

Stouffville United Church

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

April 26, 2020

Third Sunday of Easter

Welcome

Acknowledgement of the Land

We are gathered on the treaty territory of the Huron Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe people and their ancestors. As a community of faith called to seek justice, may we honour our role as treaty people.

Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle:

The candle is lit;
The radiance of Christ shines on us;
We are gathered together knowing that
Christ is here among us.

(Written by Fern Gibbard, Penticton United Church, Penticton, B.C., Gathering L/E 2015, page 39. Used with permission.)

Call to Worship:

**Holy God, source of all that is,
We celebrate you.
Your love. Your presence. Your life!
We rejoice that you share all this with us.
Even in our doubts.
Even in our wonderings.
Even in our disbelief!
Hallelujah!**

Let us worship together!

(Written by Richard Bott, St. Andrew's United Church, Maple Ridge, B.C., Gathering L/E 2014, page 42. Used with permission.)

Hymn: Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks

[VU 179]

Chorus:

Hallelujah, hallelujah.
Give thanks to the risen Christ;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.
Jesus is Lord of all the earth,

Firstborn of all creation. **Chorus**

Spread the good news o'er all the earth:
Jesus has died and is risen. **Chorus**

We have been crucified with Christ,
Now we shall live forever. **Chorus**

Come let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Saviour. **Chorus**

Prayer of Confession:

Faithful One, you stay by our side,

**And yet often we fail to see you, caught as we are in
the shadows cast by our fears and struggles.**

Risen One, you are present in the walking,

**And yet often we perceive ourselves to be alone,
Focused as we are on the obstacles in our path.**

Caring One, you draw us to yourself,

**And yet often we sense abandonment, giving in to
despair and hopelessness.**

(a time of silence)

Our God is a God of the journey!

Christ is walking with us!

God's Spirit is everywhere!

**Thanks be to God who is with us now and always.
Amen.**

(Written by Cindy Laing, St. Andrew's United Church, Matheson, Ont., Gathering L/E/P 2008, page 40. Used with permission.)

Music Ministry

Minute for Mission

Offering Invitation:

Participating in what God is doing is a gift we have been given. Being part of something larger than ourselves gives life meaning and connects us with others in empowering ways. Let the gifts we offer today service God's dreams and visions for those both near and far.

(Written by Gloria Wray, Mark Street United Church, Peterborough, Ont., Gathering L/E 2011, page 43. Used with permission.)

Offering Hymn: Praise God From Whom
Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

[VU 541]

praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

Offering Prayer:

God, we bring our gifts to you. We present the work of our hands and our desire to serve. Let our sharing of our gifts be part of the vision of how your Easter world should be. This we ask through Christ, our risen Lord. Amen.

(Written by Sandy Ferguson, Hillcrest United Church, Fort Nelson, B.C., Gathering L/E/P 2007, page 40. Used with permission.)

Prayer before the Scriptures:

**Stone rolled,
Love slipped out
But did not slip away.
Slip into our hearts now, O Love,
In our reading and in our lives. Amen.**

(Written by barb m. janes, Crescent Fort Rouge United Church, Winnipeg, Man., Gathering L/E 2015, page 43. Used with permission.)

Responsive Psalm 116

[VU 738]

I love you, God, because you heard my voice when I made supplication,

**Because you turned your ear to me,
When I called upon your name.**

The cords of death entangled me,
And the pangs of the Grave laid hold on me;

I suffered distress and anguish.

Then I called upon the name of God:

"O God, I pray, save my life."

How can I repay you, God,
For all the good things you have done for me?

**I will take up the cup of salvation,
And call upon the name of God.**

I will pay my vows in the presence of all God's people.

Precious in the sight of God is the death of the saints.

O God, I am your servant;

I am your servant, the child of your maidservant.

You have freed me from my bonds.

I will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving,

And will call upon the name of God.

I will pay my vows to God in the presence of all God's people,
**In the courts of the house of God, in your midst, O
Jerusalem.**

A Reading from Luke 24:13-35

Reflection:

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer:

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.

Closing Hymn: Here, O My Lord, I See You

[VU 459]

Here, O my Lord, I see you face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen,
here grasp with firmer hand eternal grace,
and all my weariness upon you lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
here drink with you the royal wine of heaven;
here would I lay aside each earthly load,
here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

This is the hour of banquet and of song;
this is the heavenly table for me spread;
Here let me feast, and feasting, still prolong
the fellowship of living wine and bread.

Too soon we rise; the symbols disappear.
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
the bread and wine remove, but you are here,
nearer than ever, still my shield and sun.

