

Stouffville United Church

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

February 3, 2019

Sermon Series on Spirituality:
Sermon #1: Dirt, Water and Sky

*Please help yourself to refreshments at the trolleys
located at the front of the church.*

Large Print Bulletins are available from our Greeters.

*Our sanctuary is equipped with a hearing assist system ~ our
Greeters would be happy to bring you a set of earphones.*

Welcome and Announcements

Acknowledgement of the Land

Lighting the Christ Candle:

May the Light of Christ shine brightly in your life.

And also in yours.

(Written by Beth W. Johnston, Hantsport Pastoral Charge, Hantsport, N.S.,
Gathering, A/C/E/2018/2019, page 45. Used with permission.)

Call to Worship:

God is Holy Mystery, beyond complete knowledge,
above perfect description.

Yet, in love, the one Eternal God seeks relationship.

So God creates the universe,

and with it the possibility of being and relating.

God tends the universe,

mending the broken and reconciling the estranged.

God enlivens the universe,

guiding all things toward harmony with their Source.

Grateful for God's loving action, we cannot keep from singing.

(From A Song of Faith: A Statement of Faith of The United Church of Canada, 2006)

Opening Hymn: Joyful, Joyful We Adore You [VU 232]

Prayer of Confession

Loving and giving God, in the midst of winter,

we come together as your hopeful people.

Some of us are cold and weary and salt-stained;

some of us are anxious about our lives,

and yet we come, grateful for your light on our path,

and your companionship on our way.

**Warm and tender Comforter, in the midst of winter,
we pray for ourselves and for others.**

**We pray for those who find life difficult
and need help in reclaiming joy.**

**We pray for those who are ill
and those who care for them.**

**We pray for women, men, and children
who live in fear from violence and hunger
and for those who walk beside them.**

**And we pray for discernment that we might learn how to
reach out to a suffering world around and beyond us.**

**Ever renewing Creator, even in the midst of winter,
we sense signs of springtime –**

**lengthening days and hints of snowdrops,
hope for warmer days to come;**

**talks of peace in war-torn parts of the world;
and promises of hope of change.**

**Even in the midst of winter we sense your warming
presence and pray for transformation,**

that we might live in perseverance, courage, and hope.

We pray in his name. Amen.

*(Written by Nancy Elizabeth Hardy, *Worship in the City: Prayers and Songs for Urban Settings*, 2015), p. 34. Used with permission.)*

Words of Assurance

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Like a Rock

[MV 92]

Time with our Children

Music Ministry

The Work of the Church Update: At the Crossroads

Offering

Dedication: Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands [VU 537]

Offering Prayer:

Over→

Hymn: God We Wonder Where To Find You

(Words by Carolyn Gillette, 2016. Used with permission.)

Words before the scriptures are read:

Loving God, we come into your presence today:

We are filled with words, and seek silence;

We are filled with questions, and seek peace;

We are filled with doubt, and seek faith;

We are filled with tiredness, and seek rest.

May your Word be all this and more for us today.

Amen.

(Written by Susan Lukey, High River, United Church, High River, Alta., Gathering, A/C/E/ 2015/16, Page 43. Used with permission.)

A Reading from Genesis 1:6-8a, 26-30 (Pew Bible, p. 1)

A Reading from Psalm 115:1-3, 16 (Pew Bible, p. 491)

Sermon: Dirt, Water, and Sky

Closing Hymn: All Creatures of our God and King [VU 217]

Words of Blessing

Deep peace, pure white of the moon to you.

Deep peace, pure green of the grass to you.

Deep peace, pure brown of the earth to you.

Deep peace, pure grey of the dew to you.

Deep peace, pure blue of the sky to you.

Deep peace, of the running wave to you.

Deep peace, of the flowing air to you.

Deep peace, of the quiet earth to you.

Deep peace, of the shining stars to you.

Deep peace, of the Son of Peace to you.

(Written by Fiona Macleod, Ireland (1855-1905))

Closing Song: Take Up His Song [MV 213]

Music to Send Us Out into Our Ministry

*Following our worship service,
please join us for refreshments in the Davis Room.*