

Stouffville United Church

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

October 15, 2023 World Food Sunday

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

Every day, Jesus offers us potential and possibilities, opportunities and challenges, grace amid the storms. Every day, Jesus is God's grace.

We light this candle to remember that in Christ Jesus, we are indeed most blessed.

Call to Worship

The prophets of old spoke of God's justice, even when it was unwelcome. Who will hear their message?

We will listen and we will hear!

Responding to God's call, Jesus traveled, preaching and teaching all who would listen. Who will hear his message?

We will listen and we will hear!

Christ sent out disciples two by two, to spread the good news in any place that would welcome them. Who will hear their message?

We will listen and we will hear!

God's prophets are among us still, around the world and in these pews. Who will hear their message?

We will listen and we will hear!

Hymn: "Open My Eyes, That I May See" #371 VU

- 1 Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

- 2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

- 3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Prayer of Approach

**Eternal God, we are here, today,
with hungry hearts, waiting to be filled,
with a sense of your presence;
with the touch of your spirit;
with new energy for service.**

**Come to us, we pray. Be with us. Touch us.
Empower us as your people,**

**that we might worship you,
and act in the world for Jesus' sake. Amen.**

Prayer of Confession:

Where we have failed to live in your way,

Loving God, forgive us.

Where we have failed to show your way to others,

Loving God, forgive us.

Where we have seen your way as being too costly,

Loving God, forgive us.

Where we have failed to do the right thing in favour of
the easy thing,

Loving God, forgive us.

Words of Assurance:

Hear this good news: Christ is ever and always alive in
this world, calling all people to live lives that are new
and renewed.

We are loved, we are forgiven, we are free.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

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: "In Gratitude and Humble Trust"
(#544 VU)**

In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love

with all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.

***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)

Prayer for Illumination

Your Word sheds light upon our way,
brings healing into our souls,
and gives purpose to our lives.
Open our hearts and minds to hear
what your spirit is saying to us. Amen

Scripture: John 6: 7-13, 30-44 from The Message
7-8 Jesus called the Twelve to him, and sent them out in
pairs. He gave them authority and power to deal with
the evil opposition. He sent them off with these
instructions:

8-9 "Don't think you need a lot of extra equipment for
this. You are the equipment. No special appeals for
funds. Keep it simple.

10 "And no luxury inns. Get a modest place and be
content there until you leave.

11 "If you're not welcomed, not listened to, quietly
withdraw. Don't make a scene. Shrug your shoulders
and be on your way."

12-13 Then they were on the road. They preached with joyful urgency that life can be radically different; right and left they sent the demons packing; they brought wellness to the sick, anointing their bodies, healing their spirits.

30-31 The apostles then rendezvoused with Jesus and reported on all that they had done and taught. Jesus said, "Come off by yourselves; let's take a break and get a little rest." For there was constant coming and going. They didn't even have time to eat.

32-34 So they got in the boat and went off to a remote place by themselves. Someone saw them going and the word got around. From the surrounding towns people went out on foot, running, and got there ahead of them. When Jesus arrived, he saw this huge crowd. At the sight of them, his heart broke—like sheep with no shepherd they were. He went right to work teaching them.

35-36 When his disciples thought this had gone on long enough—it was now quite late in the day—they interrupted: "We are a long way out in the country, and it's very late. Pronounce a benediction and send these folks off so they can get some supper."

37 Jesus said, "You do it. Fix supper for them." They replied, "Are you serious? You want us to go spend a fortune on food for their supper?"

38 But he was quite serious. "How many loaves of bread do you have? Take an inventory."

That didn't take long. "Five," they said, "plus two fish."

39-44 Jesus got them all to sit down in groups of fifty or a hundred—they looked like a patchwork quilt of wildflowers spread out on the green grass! He took the five loaves and two fish, lifted his face to heaven in prayer, blessed, broke, and gave the bread to the disciples, and the disciples in turn gave it to the people. He did the same with the fish. They all ate their fill. The

disciples gathered twelve baskets of leftovers. More than five thousand were at the supper.

Hymn: "I, the Lord of Sea and Sky" #509 VU

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people's pain,
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them.
Whom shall I send? R

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send? R

Sermon

Sharing our Celebrations and Concerns

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: "Sent Out in Jesus' Name" #212 MV

Sent out in Jesus' name,
our hands are ready now
to make the earth the place
in which the kingdom comes.

Sent out in Jesus' name,
our hands are ready now
to make the earth the place
in which the kingdom comes.

The angels cannot change
a world of hurt and pain
into a world of love,
of justice and of peace.
The task is ours to do,
to set it really free.
O help us to obey
and carry out your will.

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