

Kincardine United Church

Advent 2

December 10th, 2023

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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CAROL SING

PRELUDE

Prelude

J. C. Kittel

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

(Slightly modified from the one 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

GOD GATHERS US

INTROIT

Improvisation on Veni Emmanuel

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(the first advent candle is lit)

On this second Sunday of Advent, we light this second candle symbolizing peace –
the proclamation that God calls us to live peacefully in understanding.

(the second advent candle is lit)

Gaze upon this symbol of peace.

Noticing the tiny flame, we wonder when the next puff of air will blow it out.

We ponder that, if this candle were outside, it would quickly be extinguished.

Still the flame flickers and flourishes – a symbol of the Prince of Peace living within us,
a powerful image of strength despite perceived weakness.

VOICES UNITED 7 *(verse two only)*

We come to affirm that divine peace thrives within us,
a seed of inspiration strengthened by Spirit breath.

**We come to seek wisdom and daring to live lives of peace,
transforming each of us into a community of faith that builds bridges.**

We enter into prayer to receive the blessings of the peace that passes all understanding:

**Whisper to our hearts this morning, O God,
helping us to notice the chasms we create between one another.**

**Breathe into our intentions that we become ever more aware,
believing we can make a difference, no matter how small we may feel.**

Lead us through the Way of Jesus to listen to one another in love. Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 18** There's a Voice in the Wilderness

SHARING TIME The Kissing Hand by Audrey Penn,
illustrated by Ruth E. Harper and Nancy M. Leak – Read by Angela Hazelwood

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and what shall be.**

**Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven:
the hallowing of your name echo through the universe!**

The way of your justice be followed by peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

**For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.**

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

Solo: "Prepare Ye" from the musical "Godspell" – sung by Rad Michielson

BIBLE READING Mark 1:1-3 in the New Testament

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ.

²As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

“See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way,
³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
‘Prepare the way of the Lord;
make his paths straight,’ ”

Solo: “Prepare Ye” from the musical “Godspell” – sung by Rad Michielson

BIBLE READING Mark 1:4-8 in the New Testament

⁴ so John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. ⁵ And the whole Judean region and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him and were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁶ Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷ He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the strap of his sandals. ⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Solo: “Prepare Ye” from the musical “Godspell” – sung by Rad Michielson

***KNOWN UNKNOWNNS 51 (Tune: #271 Voices United)** The Pedigree

- 1. Not the powerful, not the privileged, not the famous in the land,
but the no-ones and the needy were the first to hold God’s hand.**
- 2. Not a well-established family with an heirloom christening shawl,
but a homeless, wandering couple parented the Lord of All.**
- 3. Not at first to little children nor to those whose faith burned bright,
but to adults, stalled in darkness, angels brought God’s love and light.**
- 4. God determined to be different from the standards we think best,
in his choice of friends and family lets forgotten folks be blessed.**
- 5. Not obsessed by our achievements, worldly wealth or family tree,
may we, in and with God’s chosen, find our fondest pedigree.**

BIBLE READING Isaiah 40:1-11 in the Old Testament

Comfort, O comfort my people,
says your God.

² Speak tenderly to Jerusalem,
and cry to her
that she has served her term,
that her penalty is paid,
that she has received from the LORD’s hand
double for all her sins.

³ A voice cries out:

“In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

⁴ Every valley shall be lifted up,

and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.
⁵ Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.”
⁶ A voice says, “Cry out!”
And I said, “What shall I cry?”
All flesh is grass;
their constancy is like the flower of the field.
⁷ The grass withers; the flower fades,
⁸ but the word of our God will stand forever.
⁹ Get you up to a high mountain,
O Zion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
“Here is your God!”
¹⁰ See, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;
his reward is with him
and his recompense before him.
¹¹ He will feed his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms
and carry them in his bosom
and gently lead the mother sheep.

DOXOLOGY 321 (*verse 4 only*) “Maker in Whom We Live”
**Eternal, Triune God, let all the hosts above,
let all on earth below record and dwell upon your love.
When heaven and earth have fled before your glorious face,
may all the saints your love has made sing everlasting praise.**

PRAYER BEFORE REFLECTION

REFLECTION “Raising Our Family for Peace”

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

ANTHEM Will We Know Him? Words, Don Besig. Music Don Besig and Nancy Price

MISSION AND SERVICE STORY

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**On this Sunday when the Advent candle of peace flickers and dances,
may you breathe in us, O Spirit,
blessing what we offer in our dance with difficult partners
as we share your choreography of peace.
In our giving, may we be inspired to follow the Way of Jesus in our living,
learning to perceive the face of Christ across divides. Amen.**

***VOICES UNITED 64** O Little Town of Bethlehem

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT *Gloria # 37 Voices United*
Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE Prelude in C BWV 553 J. S. Bach