

Stouffville United Church

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

September 18, 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

In the Spirit of Christ Who calls us to be the Church and to Celebrate God's presence; we light the Christ candle to symbolize Christ in our midst.

The Christ Candle is lit

Response: *Jesus Christ the Light of the World*

Call to Worship

L: God's glory is pouring forth from the heavens.

P: Earth below receives the good news with great joy.

L: The promise is sure and true, that Jesus has come to show us the best ways to serve God.

P: By serving and caring for others, we truly serve God.

L: Come, let us prepare ourselves for joyful service.

P: Lord, make us ready for great service in your name. AMEN.

Hymn: How Great is Our God with How Great Thou Art

Prayer of Approach and Confession: (unison)

Lord our God, you have opened the doors to us for true service. We are encouraged to become involved in ministries of service, peace and justice. The light of promise is reflected in your Holy Spirit which rests in each one of us. Get us ready to serve you. Guide our lives, as we learn more of what you would have us do. Change and challenge are always difficult. We are more inclined to turn our backs on opportunities of service than pitch in to affect the needed changes that will promote healing and wholeness. Forgive us when we give lip service to you and then slip into inaction. Give us courage to be willing disciples. Help us to be people of promise and hope. In Jesus' Name, we offer this prayer. AMEN.

Words of Assurance:

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

Music Ministry:

A time of silence

Offertory

Offertory Prayer (unison)

Lord, you are the giver of all good blessings, we find ourselves under a debt we can never overcome. Every blessing we have received or hope to receive comes from your generosity. The gifts we bring to you this morning pale in comparison to the bottom line of our ledger. Yet you manage your kingdom on a different economic model – one where the equity is grace, forgiveness, compassion, mercy, and justice. You encourage us to be shrewd in the world's money, knowing it is not the currency that matters in the end. And so, we pray in the name of Jesus, whose life and death paid our debt. Amen. ([Luke 16:1-13](#))

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Nehemiah 2:11-20

Hymn: 578 VU - As a Fire is Meant for Burning

Sermon "Tough Times Never Last"

Series: Nehemiah: Reclaiming, Restoring, Rebuilding

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: 28 MV - God of the Bible

Blessing

Closing Response (VU 967)

Music Postlude