

Stouffville United Church

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

October 29, 2023 All Saints 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

On this, All Saints Sunday, we light our candle to shine a light of hope for all to see. We trust that the light of Christ is present with us in this place and shines brightly in our lives and in our community of faith.

Opening Prayer

For all the saints
who went before us
who have spoken to our hearts
and touched us with your fire,
we praise you, O God.

For all the saints
who live beside us
whose weaknesses and strengths
are woven with our own,
we praise you, O God.

For all the saints
who live beyond us
who challenge us

to change us
to change the world with them,
we praise you, O God.

Hymn: Hymn: "For All the Saints" # VU 705 v 1-3,6

- 1 For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
all who by faith before the world confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 2 You were their rock, their fortress, and their
might:
you were their captain in the well-fought fight;
you, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 3 O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one within your great design.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!
- 6 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest
coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless
host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Concern

Thank you for witnesses of the faith, O God;
for those who have helped us
hear the story of your people,
for the ways the story has touched our lives.

**Thank you for the evangelists
who have written the gospels;
for the power of their telling.**

Thank you for the prophets who have disturbed us;
for their ability to help us examine our living.

**Thank you for those people we have known
who have lived out the faith;
for the inspiration they have been to us.**

Thank you for the courageous disciples
who have stood up for their beliefs; for their example.

Help us also to be witnesses to the faith.

Let our living be consistent with our preaching.

Help us to be powerful prophets.

**Let our work of justice and compassion influence
our society.**

**Help us to be disciples serving and ministering in
your name.**

**Let us convey everywhere the graciousness of your
love.**

For all your saints, O God, we raise our hallelujahs.

Amen.

Congregational Sung Response: #400 VU

Lord, listen to your children praying,

Lord, send your Spirit in this place;

Lord, listen to your children praying,

send us love, send us power, send us grace!

Music Ministry:

A Time of Silence

Invitation to the Offering

Each of us has experienced many blessings. Each of us
has given many blessings, too. May the giving and
receiving be a constant sign of God's grace, in this
congregation and beyond. The offering will now be
received.

Jim McKean, Orillia, Ont.

**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**

**As so many have done before us,
we make our offering now.
As so many have prayed before us,
we ask your blessing upon it.
As so many have dreamed before us,
we pray that our gifts will touch many lives.
In your name we pray. Amen.**

Prayer for Illumination

Eternal God, in the reading of the scripture, may your Word be heard; in the meditations of our hearts, may your Word be known; and in the faithfulness of our lives, may your Word be shown. Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 5:1-12

¹⁻² When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:

³ "You're blessed when you're at the end of your rope. With less of you there is more of God and his rule.

⁴ "You're blessed when you feel you've lost what is most dear to you. Only then can you be embraced by the One most dear to you.

5 “You’re blessed when you’re content with just who you are—no more, no less. That’s the moment you find yourselves proud owners of everything that can’t be bought.

6 “You’re blessed when you’ve worked up a good appetite for God. He’s food and drink in the best meal you’ll ever eat.

7 “You’re blessed when you care. At the moment of being ‘care-full,’ you find yourselves cared for.

8 “You’re blessed when you get your inside world—your mind and heart—put right. Then you can see God in the outside world.

9 “You’re blessed when you can show people how to cooperate instead of compete or fight. That’s when you discover who you really are, and your place in God’s family.

10 “You’re blessed when your commitment to God provokes persecution. The persecution drives you even deeper into God’s kingdom.

11-12 “Not only that—count yourselves blessed every time people put you down or throw you out or speak lies about you to discredit me. What it means is that the truth is too close for comfort and they are uncomfortable. You can be glad when that happens—give a cheer, even!—for though they don’t like it, *I* do! And all heaven applauds. And know that you are in good company. My prophets and witnesses have always gotten into this kind of trouble.

Hymn: “Blest Are They, the Poor” #896 VU

1 Blest are they, the poor in spirit,
 theirs is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, full of sorrow,
they shall be consoled.

Rejoice and be glad!

Blessed are you, holy are you!

Rejoice and be glad!

Yours is the kingdom of God.

2 Blest are they, the lowly ones,
 they shall inherit the earth.
 Blest are they who hunger and thirst,
 they shall have their fill. R

3 Blest are they who show mercy,
 mercy shall be theirs.
 Blest are they, the pure of heart,
 They shall see God. R

4 Blest are they who seek peace;
 they are the children of God.
 Blest are they who suffer in faith,
 the glory of God is theirs. R

5 Blest are you who suffer hate,
 all because of me.
 Rejoice and be glad yours is the kingdom;
 shine for all to see. R

Reflection

Candle Lighting

(You are invited to come forward and light a candle to honour loved ones who have gone before us.)

A Time to Remember (Daniel – can you play something gentle here?)

Remembrance Prayer

For each and every one we give you thanks, O God,

for all our sisters and brothers
upon whom your light shines—those with us
and those in your heavenly household.
We remember their love, reflected in yours.
We remember their lives, lived in you.
Bless them, always, we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: "Bathe Me in Your Light" #82 MV

- 1 Bathe me in your light,
O God of All, Creator;
Let it shine upon my soul with healing and with
grace.
Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's
wounding,
showing me the way to live in faith, in your
embrace.

- 2 Bathe me in your love,
O Source of Awe and Wonder;
help me walk the sacred path of harmony and
peace.
May I be attentive to the musings of your
presence,
drinking from the well of hope that brings the
heart release.

- 3 Bathe me in your grace,
O One of Spirit's longing;
teach me of your gentle ways that fill the soul with
strength.
Guide me on the pilgrimage that leads to truth and
wholeness,
Fill me with your promise of a love that knows no
length.

Blessing

Go on your way rejoicing;
Surrounded as you are by such a great cloud of
witnesses, bathed in the light of God,
take courage as you face each new challenge,
and comfort when you pick yourself from a fall,
In whatever good you choose to do,
precede it with hope, accompany it with prayer,
and follow it with thanksgiving.

And know that God Most Wonderful, whom the saints
have trusted as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, will be with
you now and ever more.

Closing Response

[VU 962]

May the blessing of God go before you.
May her grace and peace abound.
May her Spirit live within you.
May her love wrap you `round.
May her blessing remain with you always.
May you walk on holy ground.

Music Postlude