

Stouffville United Church
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3
www.stouffvilleuc.ca
December 11, 2022
3rd 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

The Lighting of the Advent Candle: The Candle of Faith: Behold and Believe!

Reader 1:

Blessing upon blessing has been showered upon us by God. The lame shall walk; the blind shall see; the deaf shall hear.

Reader 2:

There will be peace and hope in God's land. Be of good courage. Behold! God is blessing and redeeming us!

Today we light three candles. The first is the candle of Patience, reminding us to watch and wait for what God is about to do. [*Light the first candle*]

The second candle is the candle of Readiness, enabling us to look at our lives, to get rid of all those things that keep us from God, to change our ways and live as God would have us live. [*The second candle is lighted*]

The third candle is the candle of Faith, through which we behold the love and mercy of God and believe in God's presence with us. [*The third candle is lighted*]

Call to Worship

L: Today there is good news for us to behold!

P: Those who feared that they were worth little to God have found blessing in God's sight.

L: For in the mercy and love of God, the blind shall see, the lame shall walk without pain, those who could not hear shall be blessed with hearing, and there shall be peace.

P: God's mercy and love is poured out for our parched souls.

L: Behold! The Lord's compassion is with God's people.

P: Believe in the power of God in all things. AMEN.

Hymn: 7 VU - Hope is a Star

Prayer of Approach and Confession: (unison)

O Lord, you know the deserts and the parched places in our lives. We seek your healing power. Lead us on this Advent journey to the place of new birth and to the place of our redemption; forgive our lack of faith in your loving power. We look around us and all that we see is what we don't have. We fail to notice the daily blessings you lavish upon us. Clear our blindness to the needs of others. Strengthen us and move us from lame excuses for not serving you. Help us to truly listen to one another, not with our pat answers ready, but with loving and generous hearts in the name of Jesus we pray. 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: Luke 2:15-20

Hymn: 62 VU - Once in Royal David's City

Sermon "Developing a Christmas Heart"

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: 70 VU - There's a Star in the East (Rise Up Shepherd)**Blessing****Closing Response****Music Postlude**