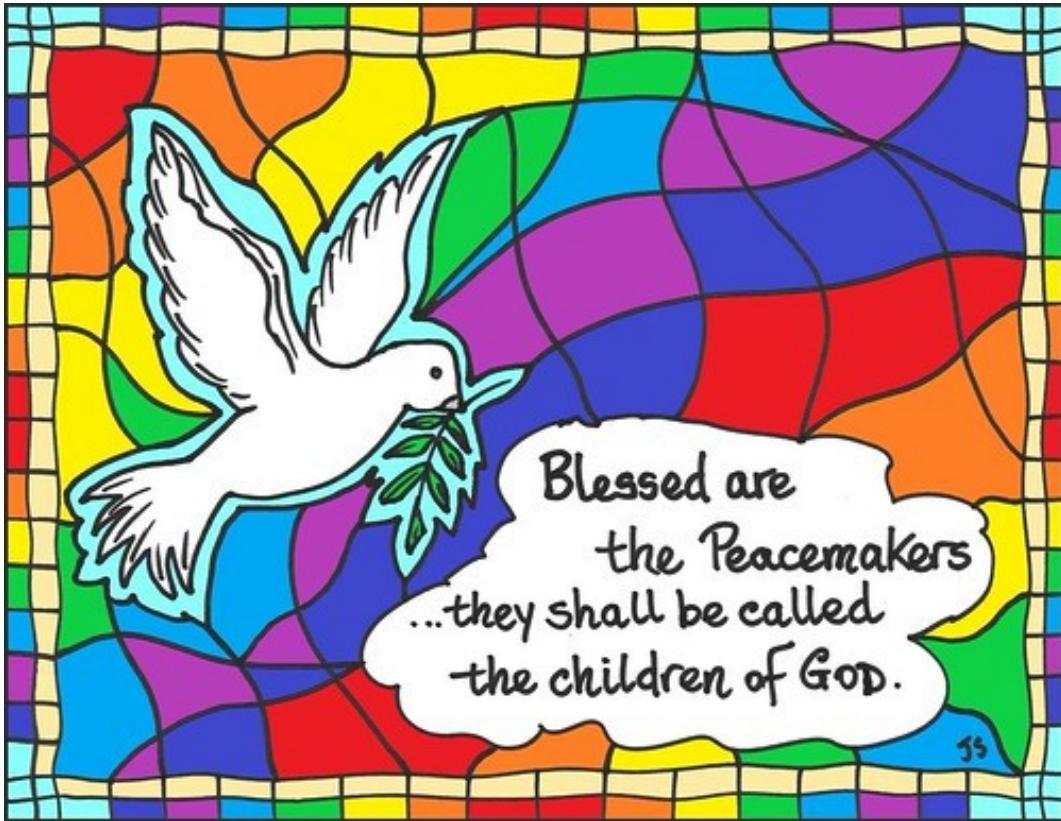


**The United Church of Canada  
Carlisle/Kilbride Pastoral Charge  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany, February 01, 2026  
Kilbride 9:30 a.m.; Carlisle 11:00 a.m.**



Cover art – sushieart.com

**Minister:** Rev. M. Gayle MacDonald  
**Email:** mgmacd@gmail.com; **Cell:** 289-442-8420  
**Music Leader:** Dr. Heather Olaveson  
**Office Administrator:** Andrea McRae  
**Phone:** 905-689-8630 **Email:** [secretary@carlisleuc.ca](mailto:secretary@carlisleuc.ca)

*Those who wish to do so are invited to stand for the Hymns and the Sending Forth/Benediction. Likewise, those who wish to do so are invited to respond aloud where indicated by **bold print**.*

**Welcome and Land Acknowledgement**

Welcome to this place and to this time together. We are pleased that you could join us today as your presence helps to enrich the experience of worship.

As we worship God, we acknowledge that we are on the traditional lands of

(Kilbride: the Huron-Wendat, Petun, Seneca, Neutral, Anishinaabe, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation),  
(Carlisle: the Neutral, Haudenosaunee, Anishinabek, and Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation),  
who continue to cry out for justice. As treaty people, we commit to listen, learn, and work to right the wrongs of the past and present.

## **The Life and Work of the Church**

### **Lighting of the Christ Candle**

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ~ *John 1:5*

### **Gathering**

#### **Centring Music:** VU 701 – What Does the Lord Require of You

*Words & Music: Jim Strathdee 1986*

**Jay Esplana, Lindsay Warnock, and Jason Nickel sing Jim Strathdee's three-part hymn for a service at Canadian Memorial United Church, an Affirming community in Vancouver.**

[What Does the Lord Require of You | Sunday Service | Canadian Memorial United Church \(CMUC Music\)](#)

- 1     What does the Lord require of you?  
        What does the Lord require of you? (x2)
  
- 2     Justice, kindness,  
        walk humbly with your God. (x2)
  
- 3     To seek justice, and love kindness,  
        and walk humbly with your God. (x2)

#### **Invitation to Worship:**

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

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

**It is the place where God reaches down  
into the corners of our lives  
to offer us the mystery of holy love.**

This is no ordinary gathering.

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

#### **Opening Prayer:**

Come to us, Holy God,  
as we gather before you;

encircle us with your love.

**Bless us with your sustaining presence;  
surround us with your grace.**

**Draw us 'round your living Word  
and bind us to one another as disciples of Christ,  
whose Spirit is in our midst.**

**Amen.**

**Hymn:** VU 222 – Come Let Us Sing

*Words & Music: Jim Strathdee 1976*

Led by their Music Director and accompanist, Jeannie Wyse, the Jubilee United Church Choir in Toronto performs Jim Strathdee's 1976 hymn in an arrangement by Jim's wife and music ministry partner, Jean Strathdee. Jeannie Wyse is a vocalist, pianist, and organist who is in high demand as a teacher, coach, and director. She is the Vocal Department Head at Randolph College for the Performing Arts in Toronto and has been involved in many musical theatre productions, including appearing as the Vocal Coach for CBC's 2012 reality competition *Over the Rainbow*.

Come, Let Us Sing - from Voices United 222

- 1 Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,  
we have stood silently too long;  
surely the Lord deserves our praise,  
so joyfully thank God for our days.
- 2 O thirsty soul, come drink at the well;  
God's living waters will never fail.  
Surely the Lord will help you to stand,  
strengthened and comforted by God's hand.
- 3 You dwell among us and cause us to pray,  
and walk with each other following your way;  
our precious brothers and sisters will grow  
in the fulfilling love they know.
- 4 Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing  
to the desire of all living things.  
Come, all you creatures, high and low,  
let your praises endlessly flow.

**Prayer for Grace and Assurance of Grace**

**Sung Response:** VU 701 – What Does the Lord Require of You

*Words & Music: Jim Strathdee 1986*

[What Does the Lord Require of You | Sunday Service | Canadian Memorial United](#)

## Church (CMUC Music)

- 1    What does the Lord require of you?  
      What does the Lord require of you? (x2)
- 2    Justice, kindness,  
      walk humbly with your God. (x2)
- 3    To seek justice, and love kindness,  
      and walk humbly with your God. (x2)

### **Prayer for Illumination:**

O God, open our hearts and minds  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that as the scriptures are read  
and your Word is proclaimed,  
we may hear what you are saying to us today. Amen.

## **Readings from Our Christian Tradition**

### **Hebrew Scripture:** Micah 6:1-8

*The offering of justice, kindness, humility*

6:1 Hear what the LORD says: Rise, plead your case before the mountains, and let the hills hear your voice.

6:2 Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD, and you enduring foundations of the earth, for the LORD has a case against his people, and he will contend with Israel.

6:3 "O my people, what have I done to you? In what have I wearied you? Answer me!

6:4 For I brought you up from the land of Egypt and redeemed you from the house of slavery, and I sent before you Moses, Aaron, and Miriam.

6:5 O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised, what Balaam son of Beor answered him, and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the saving acts of the LORD."

6:6 "With what shall I come before the LORD and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old?

6:7 Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?"

6:8 He has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God?

### **Responsive Psalm:** VU 736 with refrain

### **Gospel:** Matthew 5:1-12

*The teaching of Christ: Beatitudes*

5:1 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him.

5:2 And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

5:4 "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

5:5 "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

5:6 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

5:7 "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

5:10 "Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

5:11 "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.

5:12 Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

### **Response:**

The words of our faith spoken among us.

**May we hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.**

### **Reflection**

#### **Hymn:** MV 12 – Come Touch Our Hearts

*Words and Music: Gordon Light 2002, arr. Andrew Donaldson 2002*

Canadian Bishop Gordon Stanley Light (b. 1944) is not only an ordained Anglican priest, but is also a singer-songwriter, guitarist, and founding member of the Common Cup Company. Despite his lack of formal composition training, he is one of the main songwriters for Common Cup, a music group formed in 1979 known for their contemporary Christian folk music. Light's 2002 hymn is performed by musicians of Golden Ears United Church in Maple Ridge, BC.

[MV 12 Come Touch Our Hearts](#)

- 1      Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,  
from failing embers build a blazing fire;  
love strong enough to overturn injustice,  
to seek a world more gracious,  
come touch and bless our hearts.
  
- 2      Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,  
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;  
create a space for spirit to grow in us,  
let life and beauty fill us,  
come touch and bless our souls.

- 3 Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,  
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;  
help us to open doors of understanding,  
to welcome truth and wisdom,  
come touch and bless our minds.
- 4 Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,  
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;  
that we may rise to follow and to serve,  
steady now our nerve,  
come touch and bless our wills.
- 5 Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,  
to break the bread and share the cup of peace;  
that we may love you with our heart, our soul,  
our mind, our strength, our all,  
come touch us with your grace.

### **Offering Prayer:**

God of all peoples and God of all places,  
we present these offerings,  
that they may be used to extend your liberating reign.  
With them, we offer our varied ministries,  
that each of us may be part of your answer  
to the cries of the world. Amen.

### **Offertory:** TLUS 130 (v. 1) – Who Will Speak a Word of Warning

*Words: Richard Leach 2000; Music: Thomas John Williams 1890*

Found in the "Dismantling Oppression" section of the United Church of Canada's new hymnal, Richard Leach's 2000 lyrics are a call to action, speaking against economic injustice in its first of three verses. These words are set to the 1890 tune EBENEZER, which you will recognize from "Come, O Spirit, Dwell among Us" (VU 198). The hymn is performed by a virtual choir and organist, whom I believe is Dr. Eric Bigalke, a musician, conductor, educator, and Episcopal Church music director in Minnesota.  
Who will speak a word of warning (Ebenezer)

- 1 Who will speak a word of warning to a world whose wealth expands,  
as the growing wealth is gathered into ever fewer hands?  
Christ, you speak a word of warning for the church to know and tell:  
greed is death and life is giving; hands that give receive as well.

### **Prayers of the People and Prayer of Jesus:**

Sing into prayer: VU 400 – Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Words & Music: Ken Medema 1970

Kathleen Theisen, Director of Music Ministry at First Congregational Church in Ridgefield, Connecticut, performs Ken Medema's piece, including the verses.

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying by Ken Medema - Kathleen Theisen, piano & voice (COVER)

Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

## **Communion Hymn and Communion Service** (Carlisle, see insert)

### **Hymn: VU 117 – Jesus Christ Is Waiting**

*Words: John H. Bell 1984: Music: French carol 15<sup>th</sup> century, harm. The Iona Community 1984*

**The wonderful minor-mode, 15<sup>th</sup>-century French tune that John Bell set his 1984 lyrics to is known as NOËL NOUVELET.** You may recognize it from the Easter hymn "Now the Green Blade Rises" (VU 186) or the Christmas carol "Sing We Now of Christmas." St. Marks United Church in Whitby, Ontario, shares a lyric video featuring organ, perhaps performed by their organist and choir director Henry Remiz.

VU 117 Jesus Christ is Waiting

- 1    Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;  
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.  
Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.
  
- 2    Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,  
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.  
In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.
  
- 3    Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;  
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.  
Let my care be active, healing just like you.
  
- 4    Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,  
where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.  
Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.  
On suspicion's graveyard let me dance with you.
  
- 5    Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,  
"Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet."

Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.  
Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

## **Commissioning & Benediction**

**Sung Sending Forth:** VU 701 – What Does the Lord Require of You

*Words & Music: Jim Strathdee 1986*

[What Does the Lord Require of You | Sunday Service | Canadian Memorial United Church \(CMUC Music\)](#)

- 1    What does the Lord require of you?  
      What does the Lord require of you? (x2)
- 2    Justice, kindness,  
      walk humbly with your God. (x2)
- 3    To seek justice, and love kindness,  
      and walk humbly with your God. (x2)

### **Online Postlude:**

Jean-Michel Blais is an award-winning Québécois pianist and composer who has recorded three studio albums of his neoclassical and minimalist music since 2016. "Dans ma main" ("In My Hand") is from his second album of the same name (2018), which was shortlisted for the Polaris Music Prize. In this video, he performs live on a terrace in Montréal.

[Jean-Michel Blais - Dans ma main](#)

### **Credits**

Cover Photo: stushieart.com

Printed liturgy: *Celebrate God's Presence*