

**Order of Worship**  
**Sunday February 28, 2021**  
**Black History Sunday – Lent 2**

# A History in Song

*Prepared and written by Rev. Alydia Smith  
Program Coordinator, Music, Worship and Spirituality at  
The United Church of Canada*

**Prelude** *Nobody Knows*

**Welcome & Announcements** Rev. Jessica

## Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that our church is on the Treaty Lands and Territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit. For thousands of years the first peoples gathered, loved, celebrated, created, and overcame great obstacles on this land. We give thanks that we can create community here too and pray that the communities we create will be spaces of peace and respect for all.

## Call to Worship

God, you taught our ancestors to sing with their souls while in a foreign land.

**Through music, you taught Black peoples to persevere and trust in you, even as their hearts and bodies were broken.**

Your power God, moved through our ancestors, as the rhythm and cadence of music moves through our bodies.

**There would be no Underground Railroad or Civil Rights Movement without a song, and there would be no song without you.**

**Let everything that has breath, praise you!** (Psalm 150:6)

**Hymn 2** *Come All You People* More Voices

**Why a Worship Service for Black History Month?** Rev. Jessica

**Solo** *His Eye Is On The Sparrow* Antoinette Clarke

## Prayer of Confession

Rev. Jessica

God of peace,  
give us the courage, strength and perseverance needed,  
to challenge the systems of racism,  
so that we can clear a path for your justice, peace, and equity.  
We believe racism is present  
in our society and in our church,  
and throughout time has manifested itself in many forms and in varying degrees.

We know racism is alive  
in our language and in our structures,  
and through our systems it actively works to deconstruct your glorious design,  
blocking the path to justice, equity, and peace that Jesus brings.  
Racism exists, and it challenges the gospel message that we cry.  
We cry abundant life for all,  
knowing that we are slowly being suffocated by the pervasive evil of racism:

some of us are choking;  
some of us cannot breathe;  
some of us are dead.

We cry peace,  
knowing that we are the instruments of God's peace  
and that such peace cannot exist without justice, equity, compassion,  
and God's grace.

We cry Emmanuel, God with us,  
knowing that to God, every life matters—God is with all people—  
even though as a community and as a society  
we have stated through our actions that some lives matter more than others.

Compassionate One,  
Help us to understand how racism finds life in our hearts and in our cries.  
In this time of tense anticipation,  
may we commit ourselves to be people of your way  
crying and creating a path for justice, equity, and peace  
for all people in this wilderness of hatred and racism.  
Amen.

—a prayer for Black History Month by Alydia Smith

**Hymn 400** *Lord Listen To Your Children Praying* Voices United

## A HISTORY IN SONG

### The 1600s

Antoinette  
Slavery existed in Canada, as it existed in colonies throughout the world. The first documented slave in Canada was named by their master Olivier Le Jeune in 1628. (However, there are reports of slave ships arriving in the early 1600s.) Many of the documented slaves in Canada were “owned” by clergy. It was not until the late 1700s that talks of abolishing slavery started in Upper Canada. While action blocks were being built to sell people, the church sang...

**Sung Response:** “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”      Voices United 262

### The 1700s

Rev. Jessica  
During the late 1700s promises of freedom and land in exchange for British loyalty brought many freed Blacks to Nova Scotia. Although no longer slaves, the Black community was oppressed and denied basic civil and human rights. As a result, there was a mini exodus in the late 1700s when Black Loyalist and Black Refugees (the Maroons) took the offer to resettle in Sierra Leone. Although the church often attempted to preach a “thin” Bible to Black peoples, focusing on servitude and honouring your master, the power of the gospel shined through the hymns of Isaac Watts and the Wesleyans, offering hope and empowerment to an enslaved people.

**Sung Response:** “Love Divine”      Voices United 333

**Scripture**      James 2:1-10, 14-17      Antoinette

The irony of singing “come almighty to deliver; let us all they grace receive” and reading such passages as James 2 with both oppressor and oppressed was not lost, which is why the Black church responded with...

**Sung Response:** “Lord I Want To Be A Christian”  
African American Hymnal 463<sup>1</sup>

### The 1800s

Rev. Jessica  
In the early 1800s, Canada and the northern part of the United States gained a reputation for being a safe haven for the enslaved. Seeking freedom, many enslaved peoples travelled secretly to Canada through a concealed network known as the Underground Railroad. Many churches and Quaker meeting house became “stations” on the route to freedom. There is much mythology on how people communicated with each other between these “stations”. Since music and spirituals were often used in Black communities to counter the theologies being preached, music seemed like the perfect way to convey messages of freedom, as music was (and remains) a primary form of communication.

**Sung Response:** “Go Down, Moses ”      African American Hymnal 543

### 1900s

Antoinette  
Long after slavery was abolished (in 1833 in the British Empire and in 1865 in the United States), life remained difficult for Black people across North America. In the 1950s and 1960s, the fight for civil rights intensified. Several iconic moments included: Viola Desmond refusing to sit in the Black only section of the movie theatre in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia; Rosa Parks refusing to sit at the back of the bus in Montgomery, Alabama; the three civil rights marches from Selma to Montgomery; and the demolition of Africville in Halifax, Nova Scotia, that resulted in the forced relocation of the historic Black community. Many churches joined in the movement, while many others went about their daily business warning activists to slow down and to temper their voices. When society actively put restriction on the rights of Black peoples, “You cannot sit here” and “You cannot march there,” the church sang:

**Sung Response:** “I’m Gonna Live So God Can Use Me” (*Voices United* 575)

### 2000s

Rev. Jessica  
Over 50 years later, the recent deaths of Michael Brown, Eric Garner, Trayvon Martin, and many others have tragically reminded us that the fight for equal rights is far from over. Racial profiling continues to affect every aspect of society. From child care to educational and employment opportunities, to how Covid-19 is disproportionately impacting people of colour, it is clear that the fight for racial equality continues. What will our church’s response be to the current reality of Black and other marginalized peoples in our society?

**Sung Response:** “Hush! Hush!”      *More Voices* 167

<sup>1</sup> African American Hymnal (this spiritual can also be found at [www.hymnary.org](http://www.hymnary.org))

**Mission and Service Video** *Black History Month – 2021*  
Nancy Oliver, Union United, Montreal

**Prayers of the People** Antoinette

Let us praise God together in prayer.  
How good it is to sing praises of your goodness, God;  
for you have called us each here,  
and have marked us with a desire to learn about the gospel.  
We come with many names:  
    terms of endearment that we cherish  
    and labels that we seek to one day destroy.  
But you call us by one name, beloved.  
We remember your healing acts of salvation.  
We remember how you gathered the dislocated  
and dispersed Black peoples in Nova Scotia  
    to build communities  
    and relearn cultures that were torn away.  
We remember the Maroons,  
who with their hands built a mighty fortress on a hill.  
We remember Viola Desmond, Harriet Tubman,  
Frederick Douglass, Lincoln Alexander, Michaëlle Jean,  
Wilbert Howard,  
and other heroes of the faith that we name to you now in the  
silence of our hearts ...  
    *(pause)*  
We remember how your everlasting love  
healed the self-esteem and rebuilt the self-worth of Black peoples  
who were stripped of their human rights and dignity.  
We remember that you continue to heal  
the brokenhearted, and bind up their wounds.  
In the silence of our hearts  
we bring to you those in need of your healing...  
    *(silent reflection)*  
How good it is, O God, to remember your steadfast presence.  
With hands in the air we offer you all of the things  
that we can no longer carry on our own:  
our burdens, our worries, and our concerns...  
We offer to you all of the situations

that we feel ill-equipped for...  
the fear of the pandemic,  
the racism, the inequality,  
our resistance to change systems that oppress,  
our hesitation to listen to uncomfortable truths.  
When we feel downtrodden by our burdens  
and weary to the point of collapse,  
when we find ourselves in exile,  
help us to hear the words of the prophet:  
“Those who wait for the Lord shall...mount up  
with wings like eagles, they shall run  
and not be weary,  
    they shall walk and not be faint.” (Isaiah 40:31)  
Hush, our weary souls, God,  
and remind us once more of your everlasting love.  
Amen.

**Hymn** *Lift Every Voice and Sing*  
African American Hymnal 540 [Black National Anthem]

**Blessing and Benediction** Rev. Jessica

**Postlude** *On Jordan's Stormy Banks*

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***We warmly welcome Robin Dagleish as guest musician!  
Thank you to Dr. Mark Ruhnke for providing solos for “Lord I Want to  
Be A Christian” and “Lift Every Voice and Sing”. Thank you also to  
Antoinette Clarke for her liturgical and musical leadership this morning.***



**BLACK HISTORY  
MONTH IN CANADA**

**Announcements**

**Study Group for Lent** - Rev. Jessica will be doing another study group by Zoom for Lent on **March 1, March 15, and March 29** at 7 pm. We will be exploring the stories of the Temptation of Jesus, the Anointing of Jesus and the Betrayal of Jesus. If you are interested please contact Rev. Jessica to sign up. Zoom links will be sent out before each session.

**Deliveries – Pastoral Care** has had an individual offer to make deliveries to members of our congregation during this current lockdown and time of extreme Covid numbers. If you could use this service please contact Bev Mathew for further information at [Bev.mathew@rogers.com](mailto:Bev.mathew@rogers.com) or 905-826-5005.

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### ***Meetings***

#### ***Today (Sunday)***

**Virtual Coffee Hour** - Gather at your computer, tablet or smartphone on Zoom for coffee hour at **11:00 am** Sunday. We can support up to 100 participants on this. For more information click on <https://www.streetsvilleunited.ca/events/virtual-coffee-hour-2/>

#### ***This Week***

**Wed. 11:00 am – Virtual Café** Join us on your computer, tablet or smartphone on Zoom for coffee! Every Wednesday morning. For more information click on <https://www.streetsvilleunited.ca/events/virtual-cafe/>

**Thu. Mar. 4 7:00 pm – Women’s World Day of Prayer** - our own Streetsville service on Zoom (invitation to be sent soon). This is the women's world day of prayer service that is developed every year highlighting a country. This year it is Vanuatu, an island in the Pacific Ocean. All are welcome to attend and watch the video developed by the women of Vanuatu.

### **Sunday School**

**This Week's Sunday School Activities** - From Generation to Generation In all generations and in all times, God promises to be faithful and invites our response. In the readings this week, God makes a promise to Abram and Sarai and asks that they be faithful to the covenant; God responds to the psalmist's cry for help and the psalmist responds with praise. Paul reminds us to respond to God with faith and followers of Jesus are invited to respond by focusing on the gospel call in our lives.

1) The focus Bible Reading this week is Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 God makes another covenant. This covenant-or promise- is between God and Abram.

Questions to consider about after reading this Bible passage a) What is God's promise to Abram and Sarai? b) How might we show that God is present and active in our lives? c) What difference does it make to know that these faiths are part of one "family"? d) If God were to give you a special new name, what might it be?

Additional Scripture Readings: Romans 4: 13-25 , Psalm 22: 23-31, Mark 8:31-38 and Mark 9: 2-9

God's grace reaches across generations, back into the past and forward into the future. God's inclusive love nourishes all creation. This week's passages invite us to increase our faith and follow in God's ways. How do we respond to God's faithfulness in our time?

2) Prayer: We praise you O God of all generations, of all time and space. When we wonder if you will respond to our prayers and remind us that you answer. Strengthen our faith so that we might trust in your promises. Continue to journey with us as we seek to be your faithful disciples throughout all generations. Amen

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Please let Rev. Jessica know when any of our members or friends are in hospital or in need of pastoral attention – 647-222-9683 (cell); 905-826-1542 (office); revjmccrae@gmail.com

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**Our Prayer Chain** is available. When you have a prayer concern, call Kate Sparrow @ 905-302-4549 or the church office.

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**Givings** - We continue to have expenses, such as utilities and salaries. If you are not on PAR, offering can be provided by:

- You can **e-transfer** directly to the church. From your online banking, add a recipient using the name **Streetsville United Church** and email address [info@streetsvilleunited.ca](mailto:info@streetsvilleunited.ca) E-transfers are automatically deposited in the church account with no need for a password. Please note that e-transfers **will** be included on your tax receipt. [More guidance here.](#)
- You can **e-transfer** directly to the **UCW**. From your online banking, add a recipient using the name **UCW Streetsville United Church** and email address [ucw@streetsvilleunited.ca](mailto:ucw@streetsvilleunited.ca). E-transfers are automatically deposited in the church account with no need for a password. Please note that e-transfers **will** be included on your UCW tax receipt. In the comment line please add the name of the UCW group. [More guidance here.](#)
- Canada Helps (tax receipts provided by Canada Helps) at <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/13238>
- Mailing in a cheque (or post-dated cheques to Streetsville United Church at 274 Queen St. South, Mississauga, ON L5M 1L8
  - Pre-Authorized Remittance: We also now have over ten years' experience with United Church PAR, which automatically makes monthly deposits to the church. For more details, contact Neil Beattie at [nbeattie@rocketmail.com](mailto:nbeattie@rocketmail.com) or 416-909-0042.
- Cheques/envelopes can also be dropped off in the mailboxes at the **front or back doors** of the church. They are locked & secure.

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### Streetsville United Church Leadership Team

Minister: Rev. Jessica McCrae [Jessica.McCrae@streetsvilleunited.ca](mailto:Jessica.McCrae@streetsvilleunited.ca)  
Organist/Choir Director: Vacant  
Church Council Chair: Bill Powell  
Sunday School Leader: Richard Wilkins  
Administrative Assistant: Kelly Crewson [kellycrewson@streetsvilleunited.ca](mailto:kellycrewson@streetsvilleunited.ca)  
Office: [info@streetsvilleunited.ca](mailto:info@streetsvilleunited.ca) Tel: 905-826-1542  
Website: [www.streetsvilleunited.ca](http://www.streetsvilleunited.ca)  
Address: 274 Queen St. S, Mississauga, ON, L5M 1L8

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