

## **Stouffville United Church**

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

March 20, 2022

### **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 of the Christ Candle**

By lighting this candle, we are acknowledging that God and Jesus are here with us today, bringing light into our lives.

***Doug Reid, Eglinton St. George's U.C., Toronto, Ont.***

*The Christ Candle is lit*

Response: *Jesus Christ the Light of the World*

### **Call to Worship**

God calls us together in love,  
to reach out to us,  
to comfort and strengthen us.

So we gather as a brood of chicks  
under their mother's wings:  
to be loved into safety.

**Let us worship our God of love.**

**Yes, let us worship God.**

**Hymn:** "Come, Let Us Sing of a Wonderful Love

[VU 574]

Children Worship (in lower auditorium)

**Prayer of Approach and Confession:** (unison)

**God of Grace, regardless of the past you run to greet us.**

**You throw your loving arms around us.**

**You clothe us with your blessings.**

**You rejoice at our being here.**

**You want nothing more than for us to be reconciled to you and each other.**

**Be with us this day, we pray.**

**Open our hearts and minds to your ways,  
so that we may carry your love to the world. Amen.**

**Words of Assurance:**

No matter where we are, God is there.  
No matter what we have done, God forgives.  
No matter our reluctance to accept God, God has accepted us.  
With that assurance, receive God's many blessings,  
and live in fullness and in hope.

*from Celebrate God's Presence*

**Music Ministry:**

**A time of silence**

**Minute for Mission**

**Invitation to the Offering**

Our God offers us so many gifts and opportunities to share and be generous.

Now is just such a time.

Let us say yes to the opportunity.

Let us say now is the time to share.

Let us give generously of our time, token,  
and treasure as we offer what we have to God.

**Offertory**

**Offertory Prayer** (unison)

**When you reach out, it means the world to us, O Christ.**

**When we reach out to the world, that outreach gives  
meaning to your name. Bless our offering, we pray, that it  
may touch many in the world. Amen.**

*Kate Gregory, Belwood-Metz P.C., Belwood, Ont.*

**Prayer for Illumination**

God of the ages:

your story was told and retold,  
first by sermon and word of mouth.

Later your story was written down  
and passed from community to community.

Your story can ring true for us just as it has for generations.

Open us to this message of hope  
and help us to trust in your presence. Amen.

*Beth W Johnston, Hantsport P.C., Hantsport, N.S.*

**Scripture: Luke 13:31-35**

**Hymn:** "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"

[VU 344]

**Sermon:**

## **Prayers of the People**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn:** "Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights"

[VU108]

### **Blessing**

May we be blessed on the journey  
that is ours to make:  
blessed with the spirit of Christ within us;  
blessed with sturdy companionship and great love;  
blessed with integrity of purpose  
to meet the challenges that are ours.  
May we make this journey  
knowing that we are not alone,  
that God is with us,  
and that God will never leave us nor forsake us.

**Closing Response**

[VU 967]

**Music Postlude**