

Stouffville United Church
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3
www.stouffvilleuc.ca
Sunday August 20, 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 the Christ Candle

Call to Worship

L: What joy we feel when we are called together to celebrate God's love.

P: God's love flows through our lives!

L: This is what it means to be the body of Christ!

P: this is what it means to be faithful witnesses to God.

L: Let us rejoice on this day!

P: Lord, we thank you for the blessings you pour on us. AMEN.

Hymn: God of Grace and God of Glory

VU 686

Prayer of Approach and Confession

As summer draws to a close, our autumn activities begin. For some it will mean preparing children for school or to receive them in the classroom; for others youth will be preparing to enter university or the work force or perhaps military service. Be with these precious ones as they embark on life's journeys. Be with each one of us as we encounter life's challenges. Open our hearts to receive your healing mercy and your transforming love. We come before you this day, knowing that we have not always been faithful to what you would have us do. We have at times turned our backs on those in need, choosing not to hear their cries. Your love and mercy, so generously showered over us, should be a beacon to guide our own actions. We make no excuses, for none would suffice. We ask your forgiveness and blessing, turning us again around and placing us on the path of compassion and peace. This prayer we offer in Jesus' name. 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

Offertory

Offertory Prayer (unison)

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: Esther 7

Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

VU 220

Sermon "**Everyday Heroes**"

Eighth in the Series on Esther: "For Such a Time as This"

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: Take My Life And Let It Be

VU686

Blessing

Closing Response

Music Postlude