



Kincardine United Church
4th Sunday after Easter
April 25, 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 Miniature Suite for Organ: Prelude

Healey Willan

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

MUSICAL INTROIT Miniature Suite for Organ: Trio

Healey Willan

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

We light this Christ candle as symbol of the warmth of self-giving love,
the love which guides us each moment in our living.

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

Come into the warmth of this digital space after surviving our April cold spell,
after being reminded that the nature of life blows both warm and cold.

**We come to warm our souls by the fire of love's flame,
kindling our compassionate response as those who love in Jesus' name.**

Come to encounter the risen Christ who invites us to dare to risk.

We come willing but wary, wondering how we might be transformed.

Let us, then, join together in prayer with the one who gives new life:

Loving God who *is* Love, break open our hearts even when we are weary.

Strengthen us to travel the daring, daunting path of the Way of Jesus.

Open our understanding and our passion to forge whole relationships.

Nurture us through our wounds, our witness and our wellness. Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 326** O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ASSURANCE OF GRACE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (*Silent Prayer*)

SHARING TIME Good Job

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.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

***VOICES UNITED 748** God Is My Shepherd

BIBLE READING 1st John 3:16-24 from the paraphrase *The Message*.

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ This is how we've come to understand and experience love: Christ sacrificed his life for us. This is why we ought to live sacrificially for our fellow believers, and not just be out for ourselves. If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you made it disappear. ¹⁸⁻²⁰ My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in God's reality. It's also the way to shut down debilitating self-criticism, even when there is something to it. For God is greater than our worried hearts and knows more about us than we do ourselves. ²¹⁻²⁴ And friends, once that's taken care of and we're no longer accusing or condemning ourselves, we're bold and free before God! We're able to stretch our hands out and receive what we asked for because we're doing what he said, doing what pleases him. Again, this is God's command: to believe in his personally named Son, Jesus Christ. He told us to love each other, in line with the original command. As we keep his commands, we live deeply and surely in him, and he lives in us. And this is how we experience his deep and abiding presence in us: by the Spirit he gave us.

DOXOLOGY Sing Your Praise to God Eternal #244 *Voices United* (verse 1 only)

**Sing your praise to God eternal, sing your praise to God the Son,
sing your praise to God the Spirit, living and forever One.
God has made us, God has blessed us, God has called us to be true.
God rules over all creation, daily making all things new.**

MEDITATION Tripping the Love Fantastic**GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND****COMMUNITY PRAYERS****ANTHEM** Amazing Grace*John Henry Newton***MINUTE FOR MISSION****OFFERING INVITATION****PRAYER OF DEDICATION** (*in unison*)

It seems odd when we ask for your blessing, O God,
when what we have given is mostly through digital exchange.
Zeros and ones,
on and off switches in solid state circuits seem so impersonal.
Bless, then, what we offer,
so that electrons become a personal touch for your mission in the world. Bless us in our
generosity as we give,
paying forward the love we receive each day from you.
We ask this in the name of the One who gave fully of himself,
in Jesus' strong, vulnerable name. Amen.

VOICES UNITED 579 The Church Is Wherever God's People

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT 298 When You Walk from Here
**When you walk from here, when you walk from here,
walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God's humble care.**

POSTLUDE Miniature Suite for Organ: Finale

Healey Willan