

## **Stouffville United Church**

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

April 24, 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**

This is the season of Easter:

**the celebration of resurrection,**

the festival of hope,

**the promise of new beginnings,**

the dance of faith,

**the song of joy,**

the music of gladness,

**the hymn of love.**

Let us worship our life-giving God!

**Hymn** Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks

[VU 179]

Children Worship (in lower auditorium)

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

Jesus, you are the Christ.

In your rising is our own rising, but we struggle every day.

We want to be comfortable, relaxed, even,

but you reach out and touch us all.

With wounded hands, you hold our hands.

With wounded feet, you walk beside us.

With a pierced heart, you enfold our hearts.

Your eyes gaze deeply into our own eyes—  
you implore, you invite, and you incite.

“Go! Tell! Share! Heal! Do it in my name,”  
you command us with a smile.

It is a smile that knows from the inside out.

It is a smile shadowed with pain and with joy.

It is a smile both wry and companionable.

Strengthen us, O God. Enable us, O Spirit.

Lead us, O Christ. Amen

### **Words of Assurance**

Jesus said to the disciples,  
“Take heart. Have no fear.”

As disciples, we no longer need to be burdened by guilt,  
no longer need to be bound by fear.

Be renewed through God’s forgiving love:

be strengthened by Christ’s presence in your life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Music Ministry**

#### **A time of silence**

#### **Minute for Mission**

#### **Invitation to the Offering**

Jesus revealed himself to his followers  
so that they would carry on his message and hope  
in the world.

We have received the Good News — Christ is risen!

It is now our task to share that Good News — in word and in deed.

Therefore, I invite you to continue to offer your gifts

to support the work of our witness in the world.

### **Offertory**

**Offertory Prayer** (unison)

**Here, O God, are our gifts of commitment to the world.**

**Here, O Christ, are our pledges of service to each other.**

**Here, O Spirit, are our talents of inspiration in abundance.**

**Bless and keep what we offer here for your ministry in and  
through us. Amen.**

### **Words before the scriptures are read**

Whether you take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor,  
myth or story, listen to these words now, for the meaning they hold  
for you on this day.

**Scripture** John 20:19-31 from The Message

19-20 Later on that day, the disciples had gathered together, but, fearful of the Jews, had locked all the doors in the house. Jesus entered, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you." Then he showed them his hands and side.

20-21 The disciples, seeing the Master with their own eyes, were awestruck. Jesus repeated his greeting: "Peace to you. Just as the Father sent me, I send you."

22-23 Then he took a deep breath and breathed into them. "Receive the Holy Spirit," he said. "If you forgive someone's sins, they're gone for good. If you don't forgive sins, what are you going to do with them?"

24-25 But Thomas, sometimes called the Twin, one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. The other disciples told him, "We saw the Master."

But he said, "Unless I see the nail holes in his hands, put my finger in the nail holes, and stick my hand in his side, I won't believe it."

26 Eight days later, his disciples were again in the room. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came through the locked doors, stood among them, and said, "Peace to you."

27 Then he focused his attention on Thomas. "Take your finger and examine my hands. Take your hand and stick it in my side. Don't be unbelieving. Believe."

28 Thomas said, "My Master! My God!"

29 Jesus said, "So, you believe because you've seen with your own eyes. Even better blessings are in store for those who believe without seeing."

30-31 Jesus provided far more God-revealing signs than are written down in this book. These are written down so you will believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and in the act of believing, have real and eternal life in the way he personally revealed it.

**Hymn** "You Tell Me That the Lord is Risen" [VU 185]

**Reflection** "Some thoughts about Doubting Thomas"

## **Prayers of the People**

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

**Hymn** The Spring Has Come [VU 187]

### **Blessing**

And now may the blessing of God be ours as we leave:  
the blessing of doubt, to be our guide;

the blessing of peace, to calm our troubled spirits;  
the blessing of friendship, to be our companion.  
May the risen Christ, who appeared to his disciples,  
come through the locked doors of our hearts and make his home  
deep within us, and in our world.  
May he find here hospitality and welcome,  
justice and peace for all.

**Closing Response** [VU 967]

**Music Postlude**