

Stouffville United Church
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3
www.stouffvilleuc.ca
March 26, 2023
Fifth Sunday of Lent

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 the Christ Candle

Call to Worship (John 18, John 19)

Come, let us gather again as we coming closer to the Cross of Christ.

We gather to remember the overwhelming evidence of Love's ultimate sacrifice.

Who would have guessed that the height and depth, the length and width of God's love might look like this: a forsaken savior on a cross?

Certainly not us. Not us, who are too often lost amid the world's distractions and responsibilities.

Not us, for whom such love was offered without cost.

Let us gather again in the shadow of the Cross of Christ and commit ourselves to remember the price paid.

Let us live our lives in a way that indicates why this Friday is called "Good."

Thanks be to God, who opened the gates of heaven, that we might have the faith, hope, and love, witnessed in Christ's sacrifice for our salvation.

Hymn: 359 VU - He Came Singing Love

Prayer of Approach and Confession

O Lord our God of infinite love and power, we gather together to reflect on your work in the Cross. We are utterly humbled in the presence of such love and mercy. Open our hearts this day to the goodness of sacrifice, and fill us with your love and powerful Spirit of Holiness. Remove from us all sin. Offer us anew this Life in Christ that makes all things new. 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

Minute For Mission

Offertory

Offertory Prayer (unison)

Almighty and restoring God, we have been living through some difficult days, as churches and as individuals. We experience days when we rise, wondering if we will make it through one more day, whether the church will survive for another generation; and we feel like those dry bones in the valley. As we offer our tithes and offerings, help us to hear the word of hope the prophet shares, not just with our ears but with our hearts. May it call us back to life and service, out of the graves of despair in which we have buried ourselves. In Christ's holy name. Amen. ([John 11:1-45](#))

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: 1Corinthians 1:1-25

Hymn: 213 MV - Take Up His Song

Video

Sermon "**The Paradox of the Cross**"
Easter Series 2: "Once and for All"

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: 149 VU - When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

Blessing

Closing Response

Music Postlude