

Stouffville United Church

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

December 6, 2020

Advent 2 – Peace
White Gift Sunday

Music Prelude

Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land

We are gathered on the treaty territory of the Huron Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe people and their ancestors. May we honour their history, spirituality, culture and teachings and uphold our responsibilities as treaty partners.

Announcements

Lighting the Advent Wreath:

It is the second Sunday of Advent. Last week, we lit the Candle of Hope. (*Light the first candle.*) Today we light the Candle of Peace.

God of all moments, the chaotic and the peaceful, help us to uncover your great Shalom – in the breath of a tiny child. Help us to feel that Peace, deep in our souls. Help us, we pray, to share it with the world. Amen

(Written by Richard Bott, Dunbar Heights United Church, Vancouver, B.C., Gathering A/C/E 2015/16, page 62. Used with permission.)

Call to Worship:

There is a voice that calls out from the wilderness.

What is this voice? We can only hear Christmas carols playing on the radio and in the stores.

It is the voice of the prophets, a voice that calls us to prepare for the coming of God.

But how will we prepare for God when we are so busy preparing for Christmas?

The prophet is not telling us to bake cookies and wrap presents. The prophet is calling us to peace; the peace that Christ can bring to our hearts, to our lives, and to our world.

This kind of peace is a good thing, but how do we come to this peace?

Let us sit quietly now. Let us sit in stillness and silence for just a moment and give God and God's peace a chance to enter in; into our hearts and into our beings.

(silence)

Come now to worship. Our God calls us from stillness and silence to prayer and song. Let us worship God.

(Written by Heather McClure, Wesley United Church, Montreal, Que., Gathering A/C/E 2011/12, page 28. Used with permission.)

Prayer of Confession:

Your prophets are easy to dismiss, God. They often tell us things we would rather not hear, things that will challenge us and change us. So we ignore them, or discredit them so that we don't have to hear or act upon their message. Forgive us, God. Make us more attuned to the prophetic voices around us, especially when they belong to those we'd rather exclude. Amen.

Words of Assurance

God's voice is heard above all chaos, confusion, complacency, and exclusion.

God's voice is one that cries out in the wilderness, in the inner city, in the countryside, and in the warmth of shared community;

With words of forgiveness, assurance, and unending grace.

Thanks be to God!

(Written by Catherine Tovell, Dundas Street Centre United Church, London, Ont., Gathering A/C/E 2011/12, page 30. Used with permission.)

Candle Lighting

A time of silence

Music for Meditation

A time of silence

Minute for Mission – White Gift Project

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Prayer before the Scriptures:

Gracious God, in this season of gifts and giving, help us to accept with joy the great gift of sacred scripture. As we unwrap the readings for today, bless us in our receiving of the wisdom of our ancestors in faith. Amen.

(Written by Susan Ivany, Westminster United Church, Thunder Bay., Ont., Gathering A/C/E 2020, page 32. Used with permission.)

Isaiah 40:1-11

Sermon: "Clear a Path in the Desert"

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Music Postlude

Thank you for worshipping with us, whether in person or on line. We look forward to joining with you again next week!