

## 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

### Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this Christ Candle to begin our worship.

**This candle is the light in the window reminding us that God will always welcome us home no matter what has happened or what we have done or left undone.**

Come and worship to remind yourself of that vital promise.

**We come, knowing that God is here to welcome us.**

*Catherine Tovell, Kilworth U.C., London, Ont*

### Call to Worship

In this safe place let us open ourselves to new understanding, reassurance, and hope

**For this is a place where truth, love, and challenge meet.**

It is a good morning to be together.

**It is a good time to celebrate the fact that every creature is a word of God, and all creation is a book about God.**

Let us celebrate the richness and diversity of life in the presentness of God.

### Hymn: "God is Here" VU #389 verses 1,2,4

1 God is here! As we your people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,

all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us  
of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font, and pulpit;  
here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching,  
here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal,  
God the Spirit comes to each.

4 God of all, of church and kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt  
keep us faithful to the gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you,

### **Prayer of Approach**

God, with all the influence and status that the name implies, you refused to pull rank, and parade your power among us.

Instead, you chose to step down into our experience, living among us, as one of us, with all the struggle and suffering that goes with being human.

More than that, you adopted the role of slave, washing feet, serving people of no reputation or social standing, and giving of yourself completely.

**As incredible as it sounds, you are the God who serves, and we can respond in no other way than to give ourselves to you in praise. Amen**

### **A response from our Song of Faith:**

We sing of Jesus, a Jew,  
born to a woman in poverty  
in a time of social upheaval  
and political oppression.  
He knew human joy and sorrow.

So filled with the Holy Spirit was he  
that in him people experienced the presence of God among them.  
We sing praise to God incarnate.

Jesus announced the coming of God's reign—  
a commonwealth not of domination  
but of peace, justice, and reconciliation.  
He healed the sick and fed the hungry.  
He forgave sins and freed those held captive  
by all manner of demonic powers.  
He crossed barriers of race, class, culture, and gender.  
He preached and practised unconditional love—  
love of God, love of neighbour,  
love of friend, love of enemy—  
and he commanded his followers to love one another  
as he had loved them.

### **Music Ministry:**

### **A Time Of Silence:**

### **Invitation to the Offering also from our Song of Faith**

We sing of God's good news lived out,  
a church with purpose:

faith nurtured and hearts comforted,  
gifts shared for the good of all,  
resistance to the forces that exploit and marginalize,  
fierce love in the face of violence,  
human dignity defended,  
members of a community held and inspired by God,  
corrected and comforted,  
instrument of the loving Spirit of Christ,  
creation's mending.

In order for us to be a church with purpose, I ask that you continue to give as you  
have been so faithfully giving and we remind you of the ways in which you may  
make your offering.

### **Offering Our Gifts**

### **Offertory Hymn: "In Gratitude and Humble Trust" (#544 VU)**

In gratitude and humble trust  
we bring our best today  
to serve your cause and share your love  
with all along life's way.

O God, who gave yourself to us  
in Jesus Christ, your Son,  
teach us to give ourselves each day  
until life's work is done.

### **Offertory Prayer:**

**As so many have done before us,  
we make our offering now.  
As so many have prayed before us,  
we ask your blessing upon it.  
As so many have dreamed before us,  
we pray that our gifts will touch many lives.  
In your name we pray. Amen.**

### **Chorus**

### **Words before the scriptures are read:**

Whether you take what is written in the Bible as fact, metaphor, myth or story,  
listen to these words now, for the meaning they hold for you on this day.

### **Scripture: Mark 10:35-45 NRSV**

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, 'Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.' <sup>36</sup> And he said to them, 'What is it you want me to do for you?' <sup>37</sup> And they said to him, 'Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.' <sup>38</sup> But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?' <sup>39</sup> They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; <sup>40</sup> but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.'

<sup>41</sup> When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. <sup>42</sup> So Jesus called them and said to them, 'You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. <sup>43</sup> But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>44</sup> and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. <sup>45</sup> For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.'

**Hymn: "He Came Singing Love" VU #359**

- 1 He came singing love and he lived singing love;  
he died singing love.  
He arose in silence.  
For the love to go on we must make it our song;  
you and I be the singers.
  
- 2 He came singing faith and he lived singing faith;  
he died singing faith.  
He arose in silence.  
For the faith to go on we must make it our song;  
you and I be the singers.
  
- 3 He came singing hope and he lived singing hope;  
he died singing hope.  
He arose in silence.  
For the hope to go on we must make it our song;  
you and I be the singers.
  
- 4 He came singing peace and he lived singing peace;  
he died singing peace.  
He arose in silence.  
For the peace to go on we must make it our song;  
you and I be the singers.

**Sermon:**

**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: "We Are Pilgrims" VU #595**

- 1 We are pilgrims on a journey,  
fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.
  
- 2 Sister, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.
  
- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.
  
- 4 I will weep when you are weeping,  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.
  
- 5 When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

6 Brother, let me be your servant,  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

**Blessing:**

May the blessings of God,  
the love of Christ,  
and the grace of the Spirit  
be with us as we go out into the world  
and seek out our neighbours  
to serve their needs  
and through doing so encounter the presence  
of Christ in their lives

**Closing Response: “May the Lord, Mighty God” (tune: Edelweiss)**

May the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever;  
grant you peace, perfect peace, courage in every endeavor.  
Lift your eyes and see God's face, full of grace forever;  
may the Lord, mighty God, bless and keep you forever. X2

**Music Postlude**