

Stouffville United Church
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3
www.stouffvilleuc.ca
March 17, 2019

Second Sunday In Lent

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

Lighting the Christ Candle:

Lent is a journey,
a time of personal introspection,
when we are intentional about finding the time
to get closer to the One who journeys to the Cross.

Jesus is the light in our lives.

We light this Christ candle to bring light to our path.

Lament on the Path to Right Relations

(Please see insert)

Call to Worship:

God calls us together in love,
to reach out to us,
to comfort and strengthen us.
So we gather as a brood of chicks
under their mother's wings:
to be loved into safety.

Let us worship our God of love.

Yes, let us worship God.

(Written by George Allan, Catham, Ont., Gathering L/E 2013, page 30. Used with permission.)

Opening Hymn: Throughout These Lenten Days [VU 108]

Prayer of Confession:

Saving God,

**We are your people,
yet we do not show this to the world.
We are your children,**

**yet we turn our backs on you.
We are your voice, yet we are silent.
We are your body,
yet we walk away from you.
Forgive us for not trusting you.
Forgive us for ignoring you.
Help us to praise you.
Help us to find peace with you.**

Words of Assurance:

From a loving God, a compassionate Son,
and a healing Holy Spirit,
weeping will be turned to laughter.
Sorrow will become joy.
Death will be life.

All who are lost will be redeemed.
Those broken will be healed.
All that is divided will be reconciled.

**May we find the peace of forgiveness,
for in Christ, our sins are forgiven.**

Thanks be to God!

(Written by Heather Tober, St. Paul's United Church, Oxbow, Sask., Gathering L/E 2019, page 33. Used with permission.)

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: There Is Room for All

[MV 62]

Time with our Children

Music Ministry

Offering

Dedication: In Gratitude and Humble Trust

[VU 544]

Offering Prayer:

Hymn: Jesus, Lover of My Soul

[VU 669]

Words before the scriptures are read:

Over→

As we embark on this Lenten journey, O God,
open our hearts and minds to your words.
We ask that these words give us guidance
in our living of your call to us
to make a difference in the world. Amen.

(Written by Fraser Williamson, Loring Pastoral Church, Port Loring/Golden Valley,
Ont., Gathering L/E 2019, page 34. Used with permission.)

A Reading from Philippians 3:17-4:1 [Pew Bible, p. 955]

Responsive Psalm 27 [VU 754]

A Reading from Luke 13:31-14 [Pew Bible, p. 849]

Sermon: Following Jesus

Closing Hymn: My Faith Looks Up to Thee [VU 663]

Words of Blessing.

Closing Song: Wherever You May Go [MV 216]

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

Lament on the Path to Right Relations

What is lament? To lament is to express sorrow and grief. To lament is to weep in the face of injustice. To lament is to mourn what has been lost and to express regret for wrongs done. The 40 days of Lent are a traditional time of lament, and of seeking reconciliation and the mending of relationships. During these 40 days of Lent, we are invited to lament the deep harm inflicted upon the Indigenous Peoples of Canada through the imposition of Western ways and culture, through the residential schools, and through continuing stereotypes and racism. In lamenting, we open the path for reconciliation and healing that will bring wholeness and well-being to all the peoples and the land of Canada.

Lent 2 Candle Liturgy for March 17, 2019

We light these four candles to mark the journey of lament we make this Lent, a lament for the past as well as the continuing injustice to the First Peoples of this land, and the need for reconciliation and mending of relationships.

Four candles are lit

We lament the pain, suffering, and damage that the Indian residential school system caused as it forced assimilation on the First Peoples of this land. We lament the physical, spiritual, emotional, and mental abuse experienced by too many of the students of the Indian residential schools, acts that cannot under any circumstances be justified or excused. We lament the havoc and destruction caused to the First Peoples by the introduction of diseases to which they were not immune. These may be hard things for many of us to name and acknowledge, and yet these actions destroyed Indigenous Peoples: individuals, families, and communities. And we are all the poorer. What can we do but weep at the injustice? What can we do but lament the loss and destruction? What can we do but ask for the courage and will to seek reconciliation?

(A second candle is extinguished, followed by a time of silent reflection)

(Written by Susan Lukey, High River United Church, High River, Alta, in consultation with Teresa Burnett-Cole, Glebe-St. James United Church Ottawa, Ont., Maggie McLeod, Executive Minister: Aboriginal Ministries Circle and Indigenous Justice, and Alydia Smith, Program Coordinator: Worship, Music, and Spirituality, Gathering L/E/ 2017, page 77. Used with permission.)