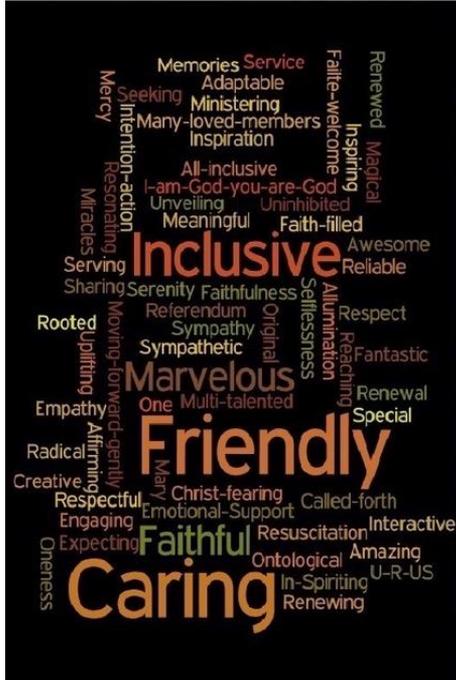




# SYDENHAM STREET UNITED CHURCH



## WORDS MATTER

Bruce Hutchinson and Vicki Ruthven

January 17, 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 Reverend 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 x 202](tel:613-542-9616)

**Email:** [sydenham@kos.net](mailto:sydenham@kos.net)

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

**Web:** [www.sydenhamstreet.ca](http://www.sydenhamstreet.ca)

**Online Sunday Services:** [www.youtube.com/user/SydenhamStreet](http://www.youtube.com/user/SydenhamStreet)

**Bold Text** indicates the parts that everyone reads together

## **GATHERING IN COMMUNITY**



### **PRELUDE**

Det Ar Ett Fast Ord/ Cwm Rhondda  
Blomquist/ Hughes

### **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

### **CANDLE LIGHTING**

### **CENTERING MUSIC**

Nearer My God, to Thee  
(Instrumental Arrangement)

### **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. Amen

**HYMN VU 371**



### Open My Eyes, That I May See

**1** Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.  
    Silently now I wait for thee,  
    ready, my God, thy will to see.  
    Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

**2** Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.  
    Silently now I wait for thee,  
    ready, my God, thy will to see.  
    Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

**3** Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.  
    Silently now I wait for thee,  
    ready, my God, thy will to see.  
    Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Words, Music: Clara H. Scott 1895  
Reprinted under ONE LICENSE #400764-M

# **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**

Psalm 139: 1-6,13-18

John 1:43-51

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church  
**Thanks be to God**



### **REFLECTION**

**“Words Matter”**



### **SPECIAL MUSIC**

Alleluia from Exsultat, Jubilate

W.A Mozart

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S LOVE

### 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](mailto: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

*A Prayer in the form of The Lord's Prayer by G. Epp, Edmonton AB*

God, who gives birth to the world, who gives us breath,  
fill us with your light, and help us to usher in  
your reign of love, justice and peace here on earth.  
Tune us to the harmony of the heavens.  
Teach us to sing your name.  
Grant us wisdom, hope and compassion  
for all living things, and feed us what we need each day.  
Free us from what binds us,  
as we release others from guilt and shame.  
Help us to focus on what is good, and to do what is right.  
Teach us how to love.  
Renew our hearts, our minds, our strength,  
and make us whole, and wholly yours. Amen



## **My Soul Cries Out**

Verses 1,4

**1** My soul cries out with a joyful shout  
that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things  
that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight,  
and my weakness you did not spurn,  
so from east to west shall my name be blest.  
Could the world be about to turn?

My heart shall sing of the day you bring.  
Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near,  
and the world is about to turn!

**4** Though the nations rage from age to age,  
we remember who holds us fast:  
God's mercy must deliver us  
from the conqueror's crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard  
is the promise which holds us bound,  
'til the spear and the rod can be crushed by God,  
who is turning the world around. **R**

Words: Rory Cooney Music arr. Rory Cooney  
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## COMMISSIONING



## SUNG BENEDICTION

Our God bless you and keep you,  
Our God make their face to shine upon you,  
to shine upon you and be gracious,  
and be gracious unto you  
and give you peace,  
and give you peace. Amen

*Alec Robinson – used with permission*



## POSTLUDE

Menuet in Eb Major  
Matheson

## THANK YOU FOR TALENTS SHARED

**Music Director & Organist**

**Michael T. Fenn**

**Worship Leaders**

**Bruce Hutchinson  
Vicki Ruthven**

**Clarinet Solo by Ms. Andrina Cockerham**

Cover photo:

“Wordle from Nelson United Church, B.C., an Affirming Congregation”