

Stouffville United Church

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

November 27, 2022

1st Sunday of Advent

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 First Advent Candle

Call to Worship

L: The days are shorter and darkness comes early to our lives.

P: Lord, hear our prayers through the darkness.

L: Come, seek the Lord. Place your hope in God's mercy and love.

P: Lord, we seek your presence among us.

L: Look closely! God is making us ready.

P: Brighten our Spirits this day, and help us to receive your Good News. AMEN.

Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound

[VU 29]

Prayer of Approach and Confession: (unison)

We can hardly believe it, Lord. The Advent season is upon us. We usually translate that into the buying season in preparation for THE BIG DAY. But when we place our hope in the tinsel, wrappings, tape and boxes, we forget the most glorious gift of all, the gift of God's absolute love. Open our eyes, our hearts, our spirits today to behold God's gracious love for us in the fulfillment of all God's promises. Forgive us

when we get so wrapped up in the season, instead of remembering the reason. 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 peace and justice, in the past year we have once again witnessed the fruits of war: lives cut short, children made orphans, homes devastated, and hearts broken. We pray to see the day that Isaiah saw in his heart, when swords are pounded into plowshares. These gifts we give this morning, may they be used to make human hearts ready for peace and for the reign of your Son our Lord. In his holy name, we pray. Amen. (Isaiah 2:1-5)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Matthew 11:16-19

Hymn: There's a Voice in the Wilderness [VU 18]

Sermon "Christmas is Coming: Why aren't you Dancing"

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: See Amid The Winter Snow [VU 76]

Blessing

Closing Response [MV 209]

Music Postlude