

Stouffville United Church
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3
www.stouffvilleuc.ca
July 12, 2020

Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

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:

On a sunny summer morning
or on a dreary winter day,
when our faith is shining brightly
or when it's barely there,
we pause to light the Christ candle
for we know that Christ is always with us.

(Written by Fern Gibbard, for Osoyoos United Church, Osoyoos, B.C., Gathering Pentecost 1, 2018, page 32. Used with permission.)

Call to Worship:

We gather in the presence of God's Spirit.

The Spirit is life and peace.

The Spirit offers promise to each new day.

The Spirit brings hope out of despair.

And even in death –
through God's Spirit, we discover life.

God's Spirit wells within us.

We gather to worship
in the presence of God's Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

(Written by Frances Flook, Emo/Devlin Pastoral Charge, Emo,, Ont., Gathering Pentecost 1, 2020, page 33. Used with permission.)

Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

[VU 333]

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Prayer of Confession:

Creator God, we compare, we measure, we worry, we work, we judge, we compete, we buy, we sell, and we try to win at the race of life. We confess we have forgotten the great gift you've given us in the Sabbath, a time set apart to be with you. We have chosen to avoid the promise that you have offered in being "enough" for us if we would only stop ... just stop, observe the Sabbath, and know that, in you, we have all we need. Receive our prayers. Forgive our misguided choices. Forgive our avoidance of you and of a day of rest. Forgive us, we pray. Amen.

Words of Assurance:

The good news is that we are a forgiven people. God welcomes us into the Sabbath by giving us all we need, gently calming our spirits, minds, and souls so that we can rest. We can rest

because we have the knowledge of God's ever-present and unending love for all, now and forever. Thanks be to God.
(Written by Allison Abbott-Wiebe, St. Paul's United Church, Graysville, Man., Gathering Pentecost 1, 2020, page 40. Used with permission.)

Music Ministry

Offering Invitation

Offering Hymn: Grant Us, God, the Grace [VU 540]

**Grant us, God, the grace of giving,
with a spirit large and free,
that ourselves and all our living
we may offer faithfully.**

Offering Prayer

Prayer before the Scriptures:

Your word, O God, is a light in the shadows,
nourishment for our hunger,
challenge for our complacency,
and comfort for our sorrow.
Enlighten, feed, challenge, and comfort us today.
Amen.

(Written by Beth W. Johnston, Hantsport Pastoral Charge, Hantsport, N.S., Gathering Pentecost 1 2016, page 40. Used with permission.)

Responsive Psalm 119: 105-112 [VU 841]

Your word is a lamp for my feet, and a light for my path.

**I have sworn an oath and confirmed it,
to keep your righteous judgements.**

I am in deep distress;

Give me life, O God, according to your word.

**Accept, O God, the willing tribute of my lips,
and teach me your decrees.**

I take my life into my hands continually,
yet I never forget your law;

**The wicked have laid a snare for me,
but I have not strayed from your precepts.**

Your testimonies are my heritage forever,
the very joy of my heart.

I have set my heart to fulfill your statutes,

forever, even to the end.

A Reading from Romans 8:1-12

Sermon: "Resting in the Spirit"

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: The Lone, Wild Bird

[VU 384]

The lone, wild bird in lofty flight
is still with you, nor leaves your sight.

And I am yours! I rest in you,
Great Spirit, come, rest in me too.

The ends of earth are in your hand,
the sea's dark deep and far off land.

And I am yours! I rest in you,
Great Spirit, come, rest in me too.

Each secret thought is known to you;
the path I walk my whole life through;
my days, my deeds, my hopes, my fears,
my deepest joys, my silent tears.

In secret depths you knit my frame,
before my birth you spoke my name;
within my soul, as close as breath,
so near to me, in life, in death.

O search me, God, my heart reveal,

renew my life, my spirit heal;
for I am yours, I rest in you,
Great Spirit, come, rest in me too.

Blessing

Closing Song:

[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.**