

## **Stouffville United Church**

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

October 23, 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 (Psalm 65, Joel 2)**

Praise is due to you, O God, O you who answer prayer.

**Happy are those who live in your courts—  
those who are satisfied with the goodness  
of your house and your holy temple.**

You are the hope of all things, Holy One,  
from the ends of the earth to the farthest seas.

**You make the gateways of the evening  
and the morning shout for joy.**

Rejoice in God, O people, and be glad.

**Let us shout and sing together for joy.**

### **Hymn: 222 VU - Come Let Us Sing**

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

Lord our God,

we confess this day to engaging in habits  
that diminish the bounty of your creation.

Not satisfied with the goodness of your holy temple,  
your seas and mountains, your rain and soil,

we have fashioned a system of sustenance  
that seems good to us,

but cannot be sustained.

Be merciful to us, for we have sinned.

Answer us with awesome deeds of deliverance,

O Hope of all nations

Give us vision and a prophetic spirit.

Renew our vocation,

as stewards of your creation and servants of your will. 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) God of the universe, you were with us at the beginning of our lives, and you will be by our side when we draw our last breath. In between, we struggle through life, too often trying to find our way based on our own wants and desires. In our giving to you this day, may you bless us so that we might better keep our eyes focused on you, that one day we might be able to echo your servant Paul as he said, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. We pray this in the name of Jesus who loved us even to the cross! Amen (2 Timothy 4:6-8)

**Prayer for Illumination**

Scripture: Nehemiah 6:1-19

**Hymn: 79 MV - Spirit Open My Heart****Sermon "Keep Focused"**

*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: 509 VU - I the Lord of Sea and Sky****Blessing****Closing Response****Music Postlude**