

Stouffville United Church

34 Church Street, Stouffville, Ontario L4A 1E3

www.stouffvilleuc.ca

August 22, 2021

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:

"I am the light of the world," Jesus said.

"Whoever follows me will have the light of life."

John 8:12

Call to Worship: inspired by Psalm 1

Our world offers many wide avenues

and beautiful boulevards to walk;

Our God invites us to walk the road of service and sacrifice.

Our society suggests we put down our roots

in the shallow soil of pleasure and greed.

Our God seeks to plant us on the banks of hope,

watered by the rivers of joy and grace.

Our culture promotes achievement, success,

climbing to the top, ringing the bell.

Our God tells us if we want to be first

we need to go to the end of the line.

written by Thom Shuman, and posted on

Lectionary Liturgies

Let us worship God

Hymn: Bathe Me in Your Light [82 MV]

Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, we [will soon] hear the story of David and wonder how he could so abuse his power—serving his own interests in

such a selfish way. How different from the way Jesus used his power—serving, healing and nurturing others. Forgive us when our actions reflect those of David more than those of Jesus.

The account of David shows someone yielding to temptation by feeding his own particular hunger with disastrous results, whilst Jesus took time to feed the crowds with miraculous results. Forgive us the times when we have yielded to the temptation of feeding our own interests to the detriment of others around us.

David demonstrated how things can get out of control when God's rules are not followed, while Jesus demonstrates how God's power can bring peace even into the stormiest situations.

We confess that the way of the world does reflect more the way of David than the way of Jesus, and we pray that we may be powerfully strengthened by the Holy Spirit to witness to Jesus' love and compassion in and through all we do and say. This we pray in Jesus' name. **Amen**

Words of Assurance:

Through the power of the Holy Spirit within us, God is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine. So, hear and believe the good news that in Jesus Christ we are forgiven.

written by Moira Laidlaw, on Liturgies Online.

A time of silence

Music Ministry

A time of silence

Offering

As the church, we are committed to doing God's work in our community and around the world.

We are invited to offer our gifts toward that end.

Therefore, friends, I ask that you continue to give as you have been so faithfully giving.

Offertory Prayer

God, we know that your power cannot be bought with money, influence, or bribery. Your grace and healing are priceless and

are freely given to everyone. All we can do is offer you what we have, meagre though it may be until it is transformed by your power into miracles. Bless now this, our offering. Amen.

Fern Gibbard, for Osoyoos U.C., Osoyoos, B.C.

Prayer for Illumination

Through words written on paper,
through stories told over and over,
speak to us, Mighty yet Gentle God.
Speak to us of your wisdom, your love, and your call.
Give us insight.
Give us what we need to follow in faithfulness. Amen.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 11:1-15

Sermon: David and Bathsheba

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

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, the power and the glory
Forever and ever. Amen

Hymn: Your Hand, O God, Has Guided [274 VU verse 1 & 5]

Blessing

As you leave this holy place to return to the world, carry with you a sacredness experienced in gathering here with God and your siblings in Christ.
Share it with those you encounter.
Rely on it as the cares of the world tempt you from God's way.
Proclaim it through actions that persist in bringing God's kingdom here on earth now!

Sheryl McLeod, Admaston P.C., Admaston, Ont.

Music Postlude

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