

**Stouffville United Church**  
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3  
[www.stouffvilleuc.ca](http://www.stouffvilleuc.ca)  
Sunday February 18, 2024  
First Sunday of Lent

**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:     Who You Say I Am**  
**Desert Song**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

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

**P: Amen**

**Call to Worship**

**L: Welcome this day to the beginning of a journey.**

P: Where will this journey take us?

**L: It will take you to the Cross of Christ and beyond.**

P: How much time do we have to get ready?

**L: The time is now at hand for this journey.**

P: Help us to be ready for this, O Lord. AMEN.

**Hymn: #686 God of Grace and God of Glory**

**Prayer of Approach and Confession**

Lord our God, we find that we are not really ready for this Lenten journey of discipleship. So many things claim our lives and prevent us from being ready to take the steps in faith. As we look at our barrier of readiness, help us to remember that Christ is with us, every step of the way. We are not alone. Christ will help lift our hearts and spirits and direct our paths. Enable us, loving Savior, to take this journey of faith to new life with you. Forgive us, Lord, when we place so many "duties" in the path to serving you. Lord, help us to be ready when you call us. Help us to courageously answer the summons you bring. Let us place our trust in you in all things. 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:** Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me

**A Time Of Silence:**

**Offertory:**

**Offertory Doxology**

**Offertory Prayer** (Unison)

Holy God, we bring our tithes and offerings to your altar, understanding that on the journey in Lent, we can't avoid or detour around the wilderness. It is essential that we hear Jesus call us to repentance! Bless our gifts for your unfinished kingdom work. Remind us, as we worship here, that this redemption of our lives did not come without a price; without our own repentance, we can miss the enormity of the gift Jesus gave. Knowing we cannot earn this redemption and forgiveness, this wiping clean of our ledger, we can only hope to reflect such grace and compassion in our encounters with others. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen. (Mark 1:9-15)

Prayer for Illumination

**Scripture: James 1:12-18**

**Hymn:** #658 O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

Video Clip

**Sermon: "Pressure Point – Trials and Temptations"**

Seventh in 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:** #703 In the Bulb there is a Flower

**Blessing**

**Closing Response**

**Music Postlude**