

**Stouffville United Church
34 Church Street N, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3
Sunday, August 31, 2025
Lead by Catherine Hions**

Gathering Meditation

“I always get to where I’m going by walking away from where I have been” Winnie-the-Pooh
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

Passing the Peace of Christ

As a sign of our willingness to be in a loving relationship with one another and with all creation, let us offer the Peace of Christ to one another. The Peace of Christ be with you all.

Lighting the Christ Candle

As we light this candle let us be thankful that Jesus shines the light on us so that we may shine that light on others.

Call to Worship

We have gathered to worship God.

**We have come seeking comfort,
inspiration, community, and insight.**

We have come to open ourselves
to the power of Jesus’ presence in our midst.

**We have come to offer up to God
the seasons and the turnings in our lives,
and to ask Jesus’ help
in our learning and in our growing.**

Hymn: “Come and Find the Quiet Centre” VU #374

Prayer of Approach

Ever-present God, you are the hope that overcomes despair.

You are the peace that overcomes anxiety.

You are the joy that overcomes discontent.

You are the love that overcomes apathy.

We thank you and praise your name.

**You are the way, and in faith,
we aspire to follow your guiding light. Amen.**

Words of Hope

To all who turn from God's guiding light,
to all who turn to God in hope,
this is God's word of grace:
we are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved,
we are not alone.
This gift we have from God.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

Music Ministry:

A Time of Silence:

Invitation to the Offering

Participating in what God is doing is a gift that we have been given. Being part of something larger than ourselves gives life meaning and connects us with others in empowering ways. Let the gifts you offer to your church serve God's dreams and visions for those both near and far.

Offertory

Offertory Prayer

Bless, O God, these our gifts, and bless our desire to participate with you in the building of your dream for us. Accept these gifts as a sign of our love for you and for our neighbors.

Amen

Prayer for Illumination

O God, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the scriptures are read,
we may hear what you are saying to us today. Amen.

Scripture: Romans 5:1-5

Psalm 62:5-8

Hymn: "Great is Thy Faithfulness" VU #288

Reflection: "Hope and Passionate Patience"

A Time of Silence:

Prayers of the People

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

Closing Hymn: "May the God of Hope Go with Us" VU # 424

Blessing:

Go forth into a world that needs new visions.
Bring the message of hope and love,
of justice and peace, to all you meet.
Live the dream. Make it reality.
Celebrate endings and new beginnings,
challenges and promises.
Live the new creation. Amen.

Closing Response

Music Postlude