

Worship Bulletin for March 22, 2020

Welcome

Let us gather together from whatever space we are in,
over computer screens or devices,
into this space held for us by the Holy Spirit,
where we will pray, sing, and dwell
in the love and the light of God's grace.

Acknowledgement of the Land

We are gathered on the treaty territory
of the Huron Wendat, Haudenosaunee
and Anishinaabe people and their ancestors.
May we honour their history,
spirituality, culture and teachings.

Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle:

The light shines in the darkness
and the darkness has not overcome it.
In the Lord Jesus Christ
there is light and peace.
Thanks be to God.

Call to Worship:

I invite you to take a moment now
and centre yourself deeply in the love of God.

(Some people like to plant their feet firmly on the ground; others like to open their hands. Find the position that is best for you.)

Breathe in God's love;
Breathe out anxiety;
Breathe in goodness;
Breathe out worry.

(Pause)

Come, and let us worship God.

Opening Hymn: What a Friend We Have in Jesus [VU 664]

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,

O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer!

3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Saviour is our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer!
Do our friends despise, forsake us?
Are we tempted to despair?
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,
And we'll find new courage there.

Please join me in our opening prayer:

**God, as we are gathered here in this house of prayer,
this place of your Spirit and our spirits,
may we be open to your holy presence.
May you find a path through all the baggage and clutter
we have carried here so that you can come and sit with us – to teach, to heal, to challenge,
to renew us for the journey. May we go from this place with burdens lifted
and faith strengthened.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Music Ministry

Prayer before the Scriptures:

Help us, O God, to receive these age-old, prophetic words
as if they were being spoken for the first time.
Let them seep into us and may new shoots of faith spring forth. Amen.

Please join me in saying together Psalm 23

**The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:
he leadeth me beside the still waters.
He restoreth my soul:**

**he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Yea, though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies:
thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.
Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life:
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.**

A Reading from Ephesians 5:8-14

Reflection: Trusting God

Prayers of the People

Our prayers today will include the sung response after each prayer, singing from Voices United 400, “Lord, Listen to your children praying. Courtney will sing it to begin our time of prayer:

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us power, send us grace.

We gather together in this holy place,
drawn into relationship through the grace of the Holy Spirit.
We have much on our minds.
Many of us come before you today,
our hearts filled with despair and fear
because of the rapid and sudden changes
brought into our lives and community from the coronavirus.
And we sing:

All Sing: VU 400 “Lord, listen to your children praying”

Our minds swirl with the speed
with which the coronavirus has taken over the world,
cutting a path of death and sickness from country to country.

We pray for the first responders, the doctors, the nurses,

the medical researchers, the hospital, medical offices and testing sites that are the front lines of encounter.

We pray for people trying to return home,
while borders close and airplanes stop flying.

We pray for our world leaders
who are rushing to offer aid and encouragement to their people.

We pray for all who are struggling with finances
because of lost income and sickness.

We pray for the homeless and the vulnerable
who are struggling to get through each day.

We pray for our community of Stouffville,
and for this faith community,
and today we pray for the names on our Prayer Corner List – for

And we sing:

All Sing: VU 400 “Lord, listen to your children praying”

We are here, God, coming before you with open hearts.
Fill us with light and hope.
Fill us as a vessel of your love, to give to the world.
Calm our hearts, minds and souls of this clamour, of this worry. Make us new.
Make us strong in our faith.
Make us as one with you.

And we sing:

All Sing: VU 400 “Lord, listen to your children praying”

And together let us pray the words that Jesus taught us to say together,

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

Thy kingdom come.

Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us,

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom

and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever.

Amen.

Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross [VU 149]

1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the Prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss,
and pour contempt on all my pride.

2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,
save in the death of Christ, my God!
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

3 See from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down!
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you:
the Lord make his face shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you:
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
and give you peace.
Amen.