

**Stouffville United Church**  
34 Church Street N, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3  
[www.stouffvilleuc.ca](http://www.stouffvilleuc.ca)  
Sunday January 14, 2024

**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 – 'Oceans'**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

L: We Light this Candle as a symbol of the Light of Christ which that pierces the darkness and shines on each one of us.

**P: Amen**

**Call to Worship**

L: Come joyfully before the Lord!

**P: God knows us and loves us!**

L: Come prayerfully before the Lord!

**P: God sees our concerns, our fears, our sins!**

L: Come hopefully before the Lord!

**P: Christ proclaimed God's love and forgiveness for all God's people!**

L: Know throughout all of your being, that God absolutely loves you!

**P: How precious and powerful that knowledge is! Thanks be to God! AMEN.**

**Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling (VU #333)**

**Prayer of Approach and Confession**

Lord God, you knew us before we were born. You love us into life. Open our hearts and our spirits today to hear your word for us. And, upon hearing the word, may we be convinced of our call to ministry and mission through the church. Bless us with your presence and your powerful love. Remind us of your forgiving love, when we stubbornly refuse to believe your claim on our lives. Open our eyes and spirits to see the gifts with which you have blessed us, and to commit those gifts to serving you by serving others. There are so many things that we can do. And everything starts with prayer. So, patient God, bear with us as we settle down to pray, asking for your wisdom in our lives. Give us courage and strength to accomplish any task that you set before us. And give us hearts of grateful love to acknowledge your presence in our lives, and live that presence with great joy. In Jesus' Name, we pray. 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:** "The Lord Will Be My Shepherd"

**A Time Of Silence:**

## **Offertory: Choir - 'More than Able'**

### **Offertory Doxology**

#### **Offertory Prayer** (Unison)

God of all wisdom, how often have we been deaf to your voice speaking to our hearts, especially when we move in a world that needs it so desperately? The reading from 1 Samuel brings us the phrase, "The word of the Lord was rare in those days," which resonates with the relevance of the evening news. As we bring our gifts to be dedicated this morning, we pray that you might open our ears, open our hearts to hear where you call us to respond with obedience, so that we might do what you need to begin healing our world. In Christ, we pray. Amen. (1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20); John 1:43-51)

### **Prayer for Illumination**

#### **Scripture: James 1:1-12**

#### **Hymn: Blest Be the Tie that Binds (VU #602)**

Video Clip

#### **Sermon: Pressure Point – Battle Within**

Series on Book of James: "Pressure Points"

### **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 (VU #506) (vs. 1, 2, 4 & 5)**

### **Blessing**

### **Closing Response**

### **Music Postlude**