

Stouffville United Church

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

March 24, 2019

Third 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 Christ on his journey 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:

We gather in this place to worship you, living God,
who was, and who is, and who will be forever.

We gather in this place
in wonder and confusion,
in hope and longing,
doing the best we can to find our way.

Be with us, God,
touch and warm our hearts
that we might be a blessing.

(Written by Bob Root, Mark Street United Church, Peterborough, Ont., Gathering
L/E/P 2010, page 27. Used with permission.)

Opening Hymn: Jesus Christ is Waiting

[VU 117]

Prayer of Confession:

God of springtime growth, we near the end of winter.

Coming out of the cold, we seek the flames of faith to

warm us, to comfort us, and to disturb our complacency.

We hunger and thirst for you, searching in what is often a desolate world. Be present to us in worship that we might find ourselves nourished and bearing fruit in the midst of the barren places to which our Lenten journey leads.

Amen.

(Written by Jim Lochhead, then at Zion United Church, Armstrong, B.C., Gathering L/E/P 2004, page 26. Used with permission.)

Words of Assurance:

God says, let go of the things that are not life-giving. Let go of all that needs to die in order that you may rise to new life.

In letting go, we are free to embrace new life. In our dying is our rising.

(Written by Cindy Randall, Humbervale United Church, Etobicoke, Ont., Gathering L/E 2017, page 41. Used with permission.)

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Just As I Am

[VU 508]

Time with our Children

Music Ministry

Offering

Dedication: In Gratitude and Humble Trust

[VU 544]

Offering Prayer:

Hymn: God of the Bible

[MV 28]

Words before the scriptures are read:

Loving God, we continue our Lenten journey, seeking truth and wisdom for the days ahead knowing that we are guided by you every step of the way.

As we receive your Word this morning, we continue to search for truth, understanding, and wisdom as we journey in faith. Amen.

(Written by Bill Steadman, St. Andrew's United Church, Sudbury, Ont., Gathering L/E 2019, page 35. Used with permission.)

Over→

A Reading from Isaiah 55:1-9 [Pew Bible, p. 598]

Responsive Psalm 63 [VU 754, Refrain 2]

A Reading from Luke 13:1-9 [Pew Bible, p.848]

Sermon: How Does Your Garden Grow

Closing Hymn: I Heard the Voice of Jesus [VU 626]

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 3 Candle Liturgy for March 24, 2019

We light these three purple 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.

Three candles are lit

We lament the policies created and implemented to eliminate Indigenous Peoples as distinct peoples and all attempts at assimilation. We lament the destruction of cultural artifacts and practices that were a foundation for each Indigenous Peoples' community. We lament the traditions and wisdom lost because they could not be passed from generation to generation. 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?

(The third 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.)