

Stouffville United Church

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

October 9, 2022

Thanksgiving Sunday

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: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you people!

P: With shouts of joy we celebrate the good news of God's love.

L: Open your hearts to the warmth of God's redeeming love.

P: God has poured such wonder into our lives!

L: Come, let us worship God with hearts and souls and voices!

P: Let our praise ring to the rafters and ascend to the heavens! AMEN.

Hymn: 516 VU - Come You Thankful People Come

Prayer of Approach and Confession: (unison)

Lord, you know how easy it is for us to whine and complain bitterly about all those things in our lives that are difficult. We focus on them as though they were the only things that ever happened to us, forgetting the many blessings that you have given to us and the opportunities you give us to serve you. We feel alienated--you call us beloved. We feel lost--you seek us. We feel broken and battered--your love is a healing balm. Forgive us when we forget those things. Help us to always look to you for our healing and to return thanks to you by praise and serving others in your name. For we offer this prayer of confession of our failures and gratitude for your blessings. 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 love and compassion, the need for your presence in this world is often overwhelming. Confrontation and division are everywhere we look: in communities, in our countries, in our church, and in our world. We have endured much, and others have had to endure so much more. The apostle Paul reminds us that if we endure, we will reign with Jesus. May the gifts we give help all your children endure in these strange and challenging times. In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray. Amen. (2 Timothy 2:8-15)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Nehemiah 4:1-15

Hymn: 226 VU - For the Beauty of the Earth

Sermon "Dealing with Discouragement on Thanksgiving"

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: 520 VU - We Plough the Fields

Blessing

Closing Response (VU 967)

Music Postlude