

Stouffville United Church

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

February 21, 2021

First Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion

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 Christ Candle:

As the people of Israel walked in the desert,
they followed the pillar of cloud by day,
and the pillar of fire by night;
as we journey this Lenten path,
to Jerusalem, the cross, and beyond,

we follow the light of Christ!

(Written by Richard Bott, Vancouver, B.C., Gathering L/E 2021, page 33. Used with permission.)

Opening Prayer:

**As this season of Lent beings, God of the ages,
we come seeking strength and guidance for our journey.**

Lent is a time of seeking change.

**Give us the courage to look at the things
we need to examine.**

Give us the hope that we can change.

Open us to your vision of a new way. Amen.

(Written by Beth W. Johnston, Hantsport Pastoral Charge, Hantsport, N.S., Gathering L/E 2018, page 31. Used with permission.)

Hymn: Jesus, Tempted in the Desert

[VU 115, Vs. 1,4]

Prayer of Confession

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

A time of silence

Music Ministry

A time of silence

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Prayer before the Scriptures:

Join with us, Living God,
as we meet around your word
and reflect upon it.

Encourage us, inspire us! Amen.

(Written by David Sparks, Summerland, B.C., Gathering L/E 2018, page 45. Used with permission.)

Genesis 9:8-17

Sermon: "Speaking into the Chaos"

Holy Communion

We live in a world in which we often feel like strangers,
wandering from place to place,
lurching from event to event,
not sure if we will ever belong anywhere.
And then we come to the Table,
and in the mystery of bread and wine,
the clouds clear away,
the sun comes out,
and we are, and know ourselves to be, at home.
You are welcome here.
Come, for all is ready.

Communion Hymn: All Who Hunger

[VU 460 Vs 1]

Communion Prayer

Great is your tenderness, God, for all that you have made.
For you are good, and all that you have made is good.
Kindness and love you show us in measure beyond abundance.
And yet, loving God, in spite of your generosity,
we often feel alienated from you,
away from our truest selves, away from you.
And, by your grace,
we find you waiting for us, out looking for us.
Glimmers of home we see,
in the morning sun chasing away the darkness of the night,
in the sliver of the moon whose light reflects on a snowy field,
in a crumb of bread on a plate
and a lingering taste of wine on our lips.
And once more we are at home, safe with you,
for though the world is often puzzling,
and our souls are often distracted by our living,
you come to us in those very distractions,
and we find in you a hope beyond all we can see.
As we begin this Lenten journey, Loving God,
may we be reminded of your faithfulness to us in the past,
your invitation to us in the present,
your promise to us for the future.
As we come to taste the gifts of your earth
so we also may know the promise of the gift of your eternity.

Breaking the Bread and Filling the Cup

Receiving Communion

Prayer after Communion

The generosity of your gifts here on earth, O God, hint at your even greater goodness at the heavenly banquet table. We bless you for these signs of your kindness in this world, and for the invitation they offer us to welcome others, as in love, you have welcomed us. Bless us in our Lenten journey. Amen.

(Communion Prayer for Lent written by Bob Root, Mark Street United Church, Peterborough, Ont., Gathering L/E/P 2012, page 49. Used with permission. Adapted.)

Hymn: O God, Our Help in Ages Past [VU 806, Vs. 1,2,3,6]

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!*