

Stouffville United Church
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3
www.stouffvilleuc.ca
Sunday December 10, 2023
Second 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: Mary Did You Know (Deb and Marlene)
Oceans (small group)**

Lighting the Advent Candle

L: Today we light two candles- the first Candle represents HOPE and it is a reminder that God's promises are true and the second represents PEACE, as we seek God's peace in this time of stress.

P: Come, all is ready. Let the light of these candles, called HOPE and PEACE, bring brightness to your spirits.

[The first and second Advent Candles are lighted]

Call to Worship

L: Darkness has been upon the land. Fear and Anxiety seek to claim our lives. To whom can we turn in our trouble.

P: Seek the Lord. In God there is peace and hope. A voice has proclaimed it so.

L: In the midst of all turmoil, the word rings strong and true. God is faithful, loving and just.

P: Prepare us for this journey, O Lord. Help us to bold proclaimers of your love.

ALL: AMEN.

Hymn: Hark the Glad Sound (#29 VU)

Prayer of Approach and Confession

We have prepared our homes, and begun to prepare our gifts, Lord, but we need help in preparing our spirits to receive your message of Peace. Free us from the stresses and strains of this time and place your peace which passes all our understanding in our hearts. We are pushed to make preparations for a season which is supposed to bring hope and peace; yet we crowd it with obligations and stresses and shut the door to your healing love and compassion. We find ourselves being on edge, fretful, wondering if we have done enough, can do enough. You answer our fears with your voice, "Peace, be still". Help us to hear you. Slow us down. And when we forget, remind us of your mercy. These things we pray, 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: Child of Peace

A Time Of Silence:

Offertory: Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

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: *Luke 2:1-14*

Hymn: It Came Upon A Midnight Clear (#44 VU)

Video Clip

Sermon: "Christmas Gifts You Don't Have To Wait To Open"

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

Holy Communion

Hymn: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks (#75VU)

Blessing

Closing Response Amens (#973 VU)

Music Postlude