

## **Stouffville United Church**

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

March 1, 2020

Lent 1 - Holy Communion

*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:**

This candle is lit as a reminder of the light of Christ given to us all, a symbol of God's presence each and every day.

**For the Light of Christ within us and around us, thanks be to God!**

(Written by Bill Steadman, St. Andrew's United Church, Sudbury, Ont., Gathering Pentecost 2 2017, page 29. Used with permission.)

### **Acknowledgement of the Land**

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

On this first Sunday of Lent,

**we come seeking God.**

In this time of uncertainty, in our lives and our world,

**we come seeking God.**

Quieting our minds, opening our hearts, and waiting for the divine mystery to make itself known,

**we come to worship God.**

(Written by Catherine Tovell, Kilworth United Church, Komoka, Ont., Gathering L/E 2020, page 32. Used with permission.)

**Opening Hymn:** Jesus, Tempted in the Desert [VU 115]

#### **Prayer of Confession:**

**Holy God, receive my prayer, listen to my worries and my trials. Answer me with faithfulness. I am not innocent, my trials and transgressions have burdened me. Help me up from this low place. I remember all you have done for me; I pray to you to lift me up from these depths. Show that you are with me and not gone away. Each morning, I pray**

**to you to be my guide and shield, to lead and protect me from wrongs. Teach me to live in goodness and to travel on your path. Find me, save me, heal me, for your love is always with me. May I continue to be your trusted servant. Amen.**

(Written by Doris Van Den Eeckhout, Richmond United Church, Aylmer, Ont., Gathering L/E 2020, page 36. Used with permission.)

**The Lord's Prayer** (sung) [VU 959]

**Hymn:** As the Sun with Longer Journey [VU 111]

**Time with our Children**

**Music Ministry**

**Prayer before the Scriptures:**

Open your Word to us; open your way to us; dwell with us.  
Amen.

(Written by Beth W. Johnston, Hantsport Pastoral Charge, Hantsport, N.S., Gathering Pentecost 2 2016, page 41. Adapted. Used with permission.)

**A Reading from Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7** [Pew Bible, p. 2]

**Responsive Psalm 32** [VU 759]

**A Reading from Matthew 4:1-11** [Pew Bible, p. 785]

**Sermon:** Wilderness Times

**Offering**

**Offering Hymn:** Your Work, O God [VU 537]

**Offering Prayer:**

**Communion Hymn:** Let Us Break Bread Together [VU 477]

**Holy Communion**

**Invitation**

**The Great Thanksgiving:**

God is with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the God, our God.

**It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**Over→**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

As we journey through Lent, O God, we recognize the strangeness of this time. We are aware that we approach Good Friday with its ominous sense of emptiness, its foreboding nature of death and endings. Yet we are also aware that we approach Easter Sunday and the unbridled celebration of your power over death and ability to bring life into even the most hopeless places.

In a season of shadows, **still your light shines.**  
In a season of bewilderment, **still your light shines.**  
In a season of confusion, **still your light shines.**

And so, in the strangeness of this season, we seek balance in this sacrament: we remember how Jesus, the very night he was betrayed to the authorities, gathered with some of his closest friends. As they were eating, Jesus took bread. He blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them. "Eat this," he said. "And know that whenever you do this I will be with you."

After supper, Jesus took a cup of wine. He blessed it, and shared it amongst his friends. "Drink this," he said. "And know that your sins are forgiven."

And so we, removed from that night by vast measures of time and space, nonetheless take this simple bread and this simple cup, and as we share them, we remember Jesus here, present with us, offering us light to lead us forward.

## **Breaking the Bread and Filling the Cup**

### **Prayer after Communion**

**Hymn:** Love Knocks and Waits [MV 94]

### **Blessing**

**Closing Song:** Amen [VU 967]

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