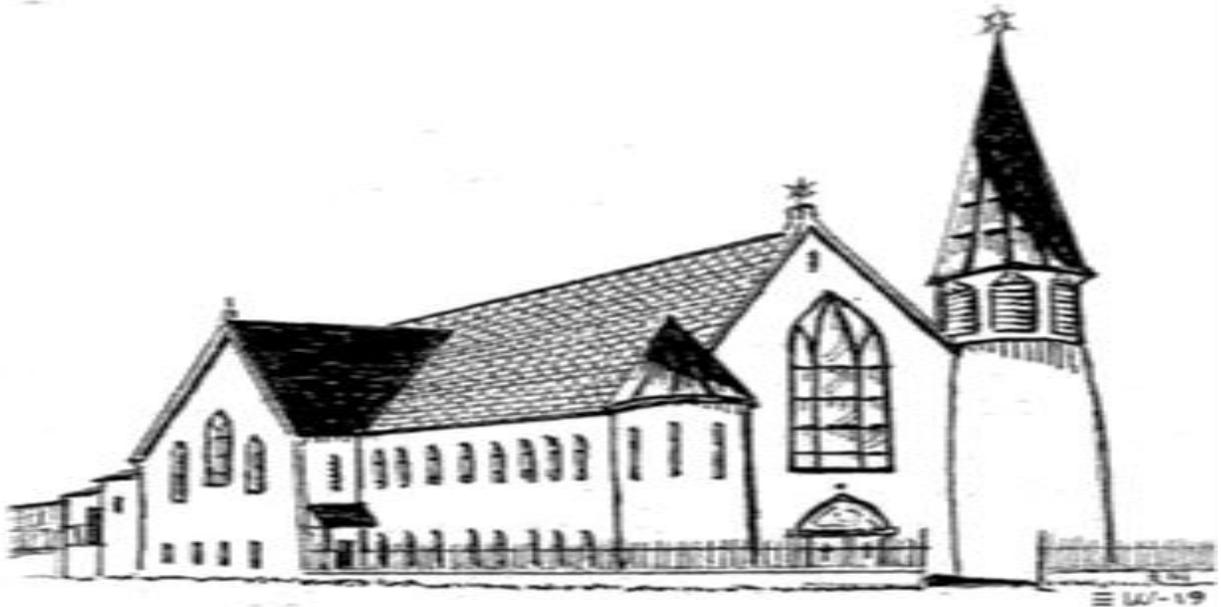


# **GEORGE STREET UNITED CHURCH**

## **ROOTED IN THE ROCK: TRANSFORMING FOR TOMORROW**



**January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022**

**Third Sunday of Epiphany**

**Worship Leader:** Rev. John Maich B.C.S M.Div.

**Organist & Senior Choir Director:**

Dr. Carolyn Sturge Sparkes, B. Mus., PhD

**Men's Choir:** Directed by William Green.

## WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Organ Prelude: Meditation ---A. Bullard

Land Acknowledgement, Welcome, and Announcements:

Sharing The Peace of Christ:

\*Call To Worship:

ONE: Come all you children of God, blend your voices with the saints of every time and place as you sing the praises of the Creator of all things!

ALL: **Blessed and holy are you Lord God. Your deeds are mighty, and your grace is ever-flowing. Bring us beneath the banner of your love and fill us with power of your peace.**

\*Hymn: VU 315 Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!

Opening Prayer: (in unison)

ALL: Today we will hear anew that Good News is given to us. Once blind we are given to see, once prisoners we have been given liberty, and once oppressed we have been given justice. The Kingdom of God embraces and lifts us up on high, let us take every opportunity to raise our neighbors up alongside of us and share the grace we have been given. Amen.

Prayer Of Confession:

ONE: Let us come before God, the searcher of all hearts, and examine the deepest parts of who we are to find the impulses which drive us away from one another and estrange us from the love of God made manifest in Christ Jesus.

**ALL:** God of all wisdom we look to you for assistance in our discernment. Show us the ways we wander from your loving kindness and gentleness. Illuminate, for us, the ways we allow our hearts to grow cold and our necks to grow stiff. Prune our dead growth so that we can be fresh, green, and pliable. Teach us how to bend with your wind and manifest your grace. Forgive us in Jesus' name and make us new creations. Amen.

**Assurance of Pardon:**

**ONE:** God has sent Jesus into the world not to condemn nor to destroy but to redeem and to restore. You are new creations in Christ Jesus and free from all condemnation.

**ALL:** We cling to the promise that we have received. That a place has been prepared for us in the Kingdom of Heaven. Help us to grow and mature in our faith so that we may serve you fully. Amen.

**\*Hymn:** VU 325 Christ Is Made The Sure Foundation

**WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD**

**Prayer for Illumination (in unison):**

**ALL:** Thank you God, for the ways that you have chosen to reveal yourself to us. Thank you for the whole of Creation and her testimony. Thank you for the words of your servants and their witness. Thank you for the gift of Jesus, your word made flesh and for his commandments. Touch our hearts and our ears that we may hear you anew.

**Hebrew Lesson: Nehemiah 8: 1-10**  
**Responsive Lesson: Psalm 19 VU pg 740**  
**Gospel Lesson: Luke 4: 14-21**

**Musical Offering:** Siciliano from Concerto in D Minor---A. Vivaldi  
(J. S. Bach arr

**Epistle Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31**

**Sermon: One Body**

**\*Hymn: VU 402 We Are One**

**Prayers of the People:**  
**The LORD's Prayer:**

### **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

**Minute For Mission:**  
**Invitation to the Offering:**

**ONE:** Mindful of all that God has done for us from the founding of the universe we bring forward the fruits of our labour and our being. We offer our time, talents, and our treasures, for the furthering of God's Holy Kingdom with joyful hearts.

**Prayer of Dedication: (in unison)**

**ALL:** Thank you, gentle Saviour, for accepting our gifts. Thank you for using them to serve your children near and far. Thank you for allowing us to be your agents of grace in the world. Amen.

**\*Hymn: VU 697 O For A World**

## **Presentation of Gifts to Carolyn Sturge for her service to George Street United Church**

### **Release from Service:**

**When Carolyn first came to the George Street Pastoral Charge this Charge, and Carolyn agreed to work together in faithful, musical, and compassionate ministry. As of today, January 23, 2022, that agreement is no longer binding, I call upon the members of George Street United Church to release Carolyn and for Carolyn to carry on in her various ministries, in the wider community as a member of this congregation.**

### **\*BENEDICTION:**

**ONE:** As people of God, you form a community of faith within  
The United Church of Canada

**ALL:** **Within this community of faith, we are both blessed and blessing.**

### **\*COMMISSIONING (in unison):**

**ONE:** Go now and proclaim the good news of Christ's gospel.

**ALL:** **We will testify to God's creative caring and to the Spirit's empowerment and encouragement of our community. We will use our many and varied gifts to reach out to our neighbours and embody God's love for them in the world.**

**Postlude:** Was Gott tut, ist wohlgetan----- J. Walthier  
(The Acts of God are Righteous)