

Stouffville United Church

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

December 24, 2021

6:30 Christmas Eve Service

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

Call to Worship:

(Isaiah 9, Psalm 96, Luke 2)

Minister: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

Congregation: Celebrate the coming of the Light.

(M) O sing to the Lord a new song,
God's salvation is at hand.

(C) Celebrate the coming of Salvation.

(M) For a child has been born for us, a son given to us.

(C) Celebrate the coming of the Prince of Peace.

(M) I bring you good news of great joy for all the people.

(C) Celebrate the coming of Christ!

Hymn: O Come All Ye Faithful (80VU)

Prayer of Approach and Confession:

God of Joy, we come to celebrate again the arrival of Love Incarnate here in our very midst. Your glorious arrival is enough to cause the forests to sing for joy, yet we still find reasons to complain and sigh. Your light of salvation is bright enough to illuminate every corner of our lives, yet we still find ourselves shrouded in worry and doubt.

Your gift of Love is big enough for the whole world, yet we still find ourselves resentful

that your love extends to those whom we deem to be unworthy. Lord God, you invite us into the light of the stable where the overlooked and forgotten have gathered to celebrate the miracle of Your love. Give us the strength and courage to join You at the manger, and forgive us when we fail to do so. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not counting our trespasses against us. Therefore be assured and believe your sins are forgiven.

Lighting of the Advent Candles

Music Ministry:

A time of silence

Offertory

Offertory Prayer

Lord our God, we cannot thank you enough for the gift of your Son. Through your grace, you have given us everything, including our very lives. On this night, we celebrate the miracle of Christmas! But when the candles are blown out, when the ringing of the bells has ceased when the angels and shepherds have gone home, may we continue to shine your light into the world through the giving of these offerings. And so we offer you yet another gift: our partnership to build your reign here on earth.

Hymn: Angels We Have heard on High (38VU)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Matthew 2:1-18

Hymn: Joy to the World (59 VU)

Sermon: "Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come"

Prayers of the People

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: Silent Night (67 VU)

Blessing

Closing Response (VU 967)

Music Postlude

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