

**Kincardine United Church**  
**5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter & Baptism**  
**May 18, 2025    11:00 a.m.**

**Bold print in the bulletin invites you to say the words.**

*Kincardine United Church*

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**PRELUDE**    This Joyful Eastertide    *Arr. David Hamilton*

**WELCOME**

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND (responsive)**

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.

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

**LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Peter Chynoweth, Yellowknife, N.W.T.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

## **GOD GATHERS US**

**INTROIT** Improvisation on Now the Green Blade Rises

*David Hamilton*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP (responsive)**

This morning, come into God's house.

**God delights in our faithfulness and our desire to be in relationship with God and each other.**

We bring our whole selves into the presence of God's Holy Spirit.

**God meets us here as we worship together, and like our true friend, is with us at all times.**

We bring our cares, concerns, worries and doubts. We come feeling unworthy of God's wonderful grace.

**We are worthy and loved by God. Let us sing and give praise for the love and acceptance we share in God's sight, in our time of worship here today and every day of our lives.**

Let us join in worshipping God.

Stephanie Richmond, Emmanuel College, Toronto, Ont.

## **PRAYER OF APPROACH**

**HYMN** MV #1 Let Us Build a House

## **CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM**

### **Statement of Purpose**

Baptism celebrates God's initiative and our response. It is God's "Yes" to us, and our "Yes" to God.

It is a sign of the Divine-human covenant. Baptism flows from God's unmerited grace and pours out in lives of gratitude and commitment. As initiation into the Church, the Body of Christ, it is an act of welcoming, blessing, and belonging.

The covenant of baptism celebrates the fullness of God's grace throughout the story of salvation: in creation and in exodus, in wilderness and in exile, in birth and in death. In his baptism, Jesus received the Holy Spirit and was declared God's beloved, he opened himself to repentance and forgiveness, and marked a new beginning in his ministry. In our baptism we are similarly claimed, called, and commissioned. Our baptismal identity is both individual and communal. Baptism honours the diversity of individuals and challenges us to be a community of equals.

***Galatians 3:27-28 NRSV*** *As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus.*

Baptism for infants proclaims the unconditional grace and love of God. It is also a reminder of the wonder, blessing, and new responsibilities that come with a new life.

### **Presentation of Candidate (Jackie Clements)**

On behalf of the congregation of Kincardine United Church, I present Anjali Daisy Gunaratne born on May 14, 2024. The daughter of Alanna and Damian, sister of Anika and Donovan. Her godparents are Christopher Camarata and Dara Church.

### **Profession of Faith and Promises (to Alanna and Damian)**

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

**I do, by the grace of God.**

Desiring the freedom of new life in Christ, do you seek to resist evil, and to live in love and justice?

**I will, God being my helper.**

Will you follow the way of Jesus Christ?

**I will, God being my helper.**

Will you join with your brothers and sisters in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, live with respect in creation, and love and serve others?

**I will, God being my helper.**

In baptism, Anjali marks an important step in her journey of faith. Will you share your faith with her, growing with her in faith, hope, and love?

**I will, God being my helper.**

**Godparent's Commitment** (to Christopher and Dara)

Recognizing that many people nurture and influence the life of a child. Will you support your godchild and her parents as she grows in faith.

**I will, God being my helper.**

**Congregational Commitment** (please stand if able)

Jesus Christ calls us to make disciples of all nations, and to offer God's gift of grace in baptism. Do you, who witness and celebrate this sacrament, promise your love, support, and care to Anjali as she lives and grows in Christ?

**We will, God being our helper.**

**Affirmation of Faith – The New Creed**

**We are not alone,**

**we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God:**

**who has created and is creating,**

**who has come in Jesus,**

**the Word made flesh,**

**to reconcile and make new,**

**who works in us and others**

**by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.  
We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to God.**

Let us give our thanks to God.

**It is good to give God thanks and praise.**

Gracious and Holy God, we bless you for the gift of life, and, within it, the gift of water. Over its unshaped promise your Spirit hovered at creation. By water, comes the growth of the earth. Through water, you led the children of Israel to freedom. In the waters of the Jordan your Child Jesus was baptized.

*Pouring the Water*

Listen to its free flowing powers, Listen to its releasing powers, Listen to its welcoming powers.

Let us pray...Now may your Spirit, O God, be upon us and what we do, that this water may be a sign for all of new life in Christ.

*Lighting the Baptismal candle.*

This baptismal candle is lit to signify the light of Christ, and as a reminder of the connection between our baptism and Easter.

**The Act of Baptism:** I Baptize you Anjali Daisy Gunaratne in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. May the blessing

of God, Source of Love, Jesus Christ, Love incarnate, and the Holy Spirit, Loves power, be with you today and always. Amen.

### **Declaration Prayer and Congregational Welcome**

Into the household of faith, we welcome you Anjali with joy and thanksgiving.

Gracious God, giver of life, you have called us by name, and pledged to each of us your faithful love. We pray today for your blessing on Anjali watch over her and guide her as she grows in faith. Amen.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Loving God, forgive us, for we have not always followed your commandment to love one another as you love us.

It is not easy for us to love or befriend those who display characteristics we don't like. Though we may try, we often fail. Forgive us, Loving God. Teach us to be generous with our love and to feel your love for those we meet. Amen

Cheryl Henry, Sheridan U.C., Mississauga, Ont.

### **WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Helen Reed, Pioneer P.C., Oyen, Alta.

## **GOD SPEAKS TO US IN WORD**

### **PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

Beth W. Johnston, Bridging Waters P.C., Nipawin, Sask.

### **RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 98 – VU Page 818**

Sing to God a new song,

**for God has done marvellous things.**

Your right hand and your holy arm have brought victory.

**You have made known your salvation,**

**and revealed before the nations your saving power.**

You have remembered your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;

**all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

**break into joyous praise, sing psalms.**

Sing psalms to God with the harp,

**with the harp and melodious voice.**

With trumpets, and the sound of the horn

**make a joyful noise before our sovereign God.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,

**the world, and its inhabitants.**

Let the rivers clap their hands,

**the hills sing together for joy before God.**

You come to judge the earth, O God,

**to judge the world with righteousness,  
and the peoples with equity.**

#### **GOSPEL READING:** John 15:9-17

<sup>9</sup> As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup> If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup> I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup> "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup> No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup> You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup> I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing, but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup> You did not choose me, but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my

name. <sup>17</sup> I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

**DOXOLOGY** VU #236 Now Thank We All Our God (Verse 3)  
**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.**

**REFLECTION** Everyone Needs a Friend

**HYMN** VU #365 Jesus Loves Me

## **GOD INVITES US TO RESPOND**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

#### **THE LORD'S PRAYER (say together)**

**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**

#### **ANTHEM** Lord, Can You Hear Us Praying?

*Words by Nancy Price and Don Besig. Music by Don Besig.*

### **OFFERING INVITATION**

Frances Flook, Emo/Devlin P.C. Emo, Ont.



## **OFFERING RESPONSE**

**Divine Spirit, there are no limits to your goodness, your love and your friendship. We have received beyond anything we could ask or expect, and, joyfully, we give in return. Bless these our offerings and remind us that as these gifts are used to bring compassion, hope and justice, you, Divine Spirit, are discovered to be at work with us. Amen**

David Sparks, Summerland, B.C.

**HYMN** VU #664 What A Friend We Have In Jesus

## **BENEDICTION**

## **SONG OF COMMITMENT**

MV #161 I Have Called You By Your Name (Verse 4)  
**I have given you a name, it is mine,  
I have given you my Spirit, as a sign.  
With my wonder in your soul,  
make my wounded children whole;  
Go and tell my precious people they are mine.**

**POSTLUDE** In Thee is Gladness *BWV 615* *J.S. Bach*