

Stouffville United Church
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3
www.stouffvilleuc.ca
December 24, 2022
Christmas Eve

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.

ADVENT CANDLE

L: The true light is shining in the world. It is the Light of our beloved Savior Jesus Christ. We light this Christ candle and remember how much Jesus loves us.

Call to Worship

L: The world was once in darkness

P: Now we have God's Light, Jesus to shine on us.

L: The words and promises of God are all true!

P: God has given us the best gift of all!

L: Rejoice! God is with us!

P: Praise be to God! AMEN.

Hymn: O Come All Ye Faithful - VU 60

Prayer of Approach and Confession: (unison)

Gracious God, you have sent your Son to us to show us the way. Even when we have turned our backs, followed our own paths, you offer us Light. Forgive us when we are so willful and stubborn. Forgive us when we think more about ourselves and our comforts than we think of reaching out to others. Remind us again that Jesus witnessed to us the Light of Love that serves, guides and heals. Thank you for loving us so much that you would give us this most precious gift. And when we again falter and fail, lift us again with your gentle touch. Pour the Light into our lives once more, that finally, we will fully understand the power and depth of your love for us. 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 are forgiven.

Music Ministry:

A time of silence

Offertory

Offertory Prayer (unison)

Glorious God, we sing with the angels to celebrate the tremendous gift of your Son Jesus! We rejoice with gladness. You give us wonderful joy and peace in our Savior. May we exult in your goodness with the exhilaration of children opening presents. As we bring our offerings, we ask that our lives would reflect your joy and generosity. We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen. *(Luke 2)*

Prayer for Illumination**Scripture: Luke 2:1-20****Hymn: Joy to The World - VU 59**Sermon "**How Far is it to Bethlehem?**"**Sacrament of Holy Communion****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: Silent Night (with candles) - VU 67**Blessing****Closing Response****Music Postlude**