

**Order of Worship**  
**Sunday March 14, 2021**  
**Lent 4**

**God Invites Us to Gather**



**Prelude**

*O Love That Will Not Let Me Go*

Albert Peace arr. Phillip Keveren

**Welcome & Announcements**

**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\***

Before we were born,

**Before we took our first breath,**

Before the week started,

**Before the year started,**

Before we said, "I love you,"

**Before we said, "I'm sorry,"**

Before we figured out who we really are,

**Before we figured out who we want to be,**

Before it all –

**God loved us.**

Unconditionally and freely,

**Fully and honestly –**

God loved us.

**Again and again, this is where our story begins.**

Let us worship God!

**Prayer or Approach and Lord's Prayer**

**Hymn 111**

*As The Sun With Longer Journey*

Voices United

**Prayer of Confession\***

God of love, we forget the beginning of the story –

That we were made from love, to be love, to give love.

Instead of rooting our narrative in the goodness refrain of creation, we skip ahead and find our worth at the fall, with Cain and Abel, lost in the wilderness.



**We forget that first there was you and you are love.**

**We forget that out of that love you created us.**

**We forget that from the very first day, you loved first.**

**We forget, because a love like that doesn't make sense to us.**

**Forgive our low self-esteem.**

Forgive our resistance to love ourselves.

Forgive our hesitation to trust that even we could be made good.

And forgive our tendency to pass that doubt on – from generation to generation.

With a new beginning for us that roots our confidence in your unrelenting love.

With hope we pray, again and again. Amen

**Hymn 69**

*Kyrie Eleison*

More Voices

**Assurance of Pardon\***

Family of faith, no matter what we do, where we go, or what we tell ourselves – God is love, and God is loving us.

**Again and again, we are claimed, held, forgiven, and cared for.**

**In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself – thanks be to God. Amen!**

**The Word of God Proclaimed**

**Prayer for Illumination**

**First Scripture Lesson**

Ephesians 5:8-14

**Gospel Lesson**

John 12:1-8

**Sermon**

*Loving More, Judging Less*

Rev. Jessica McCrae

**Hymn 89**

*Love Is The Touch*

More Voices

**Our Response to God**

**Prayers of the People**

**Hymn 658**

*O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go*

Voices United

**Blessing and Benediction**

**Postlude**

*The Church's One Foundation*

Samuel Sebastian Wesley

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***We warmly welcome Michelle Chung as guest musician!***

*\* Some prayers from this service are from "A Sanctified Art"*

## Announcements

**Streetsville's Weekly Word** – As another way to connect; Rev. Jessica will be sending this approximately once per week. If you do not wish to be part of the distribution, scroll to the end of the email and click on “*unsubscribe from this list*”. If you are not receiving this and would like to, please check your “junk” folder to see if it went there. If it did not please notify Rev. Jessica to add your name to the mailing list.

**Craft Sale Vendors** - A few weeks ago I wrote about the cancellation of this year's Harvest of Craft Sale and how our regular vendors have the opportunity to connect with our congregation members. Here are two more vendors who are interested in selling directly to you:

*Shirley Jessop* has a number of knit items available. These include towels, toddler and crib quilts, dish cloths and slippers. She can be reached at 905-858-2754.

*Maria Cabral's* business is “Hand Crafted Stitches”. She has knitted and crocheted doll clothes, toys and animals. She also makes blankets and basket beds. She can be reached at 647-746-9739.

**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**

**Tue. 1:30 pm – Sunshine Circle** meeting via zoom. Guest speaker is Rev. Jessica.

**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/>

## Sunday School

### **This Week's Sunday School Activities - Choose to Give Thanks**

This week's readings are all about making choices. The wilderness wanderers choose to complain against God. A psalmist writes of God's response to their prayers and the people choose to give God thanks. A letter to the church in Ephesus reminds us that we can choose to respond to God's grace by doing good in the world. The gospel of John tells us that God chooses to love the whole world and promises life.

- 1) The focus Bible Reading this week is Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22. It begins with people choosing to give thanks because God has saved them. After this initial introduction, the psalm follows a distinctive pattern. The people first describe an issue or trouble, then pray to God to save them. They then describe God's saving actions and end with thanks for God's love.

Questions to consider about after reading this Bible passage a) How does God respond to those who cry out for help? (vs 19-20) b) What four different groups of people are mentioned? c) What else might these people be saying as they think about how much God loves them? d) What would you like to give thanks for? What could you tell the world about God's love?

Additional Scripture Readings: Numbers 21: 4-9, Ephesians 2: 1-10, John 3: 14-21

God hears our cries of distress, outpours love and then invites us to respond. How will we respond to God's love and grace in this Lenten season? In what ways can we choose to give thanks?

- 2) Prayer: Ever present God, we choose to give thanks for your presence in our lives. You shower us with extravagant love and invite us to respond with our love, thanks and praise. Your love and grace inspire us to act justly in the world. Help us to choose to trust in your protection and your love for us all. Amen

# Note from Finance Committee

So far during the restrictions of 2020 and 2021 to date, we have met our obligations to operate the church while closed for normal activities using your weekly gifts, Willow Tree School rental fees, and reserves.

As we enter into the second year of Covid restrictions, we thought it is important to advise all our church family of our financial year to date position for 2021.

Here is our current 2021 Budget position:

|                | 2-Months Actual | 2-Months BUDGET | Variance |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| Total Revenue  | 33,799          | 41,761          | (7,962)  |
| Total Expenses | 45,064          | 44,236          | 828      |
| NET INCOME     | (11,265)        | (2,475)         |          |

Revenue will be our focus for all of 2021. We believe we can keep expenses “tight” and at or below budget forecasts.

The immediate concern is in our total envelope givings. To date, we are behind budget by \$10,345 or -31.4%. Keeping up with weekly contributions can be difficult during these unusual times, but we have ways to accept your contributions through e-transfer, mail, envelope drop-off, or setting a PAR account.

Several PAR contributors have increased their monthly givings already, which is much appreciated. It is hoped all members who contribute through other means can find a way to bring offerings up to date or assist by increasing their monthly givings to keep the church in the best financial position when we come out of Covid restrictions.

Our thanks and BE SAFE!

The Finance Committee

**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 [revjmcrae@gmail.com](mailto:revjmcrae@gmail.com)  
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)  
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