

# Kincardine United Church

## Epiphany Sunday

January 3rd, 2021 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.

*Kincardine United Church, 721 Princes St. Kincardine ON, N2Z 0A3*

*Office Email: [kuchurch@bmts.com](mailto:kuchurch@bmts.com) (preferred during this time) Phone: 519-396-2391*

*Gord Dunbar: [gord.kuc@bmts.com](mailto:gord.kuc@bmts.com) Envelope Steward: [kucesteward@bmts.com](mailto:kucesteward@bmts.com)*

*Web site: [www.kincardineunitedchurch.org](http://www.kincardineunitedchurch.org)*

**PRELUDE**      The Old Year Has Passed Away      BWV 614

*J. S. Bach*

### **WELCOME**

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND**

Kincardine United Church takes seriously

the commitments made to First Nations communities

through the national Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report,

especially through the Calls to Action to churches like us.

**Therefore, we acknowledge, this day,**

**that we gather for worship**

**on the traditional territories of the Saugeen Ojibway,**

**and the other Indigenous peoples who preceded them –**

**the original nations of this land –**

**and we acknowledge, with respect,**

**their history, their spirituality, and their culture.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

## **GOD GATHERS US**

**MUSICAL INTROIT**      The Old Year Has Passed Away

*Marcel Dupré*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH**

We just lit the Christ candle –

a tiny, flickering flame blown about by each errant air current –

symbolizing the light of the world we perceive in the risen Christ.

**We come to enfold the light of the world within our hearts,**

**stabilizing the flickering within the shelter of our shared faith.**

We come – even as we are buffeted by the storms of uncertainty,

stumbling because of pandemic gusts of fear and of longing,

leaning into the headwinds of change unanticipated.

**We come confident in that light, in our companionship across the distance,  
in our faith-fueled walk along the Way of Jesus.**

We come to perceive the light – not with our eyes – but felt deeply with our souls.  
Let us encounter God’s living light in prayer:

**We close our eyes, O God, not because we are afraid to see,  
but because we wish to give all our attention, our reverence, to you.  
Within this intimate darkness, we feel your passion for justice burning warm.  
Within this night-like blanketing tenderness,  
we perceive your Spirit invitation to create a dawn of loving kindness.  
Within this enfolding womb of your presence,  
we are nourished by your strength, your courage, your daring and your will.  
May it ever be so this morning and every day. Amen.**

**VOICES UNITED    79    Arise, Your Light Is Come**

### **ASSURANCE OF GRACE**

As a child, did you ever dread your parents finding out about stuff you did?

**Sure! Lot’s of times.**

Did you ever try to keep it secret for fear of the punishment that would come?

**Oh, yes! Although it was hard to keep the secret when the questions came.**

Once you had confessed – or had been forced to admit what you did –  
did you feel ashamed, like you were worthless or a failure?

**Yeah, and it was hard. It hurt worse than the punishment.**

Does it feel that way when you are asked to confess to God?

**Is this a trick question to get me to admit I’ve messed up?**

Well, it’s a leading question, sure, but I want to share some good news.

**Which is?**

It doesn’t matter in the way you think. I mean it doesn’t matter what you did wrong.  
God doesn’t think any less of you. God LOVES you – unconditionally and always.

**How is that possible? If I fail, isn’t there supposed to be punishment?**

You have already experienced the consequences of your mistakes.

How you feel, how you’ve affected others – those were and are the consequences.

**So, you’re saying that I’ve already suffered?**

Exactly! Because God loves you so completely, so unreservedly,  
you have nothing to lose.

All God wants is for you to feel healing as you open yourself to God.

**That’s still scary, but maybe it’s worth the risk.**

**I don’t want to feel this way anymore. I want to be whole once again.**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Then let us, together, share our open hearts with God in silent prayer:

*(Silent Prayer)*

**SHARING TIME    “Light in Diversity”**

### **THE LORD’S PRAYER (#1) We Sing**

**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 60:1-5 from the paraphrase *The Message*.

**\*VOICES UNITED** 87 I Am the Light of the World

**BIBLE READING** Ephesians 3:1-12 from the paraphrase *The Message*.

**DOXOLOGY** NOW THANK WE ALL OUR GOD #236 VU (verse 3 only)  
All praise and thanks to God for all that has been given,  
the Son, and Spirit blest who dwell in highest heaven,  
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;  
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.

**MEDITATION** Double Vision

### **GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND**

**ANTHEM** Born Is a Baby Words and Music by Stan Penthal  
*Star shine, high up in the heavens, glory fillin' up a stable;  
angels singin' on a hillside, born is a baby in Bethlehem.  
Star shinin' in the heavens (high up in the heavens),  
glory fillin' up a stable (fillin' up a stable);  
angels (angels) singin' on a hillside, born is a baby in Bethlehem.  
Mary gently hold him, the Son of God comes down, come let us adore him.  
Born in Bethl'hem town. See the star shine (shinin' in the heavens),  
  
high up in the heavens, glory (glory) fillin' up a stable (fillin' up a stable);  
angels (angels) singin' on a (singin' on a hillside) hillside,  
born is a baby in Bethlehem.  
In the hush of mercy, the fullness of God's grace,  
there surrounds the baby, in this lowly place.  
See the star shine (shinin' in the heavens) high up in the heavens,  
glory (glory) fillin' up a stable; angels (singin') singin' on a hillside,  
born is a baby in Bethlehem.  
Angels singin' on a hillside, born is a baby in Bethlehem, in Bethlehem.*

### **COMMUNITY PRAYERS**

#### **OFFERING INVITATION**

#### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*in unison*)**

May what we have offered – of ourselves, of our resources, of our time –  
become a rainbow blessing of light for an aching world,  
for our local community, for the strangers among us –  
blessed by the power of God's abundant grace. Amen.

**\*VOICES UNITED 679** Let There Be Light

**BENEDICTION**

**SONG OF COMMITMENT 37** "Gloria"

**Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo!**

**Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia.**

**POSTLUDE** In Thee Is Gladness

*Marcel Dupré*