



SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH



BEYOND PRIVILEGE, TOWARDS JUSTICE

Lynn and Angela Freeman

January 10, 2021

Since time immemorial, Indigenous peoples have occupied and cared for this land. In acknowledging this land, the traditional home of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee, we seek to rebuild right relations with First Nations, Metis and Inuit peoples, to learn from them, and to live on this land with respect and gratitude for its bounty.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

At this time we do not have a minister for the congregation.

If you have a pastoral care concern, please contact Nan Hudson at 613-539-3751



CHURCH

Sydenham Street United Church as an Affirming Congregation seeks to be a vital faith community within The United Church of Canada engaged in spirituality, justice and creativity, informed by Jesus Christ and the Bible, and discerning the call of the Trinity as we celebrate diversity, inclusivity and abundant life.

OFFICE HOURS

The Spire/SSUC Office: Monday-Thursday 9:00 am-1:00 pm

82 Sydenham St. Kingston ON K7L 3H4

SSUC Administrator: [613-542-9616](tel:613-542-9616) x 202

Email: sydenham@kos.net

Rentals/Room Bookings @ The Spire: [613-542-9616](tel:613-542-9616) x 201

Web: www.sydenhamstreet.ca

Online Sunday Services: www.youtube.com/user/SydenhamStreet

Bold Text indicates the parts that everyone reads together

GATHERING IN COMMUNITY



PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP



INTROIT VU 87

I Am the Light of the World

**“I am the light of the world!
You people come and follow me!”
If you follow and love you’ll learn the mystery
of what you were meant to do and be.**

Words & Music: Jim Strathdee 1967
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GATHERING PRAYER

Gracious and generous God, you are indeed holy mystery, wholly love.
In this season of epiphany, may we take our guidance from
the wise ones in the ancient story, who opened themselves to new insights,
New insights and understandings as they gazed on the babe,
This Jesus, who shows us the way of wholly love.

HYMN VU 409



Morning Has Broken

- 1 Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

- 2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

- 3 Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Words: Eleanor Farjeon 1931 Music: Bunessan
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LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD

A PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**We open now to Sacred Mystery, to the Holy One,
infinitely greater than words can express,
whose love for us and all creation
exceeds our capacity to imagine. Amen**



SCRIPTURE READINGS

Genesis 1:1-15

Mark 1:4-11



REFLECTION



SPECIAL MUSIC

Lead Me Lord~Samuel Sebastian Wesley

RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

RENEWING OUR PLEDGE TO BE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS

L. Following a star.

A. Following God's love.

L. Following a call, a nudge, a quest,

A. for our lives.

L. Help us, O God, in the decisions we make every day,

**A. in the "pegs" or the values that we decide to hang our life on,
that we will reflect your love and fairness in our lives and in
our world.**

L. In the presence of the New Year,

**A. and in remembrance of Jesus' baptism and our own,
I pledge to follow the teaching of Jesus in my life;**

L. to wrestle with the meanings of the stories in the Bible,

A. and try to live them out each day

**in my conversations with my family, the people I meet at work,
the stranger ahead of me in the check-out line at the grocery
store, and in the quiet conversations I have with myself each
day.**

L. I realize that I cannot do this on my own,

**A. that I am dependent on God's love and grace in my life,
and it is only by ingesting God's love for me
that I am able to love the "other" whom I meet in my
day-to-day life.**

L. Help me also to learn

A. what it means to be a prophet,

L. God's voice for right relations,

A. among all those that I share this world with:

L. the birds of the air, the fish of the seas,

**A. the green grass, the animals, and the soil
from which all life came,**

L. and all the peoples of the earth,

A. those close to me at home,

L. and those faraway.

A. Amen.

*Written by Allan Warren, First published in **Gathering**
Advent/Christmas/Epiphany 2005–2006, with permission of the author*

MINUTE FOR MISSION

SHARING OF OUR GIFTS

Offerings are gratefully received.

They may be left on the plate near the front door as you exit the sanctuary or received online through:

Canada Helps <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/sydenham-street-united-church/>

or **e-transfers** to givingssuc@kos.net
or **Canada Post.**

VU 541

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures high and low;
Give thanks to God in love made known;
Creator, Word and Spirit One

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

PRAYER OF JESUS

Our Father, Our Mother, Our Holy One, May our kin-dom come
And your will be done here on earth.
May we find this day the bread we need
And may we feel forgiveness for our missteps
And forgive, freely others for theirs.
May we walk away from temptation and focus on good.
For yours is the kin-dom, the power
And the glory, now and forever. Amen



Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow through the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
wind, wind on the sea.

- 1** You moved on the waters,
you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
"Awake from your slumbers and rise on your wings."

- 2** You swept through the desert,
you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded

- 3** From the bondage of sorrow
all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions,
our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions
your people arise.

Words: James K. Manley, 1975
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COMMISSIONING



SUNG BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you
And keep you
Make His face shine upon you
And be gracious to you
The Lord turn His Face toward you
And give you peace

~ F.R.C. Clarke



POSTLUDE

THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

Music Director & Organist

Michael T. Fenn

Worship Leaders

**Lynn Freeman
Angela Freeman**

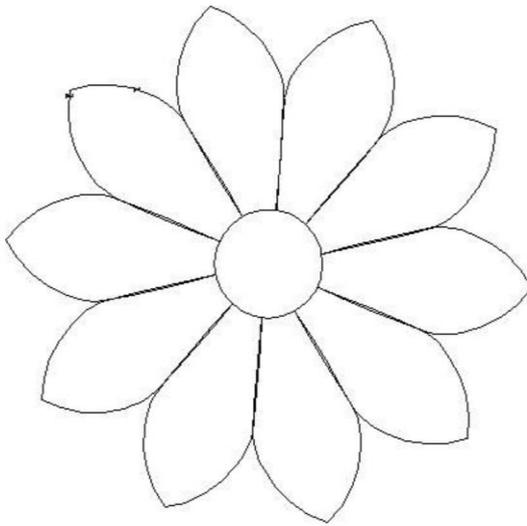
With recordings by
The SSUC Choir

Power Flower: Understanding Privilege and Intersectionality

Each of us has multiple, nuanced and complex identities that help form our lives. Gender, race, ethnicity, age, education, among others, intersect and interact to shape who we are and what challenges and contradictions we confront.

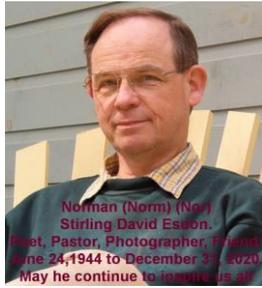
The Power Flower is a simple tool to help us to appreciate our own and others' privilege and promote a fuller understanding of intersectionality.

Source: WERISE-toolkit.org



Some characteristics are commonly identified as privileged in our society. Ten of these are listed below. Colour one petal in the power flower if you are:

- a) Male
- b) White
- c) Aged 30-50
- d) Able-bodied
- e) Heterosexual
- f) Christian
- g) Mentally healthy
- h) Middle or upper class
- i) A Canadian citizen
- j) Postsecondary educated



***Remembering the Rev. Norm Esdon
June 24, 1944 – December 31, 2020***

It is with great sadness and much gratitude that we share the news that the Rev. Norm Esdon died on New Year's Eve at the age of 76. Before ordination, Norm taught high school chemistry and general science. Following ordination Norm served pastoral charges in New Brunswick and Eastern Ontario. After retiring from congregational ministry, Norm became active in Sydenham Street United Church, Kingston which named him SSUC Poet Laureate. Norm is well known and greatly respected for his photography and poetry which appeared on 90 United Church bulletin covers and were used in countless worship services. Norm published two books of his own, "Poems for God Questers" (2017) and "Questing for God Through Poetry" (2020) and had prayers and poems published in 10 collections edited by Geoffrey Duncan. Norm distilled in his writing a lifelong passion for the planet and decades of wrestling to a deeper, more personal Christian faith triggered by his struggle to harmonize his sexuality with his spirituality. Decades of writing poetry convinced Norm that poetry is the most effective language for "questing for God" A celebration of Norm's life will be held in the future when it is possible to safely gather at church in person again.

– Rev. Elizabeth Macdonald

NOTICES

January 12th 2021 : The Two Church Lunch and Learn Group will meet by ZOOM on January 12th , gathering at 1:00 for announcements and chat, with the speaker starting at 1:15. Our speaker will be Jamie Swift from the Basic Income Advocacy Group. The title of Jamie's talk is "**The Role of Basic Income in Pandemic Recovery**". Everyone from Sydenham St. and Chalmers and your friends are invited to attend. If you wish to attend this event, please contact Meikle Turner at 613-542-7744 or meikle_irish@yahoo.com. This session is being held on Zoom and the event will obviously not include lunch. Please let Meikle know if you plan to attend. Meikle will send you the link to the Zoom session shortly before January 12th . There will be no charge for attending this Lunch & Learn session.

Our next Lunch and Learn meeting will be on February 9, 2021. The topic is "Racism" with Stephany Simpson, Associate VP (Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion) as our speaker