

Kincardine United Church

Advent 4

December 24th, 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

From Heaven Came a Host of Angels

J. S. Bach

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

We acknowledge the Traditional Territory of the Anishinabek Nation:

The People of the Three Fires

known as Ojibway, Odawa and Pottawatomie Nations.

We further give thanks to the Chippewas of Saugeen, and the Chippewas of Nawash –
now known as the Saugeen Ojibway Nation –
as the traditional keepers of this land.

**Our thanks compel us to live fully into our journey of reconciliation –
a seven-generation process of intentional listening and learning.**

We seek to live together in respect, friendship and peace.⁸)

**Therefore, we commit ourselves to follow Jesus' calling us into the world,
loving one another as we are loved by God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

GOD GATHERS US

INTROIT

From Heaven Above to Earth I Come

J. S. Bach

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

(the first three advent candles are lit)

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light this fourth candle symbolizing love.

We come to lean into loving one another – even when it is difficult.

**Jesus demonstrated that every person is worthy of our love,
a flame of purpose that should not be extinguished.**

(the fourth advent candle is lit)

Love is most fully lived in relationships that are mutual, life-giving and self-giving.

We come, learning how to love with kindness and compassion.

Let us sing as we celebrate the good news embodied in love alive among us.

VOICES UNITED 7 *(verse four only)*

Let us join together in prayer, inspired by everlasting love:

Teach us, O God, to hear the cries of those impoverished.

Show us how to care for others with loving-kindness.

Communicate with us so that we, too, may communicate the good news with love.

Encourage us to move toward those who need us.

**Open our perceptions to discover Christ's face in one another,
setting our hearts on fire with passionate self-giving. Amen.**

***VOICES UNITED 36** Angels, from the Realms of Glory

SHARING TIME A Birthday Party for Jesus by Susan Jones, illustrated by Lee Holland

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father-Mother, who is in the heavens,

**may your name 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

ANTHEM Mary, Mary Music and Lyrics by Mary Donnelly and George L. O. Strid

BIBLE READING Luke 1:26-38 in the New Testament

²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you." ²⁹ But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. ³³ He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I am a virgin?" ³⁵ The angel said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be

called Son of God. ³⁶ And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

***VOICES UNITED 46** Gentle Mary Laid Her Child

BIBLE READING Luke 1:47-55 in the New Testament

⁴⁷ and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
⁴⁸ for he has looked with favor on the lowly state of his servant.
Surely from now on all generations will call me blessed,
⁴⁹ for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name;
⁵⁰ indeed, his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
⁵¹ He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
⁵² He has brought down the powerful from their thrones
and lifted up the lowly;
⁵³ he has filled the hungry with good things
and sent the rich away empty.
⁵⁴ He has come to the aid of his child Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
⁵⁵ according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever.”

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 Beg Your Pardon?”

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

ANTHEM To Bethlehem David McK. Williams

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**We give back to you, O God, as an act of love.
You have blessed us in every moment with the gift of love –
a gift which builds relationships through making ourselves vulnerable –
susceptible to love’s transformative power.**

**Bless these gifts for that same transformation through your mission of love,
we ask in Jesus' name. Amen.**

***VOICES UNITED 62** Once in Royal David's City

BENEDICTION

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

POSTLUDE In Sweet Jubilation Dietrich Buxtehude