

Stouffville United Church
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3
www.stouffvilleuc.ca
January 22, 2023

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

Call to Worship (Isaiah 9, Psalm 27, Matthew 4)

To those who sit in darkness, light has dawned.

**To those who dwell in gloom and despair,
God's glorious presence has appeared.**

God is indeed our light and our salvation.

**We will follow, unafraid,
where God and Jesus lead us.**

Let us worship our God of light and promise.

Let us celebrate the hope and joy of our salvation.

Hymn: 222 VU - Come Let Us Sing

Prayer of Approach and Confession: (unison)

God of light and love, we come this morning

with eyes stinging from the brightness

of your glory. We have become so accustomed to the darkness, that your radiant light sometimes

overwhelms us. Open our eyes to the light of your dawn,

that our souls may be flooded with love and mercy and joy. Open our hearts to receive your message

of comfort and peace and security, that we may find rest

in your loving, protective presence. Open our spirits to follow the path you put before us, that we

may lead lives committed to your Way. Forgive our fear.

Forgive our aversion to the light. Forgive our unresponsiveness to your call. Forgive our willful

blindness and deafness to the Way.

Help us know deep in our souls that you are our light and our salvation, our joy and our wonder,

our very life. Hear us as we cry aloud in our need. 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 you are forgiven.

Music Ministry:

A time of silence

Blessing of the Prayer Mantle

Offertory

Offertory Prayer (unison)

Holy God, as we present our tithes and offerings in worship,
we know we come from a world that is tearing itself apart due to division.
Even among your followers, we find ourselves shutting down and
closing ourselves to those who don't think or act as we do.
We need to be reminded that you desire unity and one mind from your children
– not a church void of disagreement, but one where we work at listening in love
more than working at speaking louder and winning the day.
We dedicate not just our gifts but our minds to the work of your unifying love.
In Christ, we pray. Amen. (1 Corinthians 1:10-18)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Philippians 1:12-26

Hymn: 120 MV - My Soul Cries Out

Sermon “**On Remaining Joyful**”
Philippians Series 2: “Finding Joy Right Where You Are”

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: 418 VU - Go Forth For God

Blessing

Closing Response

Music Postlude