

Stouffville United Church
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3
www.stouffvilleuc.ca
April 18, 2021

Third Sunday of Easter
Sacrament of 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:

We light this candle that represents both the mystery of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection and the affirmation of God's love for all. We are comforted by the light that shines within each of us ... this light given to us through the Holy Spirit to pass on to others. Today, let us open our hearts and minds to both the receiving and the giving.

(Written by Julie Hutton, Minnedosa United Church, Minnedosa, Man., Gathering L/E 2021, page 42. Used with permission.)

Call to Worship:

Easter joy is for you and for all.

Easter hope stirs in creation.

Let your spirit swell.

Let the borders of your compassion expand.

**We join our voices and our lives
to share this joy and hope
as we worship together.**

(Written by Robin Wardlaw, Toronto, Ont., Gathering L/E 2021, page 43. Used with permission. Adapted.)

Hymn: God, Whose Love is Reigning o'er Us [VU 399, Vs. 1,4,5]

Prayer of Confession

Gracious God, we gather before you in this time of prayer. We confess that all too often we look up to heaven for glimpses of grace, while not seeing your grace that is revealed all around us.

Loving God, as we struggle with our brokenness, open our hearts to the presence of your grace in the people around us. As they reach out to us, let us reach out to them so together we may be healed. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

Grace is a gift from God revealed in moments of our connection with one another. Grace is a gift from God revealed in Jesus. For this we give thanks and praise. Amen.

(Written by Sandy Ferguson, Strathearn United Church, Edmonton, Alta., Gathering L/E 2021, page 47. Used with permission.)

Candle Lighting

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:

Loving God, your word comes to us through the ages and reminds us that, though the details may change, your will is timeless.

You call us to be a people whose love knows no bounds and whose service to others overcomes all barriers. Form us by your word, this day. Amen.

(Written by Beth W. Johnston, Bridging Waters Pastoral Charge, Nipawin, Sask., Gathering, L/E 2021, page 47. Used with permission.)

1 John 3:1-7

Sermon: "Who Do You Say That You Are?"

Communion Hymn: I Come with Joy [VU 477 Vs 1,2,3]

Holy Communion

Invitation

The Great Thanksgiving:

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Hallelujah, thanks and praise, ever-living God,
worker of wonders, maker of miracles,
author of all life and giver of life eternal!
Out of chaos and fear you bring beauty and hope.
Out of despair and death you create courage and new life.
And so, with the risen Christ,
who makes all things new
by the power of his resurrection,
we join in the song of a new day,
to give you praise:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We do what Jesus did the night before he died. He took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and give it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat; remember me." Then he took the cup, and said, "Take, drink; remember."

Loving God, we rejoice in the gift of your grace, remembering Christ's life and death, proclaiming his resurrection, waiting in hope for his coming again. Grant that in praise and thanksgiving, we may so offer ourselves to you that our lives may proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray, God of Love, send your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here, that we, and these gifts, touched by your Spirit, may be signs of life and love to each other, and to all the world.

Breaking the Bread and Filling the Cup

Sharing the Bread and Cup

The gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Communion Instructions

Prayer after Communion:

Risen Christ, you have once again welcomed us to your table, and we have shared a feast with you. Your hospitality overwhelms us. Would that we were so generous with your holy love! We can only thank you, and worship and praise you, and head out from this worship eager to do your will. Hallelujah! Amen!

(Written by Kate Gregory, while at Belwood-Metz Pastoral Charge, Belwood, Ont., Gathering L/E 2020, page 50. Used with permission. Adapted.)

Hymn: Go to the World

[VU 420, Vs. 1,2,4]

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!*