

**YORK UNITED MINISTRIES
HOSTED BY KING CITY UNITED CHURCH**

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

**January 30, 2022
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
(Words in **Bold** said by all)**

... WITH OPEN DOORS ...

Prelude: "Blessed Assurance"

J. Knapp

Welcome, Life & Work with King City UC

Lighting of the Worship Candle (Isaiah 60: 1-2)

Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you. For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

Call to Worship

Hymn: "Open My Eyes, That I May See"

371 VU

**1 Open my eyes, that I may see
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key
that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**2 Open my ears, that I may hear
voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,
everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

**3 Open my mouth, and let me bear
gladly the warm truth everywhere;**

**open my heart and let me prepare
love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee,
ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!**

Opening Prayer

Words of Grace (based on Psalm 71)

The Psalmist declares that God is our hope. In God, we can trust and take refuge. God will rescue us from all enemies. God will rescue us from ourselves and our sins. You are forgiven. We are forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

... WITH OPEN MINDS ...

Prayer for Illumination

Let us pray: O You, who are the Light of the minds that know you, the Life of the hearts that love you, the Strength of the spirits that seek you; help us to know you that we may truly love you, so to love you that we may fully serve you, in whose service is perfect freedom.

Amen.

Scripture Reading

Nehemiah 7: 73; 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10

Today's reading is from Nehemiah in the Hebrew Scriptures, reading the end of chapter 7 and verses up to 10 in chapter 8.

About 80 years earlier, the Hebrew people returned to Israel and Jerusalem from exile in Babylon. The Hebrew people had lost many of their traditions. Many no longer spoke Hebrew. Knowledge of the Torah was poor. Many had intermarried with other races. Ezra the priest tried to rectify this, but it went poorly. So, the King of Persia sent his cupbearer Nehemiah to help restore Jerusalem, particularly its wall and gates. When that was complete, Ezra was invited to dedicate the work. Listen for the word of God.

When the seventh month came – the people of Israel being settled in their towns – all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh

month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the LORD with their faces to the ground.

So [Ezra and other leaders with him] read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."

This is the witness of Israel.

Thanks be to God for the Word.

Sermon "The Dangers of Reading Scripture"

The Rev. Bruce J. Roffey

Music for Quiet Reflection

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Prayer in Unison

Ever-present God, with the gifts we have offered, we present also ourselves: all that we have been, all that we are, and all that we shall become, and our resolve to walk in your way according to your word. Accept us and our offering, we pray for Jesus' sake. Amen.

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.

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

Hymn: "O Radiant Christ, Incarnate Word" #84 VU

**1 O radiant Christ, incarnate Word,
eternal love revealed in time:
come, make your home within our hearts,
that we may dwell in light sublime.**

**2 Our bartered, busy lives burn dim,
too tired to care, too numb to feel.
Come, shine upon our shadowed world:
your radiance bathes with power to heal.**

**3 Your glory shone at Jordan's stream,
the font where we were born anew.
Attune your church to know you near;
illumine all we say and do.**

**4 O Light of Nations, fill the earth;
our faith and hope and love renew.
Come, lead the peoples to your peace,
as stars once led the way to you.**

Commissioning / Benediction

Postlude: "Praise to the Lord the Almighty" F. Ritter

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Worship services – Due to rising Covid (and its variant) case numbers, York United Ministries decided take proactive precautions and return to online services on a rotational basis. Next week, New Hope will be hosting the service at 10 a.m. A Zoom invitation will be sent you to late in the week.

Zoom Pastoral Counselling

Rev. Lee offers pastoral counseling through Zoom. Please contact Rev. Lee (leeky3@mcmaster.ca) for the arrangement.

Worship Schedule

Date	Jan. 30th	Feb. 6th	Feb. 13th	Feb. 20th
Host Church	King City	New Hope	York Pines	King City
Preacher	Rev. Bruce Roffey	Rev. Andrew Lee	Rev. Bruce Roffey	Rev. Andrew Lee
Music Director	Rosemary Karunaratne	Sunny Rakovac	Ted Anderson	Rosemary Karunaratne
Church Calendar	Fourth Sunday After Epiphany	Fifth Sunday After Epiphany	Sixth Sunday After Epiphany	Seventh Sunday After Epiphany
Liturgical Colour	Green	Green	Green	Green

YUM Calendar

Feb. 6th at 11:00 a.m. York Pines' Annual Meeting (Zoom invite will be sent)

Feb. 13th at 11:00 a.m. Oversight Team Meeting (Zoom invite will be sent)

Feb. 27th at 11:00 a.m. King City's Annual Meeting (In-Person at church)

YAYA YTB Q-Box Series

YAYA YTB Q-Box Series is being updated. Rev. Andrew responded to the question; "How do we reconcile thanking soldiers for killing/hurting someone else and how is God good with that?" Please check the YUM YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL772mvVOna2VqaLImkQsNw>

"Praise With Us!"

Rev. Lee is designing a new weekday program, "**Praise With Us!**" People are to be invited to present his/her favourite gospel song and the story of it. YAYA will also be invited. Rev. Lee will add some songs from Voices United or More Voices. Then, congregation members will have time to learn new songs. If you want to share your ideas, songs, or stories, please contact Rev. Lee.

Offering - Thank you for sending your offerings to the church. Your offerings support the ministry of the church and have been much appreciated. Please mail a cheque to your church directly, or make an e-transfer to their email address.

KCUC Choir Practice

Choir practices will resume this Thursday, February 3rd at 7:30 p.m.

Minute for Mission

Tamilarasi is a very bright 15-year-old from a small village in Tamil Nadu, South India. She is lucky to be able to go to school. In her village, girls her age are often pulled out of school to be married.

Life isn't easy. Tamilarasi's father recently died in an accident and she is living with her mother and two other siblings. As a widow with no inheritance rights, Tamilarasi's mother may lose their family home when her brother marries. The teenager worries about where she and her family will live in the future.

"Our life has become a question mark now," she writes in a thank-you letter to the Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation (HRF), our Mission & Service partner. "Questions haunt me and sometimes I'm unable to sleep," she says.

When a representative from HRF visited Tamilarasi's school, she gave a presentation on children's rights to the students at a school assembly. At the assembly, Tamilarasi and other students were encouraged to stay in school and they received a backpack. "The schoolbag was of good quality and spacious enough to carry all my books and notebooks," she wrote. "I felt very happy."

Offering school supplies to students makes it possible for our Mission & Service partners to help young people like Tamilarasi complete their education and stay in school.

What's more, with support from Gifts with Vision, the United Church's gift catalogue, HRF provided backpacks stocked with school supplies to almost 500 Tamil Nadu children who live in poverty. Without those supplies, the children would not be able to attend or participate in classes.

Your generosity helps students around the world pursue their dreams.

One day, Tamilarasi wants to become a doctor. "I want to protect children like myself from diseases," she explained. "I know I can't afford to while away my time!"

Thank you for making a difference by providing life-transforming advocacy and school supplies. Your support truly does help change lives.

King City United Church

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Church Office Hours: Tues., Wed. and Thurs. 1 – 5:30 pm

Rosemary (De Silva) Karunaratne, Organist & Choir Director

Lew McLeod, Custodian

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