

**Stouffville United Church**  
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3  
[www.stouffvilleuc.ca](http://www.stouffvilleuc.ca)  
Sunday March 17, 2024  
Fifth 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      'Worthy Of It All'**  
**'Build Your Kingdom Here'**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

L: We light this candle in remembrance of the one who brings us all together. There is something about this Jesus that draws us, compels us and unites us across any other social divisions we may imagine. In Christ we all are drawn to the light.

**P: In Christ, we all belong and are beloved.**

**Call to Worship**

L: God's mercy floods over us.

**P: Lord, wash me clean of the pain in my life.**

L: God's love pours into us.

**P: Lord, pour your love into every pore of my being.**

L: Let the love and mercy of God reign in your heart today.

**P: Be with me, Lord, and guide my life. AMEN.**

**Hymn: #108 Throughout These Lenten Days And Nights**

**Prayer of Approach and Confession**

Compassionate Lord, forgive us when we falter on this Lenten pathway; when the road ahead seems too uncertain and we are afraid. We admit that following Jesus is not an easy task. Jesus requires us to be willing to make the ultimate commitment of our whole lives and we hesitate and hold back. Draw us back to you, Lord. Give us confidence and courage to face the future with hope. Let us place our trust in you that the message of peace and mercy you have given to us through Jesus Christ may be offered to others through our own witness to your healing mercy. 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:** Almighty Father

**A Time Of Silence:**

**Offertory:**

**Offertory Doxology**

**Offertory Prayer** (Unison)

God of the ages, we share our tithes and offerings this day with, but we acknowledge that most of the time, we are clinging tightly to what we have, afraid we might lose something we need and afraid somehow there won't be enough to live our lives. The scarcity mindset overtakes us, and it robs us of the joy of our days. Remind us that Jesus has called us to be ready to let go of this life so that we might claim the abundance of life eternal. In Jesus's name, we pray. Amen. (John 12:20-33)

**Chorus 'King of Kings'**

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture: James 1:16-27

**Hymn: #105 Dust And Ashes Touch Our Face**

**Sermon: "Pressure Point – Where to turn in a Crisis"**

11<sup>th</sup> in Series on the 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: #436 Abide With Me**

**Blessing**

**Closing Response**

**Music Postlude**