throne (willing to give up his heavenly throne).

God so loved the world (he became a lamb),

*God so loved the world (he became a lamb)
that he sent his only begotten son to pay the price, (a sacrifice), a lamb, a lamb.*

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

We know, O God, how profoundly and unconditionally you love each one of us.

You even love us collectively as this community of faith.

Because you love us, we know we are made to love others in return.

In our love, hear the silent prayers of our hearts:

for ourselves and all our struggles,

for others we know who need your guidance,

for a world that wrestles with the environmental emergency, with war and conflict,

with authoritarian governments, with racism and misogyny,

with income disparity, with poverty and with refugee migration.

Hear our prayers, O God, and in your love, listen.

(Silent prayer)

Thank you, living Spirit, for your healing and your encouragement.

Through our communion in prayer,

may we find the courage to turn the world upside down,

may we foster a sense of community rooted in love,

the same love Jesus gave freely at his table. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND FRACTURING

PRAYER FOR THE SPIRIT'S BLESSING

**Living Spirit, bless our gathering around this table of radical inclusion,
equipping us, once again, to be salt for the earth.**

When we eat this bread broken, may we find our brokenness healed.

As we drink the grape juice poured out,

may we be poured out through compassion for and with all people.

Nourish us by this sacrament that we may be holy and true. 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 own path of becoming.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us join together in prayer once more:

We have received the gift of grace at your table, O Christ.

Take what we have said and done here, planting it like a weed in our hearts.

May your mustard seed of love so persist within us,

that we become evermore a people in service for your reign, O God.

May you breathe into our souls, O Spirit,

a persistent passion to do your will with our siblings worldwide. Amen.

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

MINUTE FOR MISSION

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (in unison)

We bring you, risen Christ, our offerings.

**We dedicate these our offerings of time, of talent and of treasure,
praying that, by your blessing,**

**these gifts may be adopted as your children of the Way,
transforming the world by making a loving difference.**

May you bless us in our giving that we, too,

continue to help bring the world to greater wholeness. Amen

***VOICES UNITED 556** *Would You Bless Our Homes and Families*

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT 431 VU *Sing Amen*

Sing amen: Amen, we praise your name, O God.

Sing amen: Amen, we praise your name, O God.

Sing amen: Amen, amen, amen, amen,

amen we praise your name, O God.

POSTLUDE *Prelude on Vulpus*

Healey Willan