

Kincardine United Church
8th Sunday after Pentecost & Communion
July 23, 2023 11:00 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

Prelude

G. Merkel

WELCOME

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on this land.
Their relationship with the land is at the centre of their lives and of their spirituality.

We begin our worship this morning

by acknowledging the traditional territory of the Saugeen Ojibwe.

We are all Treaty people, parties to Crown Treaty 45 ½ in 1836.

**Keep us mindful of the covenants that have been made – and broken –
with First Nations peoples.**

**May we grow into living with respect on this land,
walking into reconciliation through peace and friendship,
while honouring all who live, work and worship on it.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

GOD GATHERS US

MUSICAL INTROIT

Passacaglia

André Raison

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP AND PRAYER OF APPROACH

Welcome to this space where we pay attention – where we give reverence –
to God who is the ground of our being.

We need this time – time we intentionally set aside – to commune with God.

We come even though we know God is always with us.

We can – and often do – worship God in our daily lives.

However, this is the time and space we gather together in worship.

In our collective relationship with God, let us join in prayer:

God who knows us through and through, inspire us, we pray.

Plant your seed of insight within us that we may serve in Jesus' name.

Inform our decisions so we more fully model your compassion.

Lift our hearts as we sing – for joy is our melody and love is the harmony we share.

Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 333** Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

SHARING TIME The Runaway Bunny

THE LORD'S PRAYER *Based on the work of Neil Douglas-Klotz in "Prayers of the Cosmos"*
O Divine Womb,

birthing forth the river of blessing which runs through all,

soften the ground of our being,

and hallow in us a space for the planting of thy presence.

In our depths,

sow thy seed with its greening power that we might be midwives to thy Reign.

Then, let each of our actions bear fruit in accordance with thy desire.

Impart to us the wisdom to bring forth the gifts of the earth

and share them daily according to the needs of each being,

and restore what has been usurped by injustice to its rightful owners,

as we restore to others what is not our own.

Do not let us be diverted from our purpose,

but make us sensitive to the moment at hand.

For from thy fertile soil is born the creativity,

the life-energy, and the dance, from birthing to birthing. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD

VOICES UNITED 861 *with Refrain* Psalm 139

***VOICES UNITED 436** Abide with Me

BIBLE READING Matthew 13:24-30 from the paraphrase *The Message*

²⁴⁻²⁶ He told another story. "God's kingdom is like a farmer who planted good seed in his field. That night, while his hired men were asleep, his enemy sowed thistles all through the wheat and slipped away before dawn. When the first green shoots appeared and the grain began to form, the thistles showed up, too. ²⁷ "The farmhands came to the farmer and said, 'Master, that was clean seed you planted, wasn't it? Where did these thistles come from?' ²⁸ "He answered, 'Some enemy did this.'

“The farmhands asked, ‘Should we weed out the thistles?’ 29-30 “He said, ‘No, if you weed the thistles, you’ll pull up the wheat, too. Let them grow together until harvest time. Then I’ll instruct the harvesters to pull up the thistles and tie them in bundles for the fire, then gather the wheat and put it in the barn.’”

DOXOLOGY Gloria Patri

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

PRAYER BEFORE REFLECTION

REFLECTION “Prickly Consequences”

GOD INVITES US TO TABLE

INVITATION

Here is the table Jesus called Love,
gathered around by those called beloved –
table of welcome in unity, ushering into the Trinity.

**Sing unto God a jubilant song, praising the one to whom we belong.
Sing of the future and of the past, Love ever present, holding us fast.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

Also with you.

Lift up your hearts high.

We lift them up, too.

Let us give thanks and praise to our Lord.

It is so right we praise with accord.

Sing unto God a jubilant song, praising the one to whom we belong.

Sing of the future and of the past, Love ever present, holding us fast.

Blessed be God Who caused us to be, called us to flourish, created us free,
present wherever goodness is found, setting us firmly on holy ground.

Sing unto God a jubilant song, praising the one to whom we belong.

Sing of the future and of the past, Love ever present, holding us fast.

Prophets of old and prophets anew, challenge us all to follow, be true.

When life’s temptations hold us in thrall,

then Jesus whispers, “Follow my call.”

Sing unto God a jubilant song, praising the one to whom we belong.

Sing of the future and of the past, Love ever present, holding us fast.

Blessed are those who under duress, greet us like manna in our wilderness,
fill us with hope when courage is gone, give us the strength for carrying on.

Sing unto God a jubilant song, praising the one to whom we belong.

Sing of the future and of the past, Love ever present, holding us fast.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

So it was on the night he’s betrayed,
Jesus did offer to those who had stayed,

bread for the journey, wine of his blood,
showing the promise: grace like a flood.

**Sing unto God a jubilant song, praising the one to whom we belong.
Sing of the future and of the past, Love ever present, holding us fast.**

PRAYER FOR THE SPIRIT'S BLESSING:

Now let us join our hearts before God,
Giving, in prayer, our praise and our laud,
asking the Spirit blessings of light, sharing this meal as Jesus' delight.

**Sing unto God a jubilant song, praising the one to whom we belong.
Sing of the future and of the past, Love ever present, holding us fast.**

FRACTION AND PARTAKING

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed are all who here upon earth, nurture a vision and bring it to birth,
live by the creed we boldly embrace: blessed assurance, amazing grace.

**Sing unto God a jubilant song, praising the one to whom we belong.
Sing of the future and of the past, Love ever present, holding us fast.**

GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND

OFFERING INVITATION

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*in unison*)

We are fearfully and wonderfully made, O God,
made in your image to love one another as you love us.

Our hearts are filled with the awesome realization of our gifted heritage.

Bless us and our giving, we pray, as we share your gifts to us with an aching world.

May we, thereby, become your Way of healing and hope. Amen.

***VOICES UNITED 574**

Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love

BENEDICTION

SONG OF COMMITMENT #150 (*Verse 4 only*) More Voices

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song.

Blow through us, bringing strength to move on.

Through change, through challenge, we'll greet the new dawn...

Spirit God, be our song.

POSTLUDE

Preludium

J. Krieger