



**Kincardine United Church  
Blessing of the Animals  
18th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 23, 2018 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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PRELUDE      Dearest Jesus

*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

INTROIT      St. Peter

*Willan*

### LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

#### CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

Come, let us gather together.

**Let us join the gathering: we bring fins and feathers.**

Come, all is ready for all of creation.

**Let us join the gathering: we bring scales and fur.**

Come, let us praise our Creator.

**We are loved: we bring skin.**

Come, with fins, feathers, scales, fur and skin.

**As we gather, we are mindful that,**

**as part of God's creation,**

**we wish the best for one another.**

**Within this faith community we express this in prayer,  
 and through blessing. Amen.**

**\*VOICES UNITED 226**      For the Beauty of the Earth

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

We know that we have not always been faithful caretakers of our animals, O Creator;  
 Forgive us when we have

**dirtied their environment,**

**erased places of shelter, polluted the waters,**

**killed off their food supplies  
or neglected to feed  
or to tend animals in our own communities.**

Forgive us when we have neglected our own animal companions;  
**when we have said we are too busy to play with them,  
when we have shooed them away;  
when we have made excuses, saying we are too tired...too busy...  
so that we do not walk them, cuddle them, or spend time with them.**

**Forgive us when we have not loved them as they have loved us.**

Forgive us when we have not considered the wider picture;  
**when we have neglected the animals in the wild,  
the cruelty inflicted in the name of 'sport',  
or in the name of food production.**

Forgive us when we have focused  
**only on our 'favourites'  
and neglected the care of the supposedly less beautiful,  
those who hold a lower public or visible profile.**

Forgive us when we neglect  
**to see all animals as part of your creation,**  
forgive us when we neglect  
**to acknowledge that your love beats in all hearts,  
and that you give breath to all creation.**

*(Silent Prayer)*

## **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

**SHARING TIME**    Pets & People, People & Pets

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**    (a translation VOICES UNITED 916)

**Our Father-Mother, who is in the heavens,  
may you be made holy, may your dominion come,  
may your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us today the bread we need;  
and forgive us our debts, as we have forgiven our debtors;  
and do not put us to the test, but rescue us from evil.  
For yours is the dominion, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

## **GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD**

**\*VOICES UNITED 748 God is My Shepherd**

**BIBLE READING**    Mark 9: 30-37 Who is the Greatest?

**DOXOLOGY VU 217 All Creatures of Our God and King (verse 5 only)**  
**Let all things their Creator bless, and worship God in humbleness:**  
**sing praises, hallelujah!**  
**Praise God eternal, praise the Son, and praise the Spirit, three in one:**  
**sing praises, sing praises, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!**

**MEDITATION "Blessing of the Encouragers"**

**GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND**

**ANTHEM** Back to the Church in the Wildwood *Mary McDonald*

**COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

**OFFERING INVITATION**

**OFFERING PRAYER (in unison)**  
**Life-giving God, your love and gifts are revealed in so many ways.**  
**The beauty of the sunsets, the animals that are part of our lives,**  
**and the always-present well of Eternal Life.**  
**Open our hearts to the wellspring of giving.**  
**May our offerings be love filled. Amen.**

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS**

Maker of all,  
**we ask your blessing on every creature gathered here today,**  
**the large and the small.**  
**May they live peacefully in praise of you.**

**Bless us to love your creation, and revere its sacredness.**  
**We ask this blessing in the name of the one who was, is,**  
**and always will be, our Creator,**  
**to whom every creature belongs. Amen.**

*(You are invited to bring your pet, stuffed animal or picture forward, using the centre aisle for blessing, returning to your seat using the side aisles.)*

**Remembrance of those who have died**

We remember our animal companions who are no longer with us physically.  
 We give thanks for the gifts they gave us and the variety of ways  
 they enriched and blessed our lives.  
 We are confident that our Creator continues to care for them. **Amen.**

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

**\*BENEDICTION**

**\* SONG OF COMMITMENT 145 MV** Draw the Circle Wide  
(refrain, verse2, refrain)

**Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still. Let this be our song,  
no one stands alone, standing side by side, draw the circle wide.  
Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;  
let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call.  
Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still. Let this be our song,  
no one stands alone, standing side by side, draw the circle wide.**

**POSTLUDE** Trumpet Tune

*Purcell*



**AV MINISTRY TEAM** 📧 Thank you  
**COUNTERS** 💰 Liz & Barry Schmidt  
**SEPTEMBER HOUSE LEADERS** 🏠 Joan & Wayne Hartwick  
**MUSIC** 🎵 David Hamilton, KUC Choir  
**NURSERY ATTENDANT** ♦ Fran Gannett  
**SCRIPTURE READER** 📖 Kayla Shelton  
**SLIDE PRESENTATION** ♦ Sarah MacKenzie  
**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER** ♦ Teresa Perfrement  
**WORSHIP** 🕯️ Kerry Stover, Gord Dunbar