

Stouffville United Church

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

October 30, 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: For all those who have paved the way for our freedom of worship, we give thanks, O Lord.

P: For those who have taught us about witness and the power of love, we give thanks, O Lord.

L: For those who work in our church that we may come to know what it means to serve, we give thanks, O Lord.

P: For all the saints, those who rest from their labors, and those who labor still, we give thanks, O Lord.

L: Praise be to God, who continually inspires and guides workers and witnesses.

**P: Open our hearts and spirits, O Lord, and help us to become good workers for you.
AMEN**

Hymn: 217 VU - All Creatures of Our God and King

Prayer of Approach and Confession: (unison)

Lord God of love and peace, open our hearts today to receive the invitation of Jesus to come and be present in our lives. Release us from our smallness and create an atmosphere of confession and healing love in our hearts and our spirits and forgive us when we make excuses for our lack of faith. We let our selfishness and apathy get in the way of illumination and peace. We find ways to duck out of our opportunities for service and witness, claiming that we are too small or too ill-equipped to be effective witnesses to Jesus Christ. Help us, O Lord. Open our hearts with your forgiving spirit that we, having been healed and forgiven, may actually be effective witnesses to your love and compassion. For we ask this in Jesus' Name. 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)

Compassionate God, as Jesus did for Zacchaeus, you reach across the chasms that we've created, the ones where we've isolated ourselves from the redemptive power of your love. As with Zacchaeus, bridges have been built, and people who believed they were beyond your embrace have been welcomed to the table with open arms! As we give to you this day, may we also follow the example of Zacchaeus – with an explosion of gratitude and generosity – and may we also know his joy! We pray this in the name of Jesus, who invites himself to our table! Amen. (Luke 19:1-10)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Nehemiah 7:1-4

Hymn: 374 VU - Come and Find the Quiet Centre**Sermon "From Rebuilding Walls to Rebuilding Lives"**

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: 575 VU - I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me**Blessing****Closing Response****Music Postlude**