

## **Stouffville United Church**

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

January 26, 2020

Third Sunday after Epiphany

*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.*

*Prayer Candles are on the Communion Table – you are invited to  
light a candle for your personal prayer request.*

### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **Lighting the Christ Candle:**

The light of understanding, the light of compassion, the light of community, are all represented by the light that shines out from this candle. Let that light illumine our lives, our worship, and our way forward, as we gather as God's people.

(Written by Peter Chynoweth, Yellowknife, N.W.T., Gathering A/C/E 2019/20, page 47. Used with permission.)

### **Acknowledgement of the Land**

#### **Call to Worship:**

Infinite One, we gather this morning,  
on our way from something,  
on our way to something,  
but here we stop.

We stop to rest,  
to turn our attention to all that is holy.

We stop to gather in community,  
held and loved

to worship together.

We stop to give praise, to sing, to pray,  
to give, to receive,

to experience your Spirit moving among us.

Let us worship God.

(Written by Sheryl Spencer, Mount Forest Pastoral Charge, Mount Forest, Ont.,  
Gathering A/C/E 2019/20, page 49. Used with permission.)

**Opening Hymn:** Jesus, You Have Come

[VU 563]

### **Prayer of Confession:**

**Precious One, Loving God, the changes in our world are happening so fast that sometimes we feel left behind. Forgive us when we scorn change and justify ourselves with nostalgia about the good old days. Open our senses to the ways you are working in our time and keep us from judgment when our own fears take hold of us. When obstacles block our trust in your call, remind us of the courageous leaders and teachers, who risked following you in ways that were new in their time, ways that we now take for granted. Bless us with confidence and vision rooted and grounded in faith, and in the ways of Jesus, who makes all things new. Amen.**

(Written by Wendy MacLean, Christ United Church, Lyn, Ont., Gathering A/C/E 2019/2020, page 51. Adapted. Used with permission.)

### **Words of Assurance:**

God is light, God is mercy and grace. God is embrace, and joy, and coming home. Are any of us, then, outside the circle of God's everlasting love? No, not even one of us. By the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, we are a forgiven people. Thanks be to God.

(Written by Rob Fennell, Forest Hill United Church, Kitchener, Ont., Gathering A/C/E 2005/2006, page 44. Adapted. Used with permission.)

**Hymn:** Seek Ye First the Kingdom

[VU 356]

### **Time with our Children**

### **Music Ministry**

### **Prayer before the Scriptures:**

When you speak in scripture,  
when you speak in our neighbour,  
when you speak from the hills and the sea,  
help us to hear your voice, O God.

(Written by Kate Crawford, Gower Street United Church, St. John's, Nfld., Gathering A/C/E 2007/2008, page 36. Used with permission.)

**A Reading from Isaiah 9:1-4**

[Pew Bible, p. 555]

**Responsive Psalm 27**

[VU 754]

**A Reading from Matthew 4:12-23**

[Pew Bible, p. 785]

**Over→**

**Sermon:** Now or Never

**Hymn:** Three Things I Promise

[MV 176]

**Minute for Mission**

**Offering**

**Offering Hymn:** We Give Thee but Our Own [VU 543, Vs. 1]

**Offering Prayer:**

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**Closing Hymn:** Take Up His Song

[MV 213]

**Blessing**

**Closing Song:** Wherever You May Go

[MV 216 Chorus]

*Following our worship service,  
please join us for coffee and conversation in the Davis Room.*