

Sydenham Street United Church
Worship February 8, 2026
Guest Preacher Rev. Dr. Don Misener

Welcome and Introduction

Acknowledging the Land

Introit: Introit – He Shall Call Upon Me – Healey Willan

Antiphon:

He shall call upon Me, and I shall answer him;

I will deliver him and honour him. With a long life, I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.

Psalm:

He dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High,

Shall bide under the shadow of the Almighty

Antiphon:

He shall call upon Me, and I shall answer him;

I will deliver him and honour him. With a long life, I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.

Call to Worship:

One: This is no ordinary place, this is the house of God.

All: **This is the place where prophets cry out
for peace and justice and righteousness.**

One: This is the place where God reaches down
into the corners of our lives,
to offer us the mystery of holy love.

All: **This is no ordinary gathering.
This is the house of God.**

Hymn: VU 264: “Immortal Invisible God only Wise”

Theme Introduction: “Physically, I have discovered that when I fall it is downward that I go. However, I am being encouraged to learn that spiritually it just may be possible to fall upward.”

Lighting Christ Candle and Peace Candle

Sung Response: More Voices 82 V.1

"Bathe me in your light, O God of all, Creator,

let it shine upon my soul with healing and with grace.

Be to me a beacon bright through shadows of life's wounding,
showing me the way to live in faith, in your embrace."

Opening Prayer:

Wondrous God: you touch our lives with healing and with justice.

New life is your gift.

We praise you for the good news of your love for all you have created.

May this time of worship nourish us with meaning and with purpose.

And may we be empowered to carry your goodness in word and in action

into the coming week. Amen.

Scripture: Matthew 5: 13 – 16

Luke 15: 25-32

Psalm: Psalm 8 (VU732)

Sermon: Falling Upward

Hymn: VU 271: “There’s a Wideness in God’s Mercy”

Connecting and Contributing: Announcements – Offering

Anthem: Surely He has Borne our Grievs by Eleanor Daly

Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

He was wounded for our transgressions.

He was bruised for our iniquities.

How was wounded,

He was bruised for our transgressions.

The chastisement of our peace was upon Him,

The chastisement of our peace was upon Him,

And with His stripes we are healed.

Surely He hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.

Prayers of the People:

Pastoral Prayer:

Prayer of Jesus:

Hymn: MV 161: “I Have Called You by Your Name”

Blessing:

Passing the Peace: