

## STITTSVILLE UNITED CHURCH

### “Growing Together in Spirit”

(6<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Epiphany, Feb. 12, 2023)

### WE GATHER TO PRAISE GOD

(\* indicates when the congregation is invited to rise in body or in spirit)

#### **Music to Prepare for Worship:**

#### **Land Acknowledgement:**

One: Stittsville United Church is built on the traditional, unceded lands of the Anishinawbe Algonquin people. May we glean wisdom from the Indigenous Knowledge Keepers and Elders, whose footsteps from generation to generation walked gently on Turtle Island when it was all unceded land.

**All: May we all travel together on a good path with harmony and respect as we move toward a healthy, peaceful future together.**

#### **Words of Welcome:**

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

Johnston, *Gathering A/C/E 22/23*, with permission

- Beth W.

One: When the light of your love grows dim,

**All: May this light rekindle the flame, so that your love lights up the room.**

#### **\*Invitation to Worship:**

*Gathering A/C/E 22/23*, with permission

- Sandra Litt,

One: We are one, in this space, in this building and online, in this community.

**All: We are one, through the generations, through song and word, through worship.**

One: We are one, just as we are. All are welcome in this place.

**All: Let us journey as one in the light of Love, as we worship together.**

\* Hymn: VU # 672 – ‘Take time to be holy’

**Opening Prayer:**

Bott, *Gathering A/C/E 22/23*, with permission

- Richard

**Gracious God, you are great, you are wonderful, you are more than we can begin to imagine! You loved creation into being. You love us into wholeness. Alleluia! But we have questions for you: Do you really think we can do it? Do you really believe that we can be more than we are? Do you really believe that, as disciples of Jesus, we can be what you want us to be? Fill us with your love, we pray. Pour down your wisdom, we ask. Change us with your grace. Because we know we can't do it alone. Amen.**

### **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD FOR US**

**Life and Ministry of the Church:**

\*Hymn: VU # 703 - ‘In the bulb’

**Conversation with the Children:**

**We Engage with Scripture: - read by Carla Miner**

1 Corinthians 3:1-9

Not ready for solid food

John 3:16-17

God loved the world so much...

**Message:** “Love stories and budding poets”

**Musical Offering:**

## WE RESPOND IN LOVE

### Invitation to Offer Our Gifts

**\*Song of Dedication: VU #538**

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**For the gift of creation, the gift of your love, and the gift of the Spirit by which we live, we thank you and give you the fruit of our hands. May your grace be proclaimed by the gifts that we give. Amen.**

**\*Prayer of Dedication:**

- Gill

LeFevre, *Gathering A/C/E 22/23*, with permission

**Generous God, we confess that we do not always give joyfully, free from fear or judgement. Forgive us when we let our desires constrain our compassion, or allow closed-mindedness to limit our outreach. Rescue us from greed and envy. Open our hearts to grow in gratitude for all you provide in our lives. Help us to recognize the need in this world, and notice where our gifts can make a difference. By the power of your almighty love, transform our offering, that it might bring healing and hope, a loving embrace for all your children. Amen.**

**Invitation to Prayer: #VU 411 *O God, We Call* (x2)**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and for Healing and Transformation**

**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, and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## **WE GO FORTH IN SERVICE**

**\*Hymn: VU # 602 Blest be the tie that binds**

**\*Commissioning**

- Gill

LeFevre, *Gathering A/C/E 22/23*, with permission, abridged

One: Let us each go out into this new week inspired by the love and teaching of Jesus Christ.

**All: May I notice what the Spirit is saying in my life, may I attend to the love of Jesus given for me, and may I approach each day open to God.**

**\* Blessing**

**\*Choral Response: VU #974**

**Music to inspire us as we go**