

Kincardine United Church

Advent 3

December 17th, 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

In Sweet Rejoicing

Marcel Dupré

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

As we gather for worship, we acknowledge that we are gathered
on the traditional territory of First Nations Peoples –

Peoples who have lived on this land and by these waters for thousands of years.

We gather as a non-Indigenous community of faith

on the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibwe Nation,

giving gratitude for their stewardship through the ages.

We are newcomers to this land and we have gained so much in coming.

Our gain, however, has come at a great cost to First Nations Peoples.

We acknowledge that we have gained much within racist systems of our creation,
systems which have benefitted those who are white, Christian and heterosexual.

**Our acknowledgement is only the beginning of our journey toward reconciliation,
toward healing of all our relations with those we have belittled in this culture.**

Our words must now be followed up with action.

We pray the Holy Spirit breathes forgiveness, hope and love

into all our relations and sets us free from the evil of colonialism.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

GOD GATHERS US

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH*(the first two advent candles are lit)*

On this third Sunday of Advent, we light this third candle symbolizing joy –
acknowledging the reality that joy often bursts out of pain, hardship, and failure.

(the third advent candle is lit)

The pink is celebratory, for sure.

Joy often comes to us unexpected, especially when we have given up on life.

Joy reminds us that nothing is impossible – even in weakness.

In our joy, we are powerfully reminded that God is always near.

VOICES UNITED 7 *(verse three only)*

Rejoice! And again, I say, rejoice!

Our joy erupts from the assurance that God is with us in our here and now.

Let us join prayerfully in thanksgiving and through divine conversation,

to discover peace and strength for our living and our loving:

Open our understanding, O God, rooted in coming home to your loving.

Free our perceptions from the chains of judgement and of polarization.

Equip us to perceive the good in one another while sharing right relations.

Inspire us for new life and new vision in all we think and do,

that we might dance joyfully in Jesus' name. Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 59** Joy to the World

SHARING TIME Who Is Coming to Our House? by Joseph Slate and Ashley Wolff

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.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

BIBLE READING Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 in the Old Testament

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me

because the LORD has anointed me;

he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,

to bind up the brokenhearted,

to proclaim liberty to the captives

and release to the prisoners,

² to proclaim the year of the LORD's favor

and the day of vengeance of our God,

to comfort all who mourn,

³ to provide for those who mourn in Zion—

to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.

⁴ They shall build up the ancient ruins;
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations....

⁸ For I, the LORD, love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

⁹ Their descendants shall be known among the nations
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.

¹⁰ I will greatly rejoice in the LORD;
my whole being shall exult in my God,
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation;
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

¹¹ For as the earth brings forth its shoots
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

***VOICES UNITED 55** In the Bleak Midwinter

BIBLE READING John 1:6-8, 19-28 in the New Testament

⁶ There was a man sent from God whose name was John. ⁷ He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸ He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light....

¹⁹ This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" ²⁰ He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, "I am not the Messiah." ²¹ And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No." ²² Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" ²³ He said,

"I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness,
'Make straight the way of the Lord,'"

as the prophet Isaiah said.

²⁴ Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. ²⁵ They asked him, "Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" ²⁶ John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, ²⁷ the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal." ²⁸ This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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 "I'm Tired!"

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

ANTHEM A Tiny Child Will Come Music by Don Besig.
Words by Don Besig and Nancy Price

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

So often when we present our offerings to you, O God,
we do so out of a sense of duty and of responsibility.
On this Sunday of joy, however, we want to celebrate how you bless us each day.
By sharing our abundance – no matter how insignificant it may seem to us –
we dance in celebration how your mission, through what we give, changes lives.
Bless us by changing our lives too, in Jesus' name. Amen.

***MORE VOICES 120** My Soul Cries Out

BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE In Sweet Rejoicing BWV 751