

**Stouffville United Church**  
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3  
www.stouffvilleuc.ca  
November 15, 2020

167<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary Sunday

**Music Prelude**

**Welcome**

**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 and uphold our responsibilities as treaty partners.

**Announcements**

**Lighting the Christ Candle:**

Time passing: that's the reason for anniversaries, for drawing together past experiences and people and events, and for honouring the faith journey created.

**We remember with gratitude; we acknowledge gifts given and received. Today we hold up the 167 years the Stouffville United Church community of faith has lived and served God as disciples of Jesus Christ.**

An anniversary is an occasion to acknowledge that the grace of God in Jesus Christ doesn't change with time.

**We light this candle naming that timeless grace calling us, nurturing us, and leading us into tomorrow.**

(Written by Bill Perry, Tweed, Ont., Gathering Pentecost 2 2019, page 33. Used with permission.)

**Call to Worship:**

A guest arrives in this sanctuary this morning, and says, I'm not from here. Where exactly am I?

**You are in Stouffville United Church.**

And who are you?

**We are the church.**

What do you do here?

**We worship God together.**

Why do you do that?

**Because God has been our help in ages past and is our hope for years to come.**

How do you do it?

**Through song and story, work and worship, praise and prayer.**

How long have you been doing this?

**For 167 years of hope and thanksgiving.**

Thanks be to God for your faith and devotion.

**Thanks be to God for showing faith and devotion to us.**

Let us worship God now as you have done for so many years before.

**Let us worship God together in this community, strong in faith and as one family.**

(Written by Mark Marshall, while on internship at Innerkip United Church, Innerkip, Ont., Gathering Pentecost 2 2013, page 25. Used with permission.)

## **A New Creed**

[VU 918]

### **Opening Prayer:**

Gracious God, with the passage of time,  
we can hardly believe the events that have happened.  
We can hardly believe that your place of worship, once  
wooden, is now brick; that supplies and people that once got  
here by horse and buggy now come by car and truck.  
Even our history reflects the change of faithful followers.  
In this midst of ever-changing, you are there.  
Hold us close so that we are grounded in you;  
give us eyes to see possibility,  
ears to hear wisdom,  
and wings to help us soar  
in the currents of your love for all. Amen.

(Written by Sheryl McLeod, Admaston Pastoral Charge, Admaston, Ont., Gathering Pentecost 2 2020, page 38. Used with permission.)

## **Candle Lighting**

### **A time of silence**

### **Music for Meditation**

### **A time of silence**

## **Offering**

## **Offertory Prayer**

### **Prayer before the Scriptures:**

God of long ago, God of present day,  
God in whom the future lies:

we come seeking a word for the day,  
a light for our way,  
and bread for the journey.

Fill us with your word

and nourish us at your table of grace,

so that we can become the people

we are called to be. Amen.

(Written by Beth W. Johnston, Bridging Waters Pastoral Charge, Nipawin, Sask.,  
Gathering Pentecost 2 2020, page 41. Used with permission.)

## **Matthew 25:14-30**

**Sermon:** "A Blessed Congregation"

## **Prayers of the People**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

### **Commissioning**

**We go forth now,  
renewed for service,  
restored for the lives we lead,  
rejoicing in the faith that is ours!**

**Thanks be to God!**

(Written by Kate Crawford, Huron Shores United Church, Grand Bend, Ont.,  
Gathering Pentecost 2 2016, page 44. Used with permission.)

## **Music Postlude**

*Thank you for worshipping with us, whether in person or on  
line. We look forward to joining with you again next week!*