

Stouffville United Church
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3
www.stouffvilleuc.ca
June 11, 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

Lighting of the Christ Candle

By lighting this candle, we are acknowledging that God and Jesus are here with us today, bringing light into our lives.

(Doug Reid, Eglinton St. George's U.C.)

Call to Worship

Welcome!

There are many places you could be this morning,
but you have chosen to come here:

where we learn how to live as God would have us live.

Welcome to this place—full of music, of words, of prayer—
yet also filled with challenge:

**where we encounter a Wisdom we cannot always
understand.**

Welcome to God's House, the most awesome place in town:

**where we talk about and with God,
and are reduced to silence so we may hear the call to
serve God and God's beloved.**

Hymn: "God is Here" #389 VU verses 1,2,4

God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts

wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us
of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit;
here the cross has central place.

Here in honesty of preaching,
here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal,
God the Spirit comes to each.

God of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.

Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!

Prayers of Approach

**We gather today as your people,
brought together by your call and your devotion to
us.**

We ask that you would guide us.

We ask that you would inspire us.

**We ask that you would help us to live
all times responding to you
not only with word - but with action.**

**And, we ask that you would remind us
of our covenant relationships - with you,
with our neighbours and with each other.**

**In Christ's name and in your Love,
we ask these things. Amen.**

Words of Assurance:

This is the Good News: No matter where we are, God is there.
And God loves us more than we love ourselves.
God set us free to love others. Thanks be to God.

Music Ministry:

A Time of Silence

Invitation to the Offering

Participating in what God is doing is a gift we have been given. Being part of something larger than ourselves gives life meaning and connects us with others in empowering ways. Let the gifts we offer serve God's dreams and visions for those both near and far.

(Gloria Wray, Mark St. U.C.)

Offertory "We Praise You, O God" (#218 VU)

**We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.**

**We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.**

**With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!.**

***Offertory Prayer**

**Ever-present God,
with this offering, we present also ourselves:
all that we have been, all that we are,
and all that we shall become,
and our resolve to walk in your way.
Accept us and our offering, we pray for Jesus' sake.
Amen.**

(from Celebrate God's Presence)

Scripture Drama:

"Jonah" by Peggy Freeman

A Few Thoughts

*** Response: "Spirit of the Living God" (#376 VU)**

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God, move among us all;
make us one in heart and mind, make us one in love:

humble, caring, selfless, sharing.
Spirit of the living God, fill our lives with love

Sharing our Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: " Draw the Circle Wide" #145 MV

Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.

God the still-point of the circle
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms.

Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.

Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call.

Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.

Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.

Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song,
no one stands alone,
standing side by side,
draw the circle wide.

Blessing

The world God dreams of will come in its own time.
If it seems slow in coming, wait for it,
for it will surely come.
And as we wait, may all things work together for good;
may we be blessed with wisdom and discernment,
and determination and patience;
may we take the time to grow in grace, day by day.

Closing Response

[MV 209]

Music Postlude