

## **Stouffville United Church**

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

March 13, 2022

Affirming and PIE Day

### **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**

After Noah and family survived the storm, there was a rainbow, promising hope, and new life. After the darkness and death, a resurrected Christ, promising hope, and new life.

We will all face times of storms and darkness in our lives.

But Christ and the Rainbow can show us the light and lead us back to new life.

- Ken DeLisle

### **Call to Worship**

One: You are welcomed here.

**All: Who do we mean when we say *you*? Do we mean *you who were not welcomed*?**

One: You are welcome here.

**All: Where do we mean when we say *here*? Do we mean in our hearts or in our church building?**

One: I am welcome here.

**All: I am welcome here.**

One: We are a people whole and hurting.

**All: We are a people, whole and healing.**

**Open Hands**, Vol. 9, Fall, 1994. p. 24

Hymn            VU#644 I Was There to Hear Your Borne Cry

Opening Prayer

Beloved One, your embrace is a refuge from violence and hatred. Those who have been turned away, forgotten, or persecuted find belonging in you. We hope to embody such love in this place. May we be a sanctuary, a shelter, a safe place to turn. May we endeavor to learn from each other and grow together in love that protects and uplifts. Amen.

Music Ministry  
A time of Silence

Offering

We are blessed to be the answer to someone's prayers by sharing our gifts. It may be here in our community, or it may be elsewhere in Canada or around the world through gifts we give to the Mission and Service Fund.

Generous and loving God, help us to see where there is a need and to fill it, in wildly imaginative ways, through this offering.  
Bless these gifts in Jesus' name. Amen

- Adopted from a service by Rod Sykes, **Seasons Of The Spirit**, 2010

Scripture: **John 11, 1 - 44**

Hymn "Draw the Circle Wide" (Gordon Light), More Voices #145;

Message

Prayers of the People

Creator,  
We come to you with both the joys and the sorrows of our hearts.  
We are grateful for the gift of life and the joy that it can bring.  
For families and friends who love us. For allies who stick up for us,  
even when we cannot risk sticking up for ourselves.  
For the great diversity you have created in our world.  
We pray for those who suffer from discrimination  
because of their gender identity, sexual orientation,

colour of their skin, their different abilities and so many other ways we put down others.  
Remind us and help us to see all as our siblings, your children and help us end so much violence  
against the ones you love and created.  
We pray for those who worry about their employment or who cannot find a job.  
For those who must hide who they are to find housing.

For those who are not safe on our streets.  
For those who do not feel safe in their place of worship.  
For those who gather at our outreach communities for coffee and fellowship.  
Help us to end all forms of discrimination and hate.  
Show us the way to make this world a better place for all.

- Prairie to Pine Regional Gathering 2020, based on a prayer by Ruth Wood, "Speaking Our Truth"

Today we also pray for the people on our prayer list. May they receive comfort and support during this time.

We also pray for those people in our hearts who are not on this list. We pray for the people of Ukraine. Be with them all.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father, which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy Name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done in 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.  
Lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, The power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn            VU#649 Walk With Me

Blessing

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet Walk with you on the road.  
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands

Stretch out your hands to serve.  
May the Christ who loves with wounded heart  
Open your hearts to love.  
May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet And may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you.

- Traditional Celtic Blessing

Postlude