

**Stouffville United Church**  
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3  
[www.stouffvilleuc.ca](http://www.stouffvilleuc.ca)  
Sunday December 5, 2023  
First Sunday of Advent

## **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**

**Chorus: Behold (Deb, Marlene, John and Daniel)  
In My Wrestling And In My Doubts**

### **Lighting the Advent Candle**

**L:** Today we light one candle - the Candle called HOPE, as a reminder that God's promises are true. We place our hope in God. We place our lives in God's care.

**P: Come, all is ready. Let the light of this one candle, called HOPE, bring brightness to your spirits.**

[The first Advent Candle is lighted]

### **Call to Worship**

**L:** The days are shorter and darkness comes early to our lives.

**P: Lord, hear our prayers through the darkness.**

**L:** Come, seek the Lord. Place your hope in God's mercy and love.

**P: Lord, we seek your presence among us.**

**L:** Look closely! God is making us ready.

**P: Brighten our Spirits this day, and help us to receive your Good News. AMEN.**

### **Hymn: I see a New Heaven (#713 VU)**

### **Prayer of Approach and Confession**

We can hardly believe it, Lord. The Advent season is upon us. And as we begin the preparations, it is easy to fall into a pattern of putting our hope in the tinsel, wrappings, tape and boxes, we forget the most glorious gift of all, the gift of God's absolute love. Open our eyes, our hearts, our spirits today to behold God's gracious love for us in the fulfillment of all God's promises. For we ask this in the name of Jesus. 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:** One Small Child

**A Time Of Silence:**

**Offertory:** Hope is a Star

**Offertory Doxology** Grant us, God of Grace (#540 VU)

**Offertory Prayer** (Unison)

**There are no limits to the gifts you have given us, gracious Lord. Now we return thanks to you for these gifts and we bring these tokens to you, asking for your blessing on givers and gifts. Help these gifts and givers to be your witnesses throughout the world. AMEN.**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**Scripture:** *Isaiah 40:1-11*

**Hymn:** O Come O Come Emmanuel (#1 VU)

Video Clip

**Sermon: "Are You Prepared?"**

**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:** All Earth is Waiting (#5 VU)

**Blessing****Closing Response****Music Postlude**