

Kincardine United Church
Third Sunday of Advent
December 15th, 2024 11:00 a.m.

Bold print in the bulletin invites you to say the words.

Kincardine United Church

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PRELUDE Carol Sing

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

We acknowledge that we are gathered here on the "Traditional Territory" of the Anishinabek Nation; and give Thanks to the Saugeen Ojibway First Nation, the traditional keepers of this land. We also remember the Chippewas of Nawash Unceded First Nation; and the Metis Nation of Ontario, who's history and people are well represented in Bruce County.

We give them "Thanks" for the hope and optimism they offer all of us, despite their tortured past; and their desire to "Sojourn Onwards" with all Canadians towards the better future for everyone! Miigwich! Thank You!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you all

And also with you

GOD GATHERS US

INTROIT In Sweet Rejoicing

Marcel Dupré

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLE

Written by Érie Hhébert-Daly, Gathering Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2021-22, pg 69.
Used with permission.

Light two candles – the candle of hope and the candle of peace

Joy Can be elusive.

In the shadowed times, it is difficult for us to find joy.

The night may feel like it is closing in on us on these shortest days of the year.

Yet, we believe that joy is possible. We believe that light will return.

Embracing joy in times of trouble is a choice.

May we find the strength to choose joy.

May we let God lead us through the tears to the places and people of joy.

May joy be found in a manger and throughout the world.

(3rd Advent Candle lit)

VOICES UNITED #6 (vrs 1-3) A Candle Is Burning

CALL TO WORSHIP *Heather Grobb, Gathering 2024-25 page 29*

Surely God is my salvation.

We wait in hope.

For God is my strength and my might.

We watch in love.

Give thanks and sing praises to God.

We wonder in joy. Amen

OPENING PRAYER *Tori Mullin, Hampton, NB; Gathering 2024-2025 pg 30*

***HYMN** This Is the Day VU #412

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Tammy Fergusson, Gathering 2024-2025 pg 32

WORDS OF ASSURANCE *(from Isaiah 12:2-3) Robin Wardlaw; Gathering pg 32*

The prophet Isaiah proclaimed:

With joy, you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

On that day, you will declare:

Give thanks to God,

Today, with joy, we draw water from the wells of salvation. Today, we declare:

Give thanks to God for all God's goodness.

We are a forgiven people.

SHARING TIME - The Circles All Around Us

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 12:2-6 (The Message)

² "Yes, indeed—God is my salvation.

I trust, I won't be afraid.

GOD—yes GOD!—is my strength and song,

best of all, my salvation!"

³⁻⁴ Joyfully you'll pull up buckets of water

from the wells of salvation.

And as you do it, you'll say,

“Give thanks to GOD.

Call out his name.

Ask him anything!

Shout to the nations, tell them what he's done,
spread the news of his great reputation!

⁵⁻⁶ “Sing praise-songs to GOD. He's done it all!

Let the whole earth know what he's done!

Raise the roof! Sing your hearts out, O Zion!

The Greatest lives among you: The Holy of Israel.”

EPISTLE READING: Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵ Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶ Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

HYMN Joyful, Joyful, We Adore You #232

GOSPEL READING: Luke 3:7-18 (The Message)

⁷⁻⁹ When crowds of people came out for baptism because it was the popular thing to do, John exploded: “Brood of snakes! What do you think you're doing slithering down here to the river? Do you think a little water on your snakeskins is going to deflect God's judgment? It's your *life* that must change, not your skin. And don't think you can pull rank by claiming Abraham as 'father.' Being a child of Abraham is neither here nor there—children of Abraham are a dime a dozen. God can make children from stones if he wants. What counts is your life. Is it green and flourishing? Because if it's deadwood, it goes on the fire.”

¹⁰ The crowd asked him, “Then what are we supposed to do?”

¹¹ “If you have two coats, give one away,” he said. “Do the same with your food.”

¹² Tax men also came to be baptized and said, “Teacher, what should we do?”

¹³ He told them, “No more extortion—collect only what is required by law.”

¹⁴ Soldiers asked him, “And what should we do?”

He told them, “No harassment, no blackmail—and be content with your rations.”

¹⁵ The interest of the people by now was building. They were all beginning to wonder, “Could this John be the Messiah?”

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ But John intervened: “I’m baptizing you here in the river. The main character in this drama, to whom I’m a mere stagehand, will ignite the kingdom life, a fire, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. He’s going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He’ll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he’ll put out with the trash to be burned.”

¹⁸⁻²⁰ There was a lot more of this—words that gave strength to the people, words that put heart in them.

DOXOLOGY #321 (*verse 4*) “*Master 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.

REFLECTION

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

ANTHEM Mary Had a Baby

Traditional Spiritual

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*Gord Dunbar; Gathering 2024-2025 pg 33*)

CLOSING HYMN “You Shall Go Out With Joy” #884

BENEDICTION *Laura Turnbull, Gathering 2024-2025 pg 34*

SONG OF COMMITMENT VU #37 “Gloria”

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.

POSTLUDE The Fanfare Fugue

J.S. Bach
