

KING CITY UNITED CHURCH

A Vibrant, Caring, Christian Family
Proclaiming the Good News of God's Love
Through Jesus Christ!

February 12, 2023

Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

(*** Please rise as you are able)
(Words in Bold said by all)

... WITH OPEN DOORS ...

Prelude:

Welcome, Life & Work with King City UC

Lighting of the Christ Candle

"The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned." (Isa. 9: 2)
This candlelight reminds us of the coming of Jesus Christ in our midst.

Thanks be to God!

Call to Worship ((based on Psalm 112: 1, 4)

Blessed are those who have reverence for God,
those who delight in God's commandments.

Light rises in the darkness for the upright;
the Lord is gracious, merciful and righteous.

Prayer of Approach

*****Hymn "*Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*" VU 264**

- 1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise;
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes;
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.**
- 2 Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;
thy justice like mountains high soaring above
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.**

**3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.**

**4 Thou reignest in glory, thou rulest in light;
thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight;
all praise we would render, O help us to see
'tis only the splendour of light hideth thee!**

Prayer of Confession

O God, you sprinkle our lives with excitement and challenge, and you call us to be the salt of the earth;

But our lives are bland and we inspire few. Forgive us.

You gave us Jesus the Christ to be the light of the world and called us to reflect that light;

But our lives are lackluster. We are prisoners of our own whims and desires, and we have failed to enlighten the world. Forgive us.

Grant us the means to discern your will and inspire us with your Spirit to follow your way.

Through the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Response: "Take, O Take Me as I Am" (Sung twice) MV 85
**Take, O take me as I am; summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**

Words of Assurance (based on 1 Corinthians 2)

Response: "Don't Be Afraid" MV 90
**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger
than your fear. Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I
have promised, promised to be always near.**

*****Affirmation of Faith: A New Creed**
We are not alone, we live in God's world.
We believe in God: who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,

**who works in us and others by the Spirit.
We trust in God.
We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.
In life, in death, in life beyond death,
God is with us. We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.**

Ministry of Music:

... WITH OPEN MINDS ...

For the Young at Heart:

*****Hymn: *"Let There Be Light"***

VU 679

- 1 Let there be light,
let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather,
let them be face to face;**
- 2 open our lips,
open our minds to ponder,
open the door of concord
opening into grace;**
- 3 perish the sword,
perish the angry judgement,
perish the bombs and hunger,
perish the fight for gain;**
- 4 hallow our love,
hallow the deaths of martyrs,
hallow their holy freedom,
hallowed be your name;**

- 5** your kingdom come,
 your spirit turn to language,
 your people speak together,
 your spirit never fade;
- 6** let there be light;
 open our hearts to wonder,
 perish the way of terror,
 hallow the world God made.

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture Readings

Isaiah 58: 3-10

Matthew 5: 13-16

Response: *Psalm 119*

VU 840, R. #5

Your Word is a lamp for me feet and a light for my path.

Reflection: " You Are a Somebody"

The Rev. Bruce J. Roffey

Time for Silent Reflection

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Hymn: *"In Gratitude and Humble Trust"*

VU 544

**In gratitude and humble trust
we bring our best today
to serve your cause and share your love
with all along life's way.
O God, who gave yourself to us
in Jesus Christ, your Son,
teach us to give ourselves each day
until life's work is done.**

Prayer of Dedication

... WITH FAITH OPEN TO THE WEEK AHEAD ...

*****Hymn: "God, Whose Almighty Word"**

VU 313

- 1 God, whose almighty word
chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight,
hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day
sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.**
- 2 Jesus, who came to bring
on your redeeming wing, healing and sight,
health to the troubled mind, sight to the Spirit-blind,
O now to humankind let there be light.**
- 3 Spirit of truth and love,
lifegiving, holy dove, speed forth your flight;
move on the water's face, bearing the lamp of grace,
and in earth's darkest place let there be light.**
- 4 Blessed and holy three,
glorious trinity, wisdom, love, might,
boundless as ocean's tide rolling in fullest pride,
through the world far and wide, let there be light.**

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. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

*****Closing Hymn "O Jesus, I Have Promised"**

VU 120

- 1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.**

- 2 **O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.**
- 3 **O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.**
- 4 **O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.**

*****Commissioning / Benediction**

*****Choral Blessing: "*Go Now in Peace*"**

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you
each hour of every day. Go now in faith, steadfast, strong
and true. Know God will guide you in all you do. Go now in
love, and show you believe. Reach out to others so all the
world can see. God will be there watching from above. Go
now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

*****Extinguishing of the Christ Candle**

Christ has been with us sharing the light of life. He says to us, "You
are the light of the world. Let your light shine."

**We go forth taking with us the light of Christ in our
hearts, and we promise to let it shine in the world through
our good works, to the glory of God. Amen.**

Postlude:

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

We welcome you all in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord!

Worship Schedule

February 19th - Transfiguration Sunday - Rev. Andrew Lee

February 26th - First Sunday of Lent - Rev. Bruce Roffey

March 5th - Second Sunday of Lent - Rev. Andrew Lee

AGM Meeting February 26

Please plan to stay after church on February 26th after the worship service for our Annual General Congregational Meeting.

Lenten Study and Prayer

York Pines and King City are thinking about restarting the weekly Lenten study group. The first part of each meeting will use the book from the United Church, Good Courage. These discussions allow you to share your thoughts on your faith and hear other people's perspective. The last ten or fifteen minutes would be led by Rev. Andrew using the Lectio Divinia methodology, a guided reflection/meditation. As before, the group would meet Friday afternoons, either at King City or alternating between King City and York Pines. The group will meet starting February 24th.

For more information on the study guide, see https://ucrdstore.ca/search?q=good+courage+daily+reflections*&type=product%2carticle%2cpage%2ccollection.

Please contact Deb Carpenter or Rev. Andrew if you are interested in participating, or contact Deb if you would like to order the book.

YAYA Fundraising Night

The YAYA praise band is hosting a Family Day Karaoke Night from 5 pm - 8 pm on February 20th at New Hope United. Everyone is welcome for an evening of fun, games and food. Entry fees do apply. Details to be noted.

Bell Choir

King City United is hoping to re-organize the Bell Choir. We need at least 7 bell players. All ages are welcomed. Please contact Rev. Lee.

York Pines Book Club

The next Book Club meeting using Zoom and in-person at York Pines format will be on Wed., Feb. 15 at 10:00 a.m. The book for discussion is: *The Stranger in the Lifeboat* by Mitch Albom. The book is about hope and faith. Eleanor and Bruce Chambers will facilitate the discussion.

In-Person and virtual Pastoral Counselling/ mobile communion/ mobile baptism service

Rev. Lee offers pastoral counseling and visitation including mobile communion and baptism. Please contact Rev. Lee (leeky3@mcmaster.ca) to make an appointment.

YAYA Praise Band

YAYA gathers every Saturday at 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at New Hope UC and King City UC. Next practice will be Jan. 8th (Sat.) at New Hope UC. The band is looking for a donation of an amplifier for their bass guitar. Also they need good mentors and facilitators for the gathering. If you want to support the group, please contact Rev. Lee.

Minute for Mission

*Grandmothers connect love for their grandchildren
to God's love for all.*

We would like to introduce Glenn Waterman, our new Annual Giving Lead. Glenn felt drawn to this story of discrimination changing through education and compassion because it mirrored the work he was involved in at two of his prior organizations, The Leprosy Mission and International Justice Mission. In both cases, one through stigma surrounding leprosy and the other dealing with slavery, the people he interacted with needed understanding, compassion, and justice.

In the Rift Valley of Kenya, 7 percent of the people who live there are HIV positive—nearly 900,000—and many will not survive. Grandmothers whose children have died of AIDS are often left alone to care for their grandchildren, and to add insult to injury, their church community condemns them, leaving them without support as they raise their grandchildren.

Some pastors in the Rift Valley, as in many other places, believe and teach that faithful Christians cannot contract the disease and that it is a judgment from God—a disease for sexual sinners.

“The pastors had little information about HIV and AIDS; to them, and others in the community, it was a strange disease.... [They believed] HIV was a result of sexual sin and was a judgement from God for the sexually immoral,” writes Esther Mombo of the World Council of Churches.

In partnership with the United Church, Mombo and Pauline Wanjuru of St. Paul’s University in Limuru, Kenya, led a series of workshops in one Rift Valley community that has been hit especially hard by HIV/AIDS. They invited grandmothers and pastors to connect and learn from each other.

One grandmother who attended the workshops was 70 years old. She had lost both her daughter and her son and was left to raise three grandchildren on her own. Instead of stepping up to help, her neighbours refused to visit her because they said her daughter and son had been sexually immoral. Her pastor wouldn’t even attend her children’s funerals because he didn’t want to be seen associating with her family. When she went to church, the pastor preached about the punishment for sexual immorality.

At the workshops, this woman bravely told her story to the pastors who attended. She also shared with them how it felt to be shamed for loving her children and grandchildren. Another grandmother explained that her grandchildren were born with the virus and couldn’t have been involved in any sexual immorality. Yet another spoke of God’s love for everyone. Pastors listened and learned, and ended by making a commitment to extend compassion and offer pastoral care to the grandmothers.

All of us know from our own life experience that when we know better, we do better. Your Mission & Service gifts gave these grandmothers the opportunity to help their pastors learn to do better by connecting their love for their grandchildren to God’s love for all. Thank you.