

**Stouffville United Church**  
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3  
www.stouffvilleuc.ca  
November 12, 2017  
Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost

## **Welcome**

## **Announcements**

## **Lighting the Christ Candle**

## **Acknowledging the Territory**

### **Opening Prayer:**

**We gather in worship, gracious God, grateful for your ongoing presence and the renewing power of your love. We thank you for this community of faith that worships and works together. We pray that, as we gather in this assembly of your people, we might bless your holy name, bless one another, and be open to receive what you would give us this day. We pray in the name of Jesus, the one who draws us close to one another and to you. Amen.**

(Written by Dianne Astle, Hope United Church, Hope, B.C. Gathering, Pentecost 2 2017, page 33. Used with permission.)

### **Call to Worship:**

If I asked you to tell me the stories of Jesus,  
what would you say?

Would you tell me...

**"I don't know them well enough!"**

Would you tell me...

**"Someone could do it *much* better!"**

Or, would you tell me...

**"There was once a man who said such wonderful things  
and did such amazing things  
that people would ask him, 'Who are you?'  
and his name was Jesus."**

As stewards of the story,  
as walkers on Christ's Way,  
we are gifted,

we are privileged,  
called to a responsibility to share.

**So let us learn together,  
let us teach,  
let us come together,  
to live the story!**

Let us come together—  
**to worship God!**

(Written by Richard Bott, Dunbar Heights United Church, Vancouver, B.C. Gathering,  
Pentecost 2 2017, page 29. Used with permission.)

**Hymn:** We Are One [VU 401]

### **Prayer of the Community:**

**God of All, we pray you forgive us when we distance ourselves from others—when we separate ourselves into “us” and “them.” Help us open our hearts and lives to Jesus’ command to love each other as ourselves. Forgive us when we fail to live this love, out in the world as well as in our own homes and communities. Restore us all into a community of wholeness and grace. Amen.**

(Written by Sandra Jenkinson, Zion United Church, Sundridge, Ont. Gathering,  
Pentecost 2 2017, page 35. Used with permission.)

### **The Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn:** Let There Be Light [VU 679]

### **Time with our Children**

### **Music Ministry**

### **Prayer Mantle Blessing**

### **Offering**

**Dedication:** We Give Thee But Thine Own [VU 543, Vs 1]

### **Offering Prayer:**

**Over→**

**Prayer for Illumination:**

**God, those of us who populate church pews on a more or less regular basis have heard it all before.**

**The stories are told and retold, commented on and preached about.**

**We hear the sound of them, but we do not always feel them; they do not always set our hearts on fire.**

**Yet, here we are again—waiting, listening, yearning.**

**Maybe, this time, it will happen.**

**Send us your Spirit;**

**make us a story worthy of the telling.**

**We pray in the name of Jesus,**

**the storyteller of Galilee.**

(Written by John Moses, Aylesford United Church, Aylesford, N.S. Gathering, Pentecost 2 2017, page 37. Used with permission.)

**A Reading from Mark 2:13-17**

(found on page 813 in the pew bible)

**An Incarnational Translation of Mark 2:13-17**

**Sermon:** No Divisions

**Closing Hymn:** Through Ancient Walls [VU 691]

**Words of Blessing**

**Parting Song:** God Be With You Till Me Meet Again  
[VU 423, Vs 1]

**Music to Send Us Out into Our Ministry**

*Please join us for a Coffee and Conversation following worship this morning in the Davis and Friendship Rooms, through the West doors.*