

**Stouffville United Church**  
34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3  
www.stouffvilleuc.ca  
June 6, 2021

The 96<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The United Church of Canada  
Sacrament of Holy Communion

## **Music Prelude**

## **Welcome**

### **Acknowledgement of the Land**

The land on which this building sits is land that has been walked on, hunted on, and lived on for thousands of years. It is the Traditional land of the Huron Wendat, Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe people, and it is with humility and respect that we give thanks that we are here, in the space where we are in touch with Creator who made it and who made us. May our worship honour the relationships that are celebrated and invited here, and may we always remember the story of this land, the people who live here, and the call to live with respect and thanksgiving.

(Written by Peter Chynoweth, while in Yellowknife, N.W.T., Gathering Pentecost 1 2021, page 37. Used with permission.)

## **Announcements**

### **Lighting the Christ Candle:**

Christ, the light in the world;  
Christ, the light in our homes;  
Christ, the light in our hearts;  
Christ, the Light.

(Written by Fern Gibbard, for Penticton United Church, Penticton, B.C., Gathering Pentecost 1 2017, page 27. Used with permission.)

### **Call to Worship:**

Our story of faith and ministry is colourful and vibrant.

**We herald our history with pride and delight.**

**Yet, we also remember our failings with lament and sorrow.**

We have adapted to changing needs and ever-shifting demands.

**We celebrate the many decades of learning, growing, and adapting. We pray that the Spirit will continue to inspire**

**us in the changes and adaptations we yet need to embrace.**

Celebrating 96 years as The United Church of Canada, we worship.

**Praise God!**

(Written by Laura Turnbull, Penticton, B.C., Gathering Pentecost 1 2021, page 36. Used with permission.)

**Hymn:** God is Here

[VU 389, Vs. 1,2,4]

**Opening Prayer:**

**Here we are, Gracious God, gathered as your people on this 96<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The United Church of Canada.**

**Here we are, joining generations who have worshipped in, shared the mission of, and cherished this denomination before us.**

**Some of us know you through scripture and in exploring your word.**

**Some of us understand you through a close relationship with Jesus, your son.**

**Some of us discover you in the community we form together.**

**Some of us find you as we serve others.**

**Some of us know your presence as we seek justice and right relations in this world.**

**Some of us discover you in the stillness of prayer and contemplation.**

**Many ways to know you, many ways to serve you, many gifts you have given to each of us for the common good.**

**Together we are the body of Christ.**

**Together we are known as The United Church of Canada.**

**Thank you, O God, for this gift. Amen.**

(Written by Susan Lukey, High River United Church, High River, Alta. Inspired by the Rev. Dr. Janet Gear, professor at Vancouver School of Theology, Gathering Pentecost 1 2021, page 36. Used with permission.)

**Candle Lighting**

**Prayers of the People**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**A time of silence**

**Music Ministry**

## **A time of silence**

## **Offering**

## **Offertory Prayer**

## **2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1**

**Sermon:** "Being the Church"

**Communion Hymn:** All Who Hunger

[VU 460]

## **Holy Communion**

### **Invitation**

#### **Call to Give Thanks:**

May God be with us.

#### **God is here among us.**

Let us open our hearts to God.

#### **We open them to God and to one another.**

Let us give thanks to God.

#### **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Eternal God, Maker of heaven and earth,  
we join with all your people to give you thanks and praise.  
You formed the universe in your wisdom  
and created all things by your grace.  
We praise you for all your good gifts:  
the witness of saints and prophets;  
the work of faithful women and men;  
this earth in all its blessing and promise;  
and this bread, once scattered,  
now brought together and made one.  
In the hope that your people  
may be brought together from the ends of the earth  
into your reign of justice and compassion,  
we gather with those of every time and every place  
to give you praise and glory:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

## **Story of the Last Supper**

Our brother Jesus walks with us on the road of life's journeys.  
He is known to us in the breaking of bread  
and the sharing of the cup.

Here's how it happened.

It was the night before he died.

He was having a meal with his disciples,  
and while they were eating,  
he took bread and shared it with them and said  
some words that puzzled them. He said:

This is my body, given to you.

Then he took a cup of wine and he said some  
more puzzling words. He said:

This cup represents the new relationship with  
God, sealed with my blood.

Pour yourselves out for one another  
as I offer myself for you.

And ever since that time, when the friends of Jesus gather  
this is what we do:

share bread and wine and remember him.

## **Breaking the Bread and Filling the Cup**

The body of Christ – the Bread of Life – to be shared.

The cup of salvation – the Joy of our Living – to be shared.

## **Sharing the Bread and Cup**

The gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

## **Prayer after Communion:**

**Thank you, God, for food to make our bodies strong.**

**Thank you, God, for friends to make our lives worthwhile.**

**Thank you, God, for Jesus, who holds us in his heart.**

**May the memory of his meal**

**be strength and joy for us always. Amen.**

(The Eucharistic Prayer is written by Bob Root, Mark Street United Church,  
Peterborough, Ont., Gathering S/A 2011, page 46. Used with permission.)

**Hymn:** How Firm a Foundation

[VU 660, Vs. 1,2,5]

## **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!*