

Kincardine United Church
Transfiguration Sunday
February 19, 2023 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 Beloved Jesus, Here I Stand. BWV 634 J. S. Bach

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

MUSICAL INTROIT

Beloved Jesus, Here I Stand.

Marcel Dupré

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

You who are here in person:

you scrubbed your face, combed your hair, put on your Sunday clothing.

You who are with us in the digital realm:

you turned on the TV, settled into your comfy chair and tuned in.

Have you come to shine?

Sometimes we come purely out of habit and out of routine.

**Sometimes we luxuriate in bed, enjoying the snuggly warmth,
wondering if it's worth making the time to be here.**

This morning, though, we're here – but we're not sure about “shining.”

Beyond routine habit, what do you yearn for?

What nudges you to make the effort?

**Well, we're never sure what each worship service is going to be like,
but we're hoping that something – perhaps someone –
will enflame our souls with a sustaining fire of purpose.**

Come, then, at Christ's invitation, journeying within God's loving heart.

Come as one and pray:

**O God, we never know how you will touch us,
how you will reveal yourself to us as encouragement.**

In this journey, may you unmask who we are in you.

May you plant within us the seeds of love shining, glowing because of you.

May you transfigure us with courage to grow as disciples of the Way of Christ.

May you open us to your radical loving that we can help to change the world.

Amen.

***VOICES UNITED #104** We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

SHARING TIME Sharing Love by Giving It Away

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 Exodus 24:12-18 in the Old Testament

¹² The LORD said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

***VOICES UNITED #96**

Will You Come and See the Light

BIBLE READING Matthew 17:1-9 in the New Testament

¹⁷ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

DOXOLOGY #321 Voices United (verse 4 only)

**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 you love have made sing everlasting praise.**

PRAYER BEFORE MEDITATION

MEDITATION Pixelated

GOD INVITES US TO THE TABLE

INVITATION

Come as people invited into the story of self-giving.
We come as people led by the Suffering Servant,
the one who's very narrative brings new life.
Come as people who gather at Christ's table,
for all are welcome and none are excluded.

CALL TO GIVE THANKS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give God our thanks and praise.

It is right to give God our thanks and our praise.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Our story is God's story, so we remember.

The infant universe was our cradle and our nursery.

The baby Moses – protected by his teenaged sister –
became a leader who freed an enslaved people.

The boy Samuel listened to God and shared tough wisdom.

The Psalmist declared that “a child will lead them.”

Whenever we needed God's presence,

God was there in the gift of love,

**speaking through the voices of stories alive,
interpreted through the eyes of children.**

When there were times of homelessness and wandering,

when there were times of violence and rejection,

when there were times of homecoming and welcome,

God was there in the gift of love,

in the giving away of what was most precious.

When people sought ever more land, ever more power,
and ever more prestige;

When people of faith looked more to legalisms and laws,
ignoring the aching needs of others;

When people yearned to listen to the story of faith,
pushing aside the criticisms of others;

God was there in the gift of love,

**in the assurance that we are *all* special in God's eyes,
that God's narrative lives within hearts transformed.**

When new influences and difficult circumstances challenged,

when uncertainty and doubt moved in,

when security and certainty seemed the only shelter,

God was there in the gift of love,

**teaching us deep connection with God and each other,
showing us our narrative rooted in God's heart.**

COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Remembering the gift of love in Jesus the Christ,

our host, our guide and our teacher,

we lift to you, O God,

by the connection we experience in the Spirit,

our silent prayers of thanksgiving,

of love for others near and dear to us
and of love and healing for this world.

(Silent prayer)

PRAYER OF SELF-GIVING

Yet fire and division rent us asunder as we turned away from Love.

In our worrying about how to make ends meet,

we couldn't hear God's belief in us.

In our desire to continue to do things as we have always done,

we couldn't hear Jesus' call to healing.

In our need to build ourselves up in order to tear others down,

we couldn't hear the Spirit's truth within us.

We forgot our story.

We forgot that God is with us in the gift of love.

Yet God did not forget.

God gave God's own self – unconditionally – in Love,

that we might once again remember our story and our identity.

REMEMBERING JESUS AT TABLE

PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION

Let us pray together:

Help us, Loving Spirit, to remember our story.

As we share these elements at Christ's table this morning,

may you bless us with your constant companionship,

with your guiding light,

with your gift of grace,

with your inspiration into transformation,

with your continuous loving embrace. Amen.

DISRIBUTION

If you are worshipping at home, please take the bread and beverage you have prepared and partake.

If you are worshipping here in person, please take the elements you have been given and partake.

As you partake, remember the Way of Jesus as our path of loving.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray, once more, together:

Through communion with you, O Christ, we are made new.

Through what we have said and done,

we remember your self-giving.

Through your Spirit, we become empowered in your name,

to go into the world to tell our story.

Thank you, O God, for we are made new. Amen.

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

ANTHEM Praise the Lord

Hal H. Hopson

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*in unison*)

Jesus' transfiguration shone the overwhelming brilliance of self-giving love,
revealing within the ordinary commonness of flesh and bone –
the wonder of your good news, living God, which transforms.
May you bless what we offer in Jesus' name,
transforming our gifts in the name of Love –
a Love which illuminates the entire world. Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 421** Lead On, O Cloud of Presence

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT Gloria # 37 *Voices United*

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!

POSTLUDE

Prelude in F BWV 556

J. S. Bach