

Stouffville United Church

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

November 21, 2012 – Reign of Christ 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 Christ Candle:

We are a people of light.

We are called to bring light into all the shadowed places of living.

We light this candle, remembering that Jesus is the light of the world.

The Christ candle is lit.

Bob Root, Peterborough, Ont.

Call to Worship:

Brothers and sisters, let us pause to reflect: not yet on a stable, or star, or Advent candles, or everything for which we're thankful.

Those days are surely coming, but others are as well:

**days of holiness and righteousness,
salvation and safety, deliverance and rescue;
the dawn of a day when God's tender mercy
will trump oppression and death.**

Such are the days of Christ's reign.

They are surely coming! Let's celebrate today!

Hymn: "Rejoice, the Lord is King [VU 213]"

Opening Prayer

Mighty and tender God, voice of the voiceless, power of the powerless:

we praise you for your vision of a community of wholeness, a realm of peace, in which all who hunger and thirst are nourished, in which the stranger is welcomed, the hurting are healed, and the captive set free.

Guide us by your truth and love, until we and all your people witness to your reign of justice and compassion. We pray in the name of your anointed one, our servant-king.

Choral Response [VU 400]

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

A time of silence

Music Ministry

A time of silence

Acknowledging your Gifts

Offertory Prayer

Gracious and loving God, we have offered our gifts and our lives as signs that our faith is expressed not in words alone, but in deeds - deeds performed in the name and for the sake of Jesus. Amen

Scripture: John 1:1-12: from the New Revised Standard Version

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4 in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 5 The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8 He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9 The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10 He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11 He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12 But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God.

Reign of Christ Reflections

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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

Forever and ever. Amen

Hymn: Crown Him With Many Crowns [VU 211]

Scripture: Ephesians 1:15-23 from The Message

..... when I heard of the solid trust you have in the Master Jesus and your outpouring of love to all the followers of Jesus, I couldn't stop thanking God for you—every time I prayed, I'd think of you and give thanks. But I do more than thank. I ask—ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength!

All this energy issues from Christ: God raised him from death and set him on a throne in deep heaven, in charge of running the universe, everything from galaxies to governments, no name and no power exempt from his rule. And not just for the time being, but forever. He is in charge of it all, has the final word on everything. At the center of all this, Christ rules the church.

The church, you see, is not peripheral to the world; the world is peripheral to the church. The church is Christ's body, in which he speaks and acts, by which he fills everything with his presence.

Blessing:

The world God dreams of will come in its own time.

If it seems slow in coming, wait for it,
for it will surely come.

And as we wait, may all things work together for good;
may we be blessed with wisdom and discernment,
and determination and patience;
may we take the time to grow in grace, day by day.

Music Postlude

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