

**Stouffville United Church**  
**34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3**  
**171<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Service**  
**Sunday, November 17, 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**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

A congregation's anniversary is an occasion to acknowledge that the grace of God in Jesus Christ doesn't change with time.

We light our Christ Candle as a symbol of that timeless grace; grace that has been calling us, nurturing us, and leading us into tomorrow.

**Call to Worship**

Praise the Lord, it is Anniversary Sunday!

**Praise the Lord, we are here!**

Praise the Lord, in this place, at this time.

**This is the day the Lord has made.**

We are the people the Lord has made.

**And we are made to worship.**

Let us worship with strength this fine day!

*Elaine Bidgood Sweet, First Lutheran, Rugby & Leeds, North Dakota*

**Hymn: "This is the Day" VU #412**

I      This is the day, this is the day  
            that our God has made, that our God has made;  
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,  
            and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day that our God has made,  
            we will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this is the day  
            that our God has made.

- 2     Open to us, open to us  
          your gates, O God, your gates, O God;  
we will go in, we will go in,  
          to your holy place, to your holy place.  
Open to us your gates, O God,  
          we will go in to your holy place.  
Open to us, open to us  
          your gates, O God.
- 3     You are our God, you are our God,  
          we will praise your name, we will praise your name;  
we will give thanks, we will give thanks,  
          for your faithfulness, for your faithfulness.  
You are our God, we will praise your name,  
          we will give thanks for your faithfulness.  
You are our God, you are our God,  
          we will praise your name.
- 4     This is the day, this is the day  
          that our God has made, that our God has made;  
we will rejoice, we will rejoice,  
          and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day that our God has made,  
          we will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this is the day  
          that our God has made.

### **Prayer of Approach**

**As we gather this morning, O God,  
we have songs of celebration to sing.**

**We have wonderful stories to tell and we are deeply grateful for our memories  
and our dreams.**

**So, as we gather once again, touch our hearts with love,  
ignite our spirits with passion, and attune all our actions to your will, so that those  
who come after us may say,**

**“Well done, good and faithful servants.” Amen.**

**Music Ministry:**

**A Time of Silence:**

## **Invitation to the Offering**

As the church, we have been, we are and we will be committed to doing God's work in our community and around the world. Today, as we celebrate our anniversary, we are once more invited to offer our gifts towards that end. Therefore, friends, I ask that you give as you have been so faithfully giving.

## **Offertory**

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving,  
with a spirit large and free,  
that ourselves and all our living  
we may offer faithfully.**

## **Offertory Prayer** (Unison)

**Ever-present God,  
with this offering, we present also ourselves:  
all that we have been, all that we are,  
and all that we shall become,  
and our resolve to walk in your way.  
Accept us and our offering, we pray for Jesus' sake. Amen.**  
*(from Celebrate God's Presence)*

## **Chorus**

## **Dialogue: Doing Good**

### **Scripture Readings:**

#### **Colossians 3:11-14**

From now on everyone is defined by Christ, everyone is included in Christ.

<sup>12-14</sup> So, chosen by God for this new life of love, dress in the wardrobe God picked out for you: compassion, kindness, humility, quiet strength, discipline. Be even-tempered, content with second place, quick to forgive an offense. Forgive as quickly and completely as the Master forgave you. And regardless of what else you put on, wear love. It's your basic, all-purpose garment. Never be without it.

#### **Matthew 5:13-16**

<sup>13</sup> "Let me tell you why you are here. You're here to be salt-seasoning that brings out the God-flavors of this earth. If you lose your saltiness, how will people taste godliness? You've lost your usefulness and will end up in the garbage.

<sup>14-16</sup> "Here's another way to put it: You're here to be light, bringing out the God-colors in the world. God is not a secret to be kept. We're going public with this, as public as a city on a hill. If I make you light-bearers, you don't think I'm going to hide you under a bucket, do you? I'm putting you on a light stand. Now that I've put you there on a hilltop, on a light stand—shine! Keep open house; be generous with your lives. By opening up to others, you'll prompt people to open up with God, this generous Father in heaven.

## **Hymn: “Jesus Bids Us Shine” VU #585**

- 1 Jesus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,  
like a little candle burning in the night.  
In this world is darkness, so let us shine,  
you in your small corner, and I in mine.
- 2 Jesus bids us shine first of all for him;  
well he sees and knows it if our light grows dim:  
Jesus walks beside us to help us shine,  
you in your small corner, and I in mine.
- 3 Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around;  
many kinds of darkness in the world are found:  
sin, and want and sorrow; so we must shine,  
you in your small corner, and I in mine.

## **Sermon: Be the Light of the World**

### **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: “I, the Lord of Sea and Sky” VU #509**

- 1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain,  
I have wept for love of them; they turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send? R

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame,  
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send? R

### **Blessing:**

God of our coming and going, God of our past, our present, and our future,  
We now go out into the world in which we do most of our living and our ministering.  
As we go out, remind us that we do not go alone.  
As we go out, remind us that we go with a mission.  
As we go out, fill us with love, hope, and peace to share with the world.  
May our lives and our ministry shine with Your love and promises and possibility for the world. Amen.

### **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**