



Blessing of the Animals

Kincardine United Church

Blessing of the Animals

September 22nd, 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.

Black bold print in the bulletin & on screens invites you to say the words.

*An asterisk in the bulletin indicates you may sit or stand.

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PRELUDE

Dearest Jesus

Bach

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

For thousands of years, First Nations peoples have walked this land, weaving their identity and their spirituality intimately with the land.

European colonisation came about in large part

because of the Doctrine of Discovery,

a flawed understanding that ignores Indigenous presence on the land.

Affirming the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

and, therefore, repudiating the wrong of such a doctrine,

we begin our worship this morning by acknowledging

the unceded 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

INTROIT Dearest Jesus

Dupré

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

Come in response to the invitation of God's voice who spoke light into being.

We come to celebrate the gift of light and of life – one with each other.

Come to embrace and to be embraced within Creation's wonderful diversity.

We come to celebrate God's creative movement within and among us all.

Come as we encounter the divine in prayer:

**We come to praise and to honour you, creative God,
for the privilege of being stewards within your good Creation,
for the purpose of nurturing life-giving connections,
for the strength to co-create your reign uniting all that is,
for the courage to be transformed in the struggle,
for the wisdom to understand our place within the whole.**

In Christ, by the Spirit's power, we raise our voices in praise. Amen.

***OPENING HYMN** "Here in This Place (Gather Us In)"

1. **Here in this place our pets and stuffed teddies
come for a blessing lit from the heart.
We are all one in sharing that readies
everyone here to ponder and start
sharing our love – expansive and binding –
modelled on Christ who lives deep within.
Meaning unfolds, relationships finding:
we're all connected, always have been.**

2. **We are the young, our lives are a mystery.
We are the old who yearn for your face.
We have been sung through-out all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in, the rich and the haughty;
gather us in, the proud and the strong;
give us a heart, so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.**

3. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
 not in some heaven, light years away:
 here in this place the new light is shining;
 now is the kingdom, and now is the day.
 Gather us in and hold us forever;
 gather us in and make us your own;
 gather us in, all peoples together,
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

Loving God, there are times we look in the mirror and gasp.
 Reflected are worry lines mixed with laugh lines.
 Reflected are tell-tale scars marking and marring our skin,
 yet our scars are far more attractive than the original wound.
 When we surreptitiously look at others,
 we notice the same kinds of stories written by living life.
 Teach us to love ourselves even when scarred, lined and wrinkled.
 Teach us to love one another even when wounded or wounding.
 Walk with us as we become, we pray.
 (*Silent Prayer*)

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

SHARING TIME "Telling About Pets"

THE LORD'S PRAYER

God within us, God beyond us, God among us,
 may the Mystery always be named and known
 among all peoples and in all times.
 May Creation give way to the rule of love and the power of life.
 Satisfy our hunger, granting us a hunger to see the whole world fed.
 Restore us to right relationship
 with you, with Creation, with others, with ourselves.
 Strengthen us to reject all that would lead us away from you.
 Come to us when we choose death over life.
 Give us courage to follow your call in this moment.
 For in your love we find the only power,
 the only home, the only honour we will ever need,
 in this life and the life to come. Amen.

BIBLE READING Genesis 1:20-26 in the Old Testament on page 1

***VOICES UNITED** 291 "All Things Bright and Beautiful"

BIBLE READING Matthew 6:25-27 in the New Testament on page 6

DOXOLOGY "Praise with Joy the World's Creator" #312 Voices United
Praise with joy the world's Creator, God of justice, love, and peace,
source and end of human knowledge, God whose grace shall never cease.
Celebrate the Maker's glory, power to rescue and release.

MEDITATION "Goodness, Me or Goodness, Us?"

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

ANTHEM All the Earth Will Sing for Joy

Schram

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BLESSING

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Let us pray:

Thank you, Creator God, for making all living things.

On the fifth and sixth days of creation, you placed fish in the sea,
 birds in the air, and animals on the land.

As we think about the animals we love,

we say "thank-you," and we ask you to bless them.

Help us to take care of our animals, treating them with respect and with love.

For all things bright and beautiful, for all creatures great and small,

we say "thank-you," loving God,

for their gift of companionship and of family. Amen.

(You are invited to bring your pet or stuffed animal forward using the centre aisle for a blessing and return to your seat using the side aisles)

*(Name of pet), may you and those who love you be blessed by God,
 and may you continue to enjoy life together.*

OFFERING INVITATION

OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)

Grudgingly or joyfully, dutifully or impulsively,

we offer to you, O God, the work of our hands and the plenty of our hearts.

Bless us as we continue to become ever more your people of the Way,

equipping us in our self-giving for your reign here and now. Amen.

***MORE VOICES 135** "Called by Earth and Sky"

***BENEDICTION**

***SONG OF COMMITMENT** "We Are Marching" #646 Voices United

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching (oo),

we are marching in the light of God.

We are marching, marching, we are marching (oo),

we are marching in the light of God.

POSTLUDE The Prince of Denmark's March

J. Clarke

	AV MINISTRY TEAM 🗣️	Greg Hartwick, Dave Leaning, Jim Zarubick
	COUNTERS 💰	Liz & Barry Schmidt
	SEPTEMBER HOUSE LEADERS 🗣️	Joan and Wayne Hartwick
	MUSIC 🎵	David Hamilton
	NURSERY ATTENDANT ♦	Fran Gannett
	SCRIPTURE READER 📖	Thank you
	SLIDE PRESENTATION ♦	Sarah MacKenzie
	SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER ♦	Catharine Crawford
	WORSHIP 🏹	Gord Dunbar