

Stouffville United Church

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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:

Light and warmth are returning to the land outside these walls. Light and warmth are represented in the light that glows from this flame. May the symbol of this lit candle remind us of the reality of the land and the light and warmth of our presence with God.

(Written by Peter Chynoweth, Yellowknife, N.W.T., Gathering L/E 2021, page 32. Used with permission.)

Call to Worship:

For God so loved the world...

that God created it, and us!

For God so loved the world...

that God gave us Jesus, the Christ.

For God so loved the world...

**that God does not condemn, but heals;
does not destroy, but saves.**

For God so loved the world...

for God so LOVES the world.

Now and always.

Let us worship our God,
who loves us, and loves all!

(Written by Richard Bott, Dunbar Heights United Church, Vancouver, B.C., Ont., Gathering L/E 2017, page 28. Used with permission.)

Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross [VU 149, Vs. 1,3,4]

Prayer of Confession

Ever-Abundant God, we open our hearts to you this day, and offer these truths: Today we live in the fear that encompasses us. Today we live with the prejudice that is right in front of us. Today we live with the ignorance that dwells within us. Today we live with the doubt that holds us back. Help us, we pray, that we will find courage in unlikely places, discover the world with new and gracious understandings, move to those places where love is needed, and have faith that you are with us. This we pray in the name of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Words of Assurance

Friends, hear the good news that God listens to our prayers, understands our concerns, and holds us close in this time of confession and truth-telling. Know today that we have been given the grace and the courage to go into the world and spread this good news. Amen.

(Prayer of Confession and Words of Assurance written by Julie Hutton, Minnedosa United Church, Minnedosa, Man., Gathering L/E 2021, page 35. Used with permission.)

Candle Lighting

A time of silence

Music Ministry

A time of silence

Offering

Offertory Prayer

Prayer before the Scriptures:

Challenging God, may your word find a place to rest deep in our souls, so that we may draw strength and courage. May it stir us to action. May it guide us, always, to live as followers of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Written by Laura Turnbull, Penticton, B.C., Gathering L/E 2021, page 37. Used with permission. Adapted.)

Responsive Psalm 107

[VU 831, Parts One and Four]

John 3:14-21

Sermon: "Called to Love as God Loves"

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

[VU 333]

Blessing

Music Postlude

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