

Stouffville United Church
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3
www.stouffvilleuc.ca
December 4, 2022
2nd 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 Second Advent Candle

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 40:1–11

Reader 1: O God, we light the second candle of Advent.

Reader 2: We seek your comfort. Both mighty and tender, you come. Prepare our hearts to be transformed by you.

Reader 1: Isaiah announced God's coming to a people exiled in a broken and parched wilderness. He declared that God's redemption would make a highway in the desert and change the rough places into plain. God would come as a shepherd—feeding, leading, and cradling the weary flock. This Advent, we seek such a God.

People: Saving God, look upon your world and heal your land and your people. Prepare us to be changed.

Call to Worship

L: The prophet Isaiah declared that justice and peace shall come through the family of Jesse.

P: This justice shall be for all of creation.

L: Peace shall be established in all the world.

P: Get ready! Prepare for God's peace to reign!

L: Blessed be God who does such wondrous things!

P: We give thanks to God for this time of healing and hope. AMEN.

Hymn: VU 31 - O Lord How Shall I Meet You

Prayer of Approach and Confession: (unison)

Lord of mercy and peace, open our hearts to receive your words of hope. We live far too much in darkness and fear. We have let the fears invade the very center of our lives and find ourselves changing, moving from your light to the darkness of despair. It seems that this world and its people are more pleased to fight and destroy than they are to have peace and harmony. We become part of that crowd when we wallow in anger, resentment, apathy, and greed. Forgive us, patient and merciful God. Help us be people who will look at the ways in which we have blocked your presence; ways in which we have truly failed to be your people. Give us courage and strength to change our lives, that your peace may become a reality in this world, right now, this day. For we offer this prayer in the name of Jesus. 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)

Almighty God, as John the Baptist identified the arrival of the Messiah, this Advent season, that role falls on us. As we bring our tithes and offerings to you, we pray that our giving continues to point to the Christ who comes in love and compassion, with more concern for those who don't have enough. May our giving in this season reflect our hope for a new kind of kingdom to reign in our world. We pray this in the name of the Messiah, Jesus our Savior. Amen. ([Mark 1:1-8](#))

Prayer for Illumination**Scripture: Matthew 1:18-2:23****Hymn: VU 74 - What Child Is This****Sermon "When Christmas isn't Perfect"****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: VU 73 - The Virgin Mary Had A Baby Boy**Blessing****Closing Response****Men of Note****Music Postlude**