

Stouffville United Church
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3
www.stouffvilleuc.ca
May 17, 2020

Sixth 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:

We light the Christ candle, claiming the promise that when even two or three are gathered together, Christ is in our midst.

We gather today as the family of Christ.

(Written by Fern Gibbard, Penticton United Church, Penticton, B.C., Gathering L/E 2017, page 46. Used with permission.)

Call to Worship:

On a day when we might have slept in, we are here, O God,
seeking to be your people.

On a day when we might have weeded and planted our gardens,
we are here to plant new seeds of faith in our hearts.

On a day when a hundred other things could distract us,
we turn our thoughts to you and listen for your messages of love.

On a day when we could get lost in ourselves,
we return to your forgiving ways.

So come on this day. Come to worship and praise, to forgive and give thanks.

Come to know God's faithful presence.

(Written by Heather McClure, Wesley United Church, Montreal Que., Gathering L/E/P 2011, page 40. Used with permission.)

Hymn: Rejoice, the Lord Is King
Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your risen Lord adore!

[VU 213]

**Rejoice, give thanks and sing
and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart,
lift up your voice:
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!**

**Jesus, the Saviour, reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he has purged our sins,
he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart,
lift up your voice:
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!**

**God's kingdom cannot fail;
Christ rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given.
Lift up your heart,
lift up your voice:
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!**

**Rejoice in glorious hope,
for Christ, the judge, shall come
to glorify the saints
for their eternal home.
Lift up your heart,
lift up your voice:
rejoice; again I say, rejoice!**

Affirmation:

**Today, may I reaffirm my belief in God.
Today, may I sing God's praises.
Today, may I delight in God's beauty.
Today, may I give and receive love.
Today, may I listen and pray.
Today, may I remember that God is ever-present.
Today, may I receive strength from God.
Today, may I live out my faith in the world around me.
Today, may I work for justice.
Today, may I follow the path that Jesus has set for us.
Today and every day.**

(Written by Liz Sine, Mark Street United Church, Peterborough, Ont., Gathering L/E/P 2011, page 42. Used with permission.)

Music Ministry

Offering Invitation

Offering Hymn: Praise God From Whom

[VU 541]

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.**

Offering Prayer:

**May these gifts be far more than their physical presence
can command.**

May they be an inspiration and a blessing given in love.

Amen.

(Written by Jim McKean, St. Paul's United Church, Midland, Ont., Gathering L/E/P 2011, page 43. Used with permission.)

Prayer before the Scriptures:

The pages of scripture hold many things, O God.

You have inspired poetry, song, and story.

You have called many people

to faithfulness through these words.

Open to us the meaning so that we

may find your will for us. Amen.

(Written by Beth W. Johnston, Kings United Pastoral Charge, Annandale/Bay Fortune/Dundas/Souris, P.E.I., Gathering L/E/P 2011, page 43. Used with permission.)

A Reading from Acts 17:22-31

A Reading from 1 Peter 3:13-22

Reflection: An Unknown God

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: Come, O Fount of Every Blessing [VU 559]
**Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.**

**Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
precious presence, precious blood.**

**O, to grace how great a debtor
daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.**

Blessing

**We may not be asked to preach like Paul,
or to teach like Peter.
But we may be asked to give an account
for the hope that is in us.
Let us leave this place knowing
that the Spirit of truth lives in each one of us.
Go to the world, with gentleness and reverence.
Amen.**

(Written by Wanda Winfield, Parry Sound Rural Pastoral Charge, Seguin, Ont.,
Gathering L/E 2017, page 44. Used with permission.)

Closing Song: God Be with You till We Meet Again [VU 423]

**God be with you till we meet again;
loving counsels guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.**