

**Bolton United Church – Sunday Worship**  
**February Black History Month - Transfiguration**  
**February 14, 2021**

**Prelude**

**Lighting of the Christ Candle**

**Introit:** MV 88 Over My Head

Words and Music: African-American spiritual  
Arrangement: Stephen Lee 2006

**Refrain**

Over my head, I hear music in the air.  
Over my head, I hear music in the air.  
Over my head, I hear music in the air.  
There must be a God somewhere.

1

When the storms of life are ragin'  
    I hear music in the air. Ooh...ooh  
When the storm of life are ragin'  
    I hear music in the air. Ooh  
When the storm of life are ragin'  
    I hear music in the air. Ooh  
There must be a God somewhere.  
    There must be a God somewhere.

**Welcome & Announcements:** Please note: Worship services are currently virtual. As offering plates are also now virtual, you are invited to sign up for PAR, or to donate online (details are the website, follow the link). You can use e-transfer by sending donations to [donations@boltonunitedchurch.com](mailto:donations@boltonunitedchurch.com)

You are invited to type prayer requests into the chat of the live stream worship. **Our Worship Service for the month of February will be focused on Black History.**

**Acknowledging the Land**

We acknowledge that we are in the traditional territory of the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishinaabe peoples, on whose land and by whose waters we gather. We acknowledge their stewardship as we worship, listen, learn, share, and heal together in the name of our Creator, the Holy One of Blessing.

**Hymn:** MV 167 Hush! Hush!

Words and music: African-American spiritual; arr. Stephen Lee 2006

Hush! Hush! Somebody's callin' mah name.  
Hush! Hush! Somebody's callin' mah name.  
Hush! Hush! Somebody's callin' mah name.  
Oh mah Lawd, oh, mah Lawd, what shall I do?

**The Call to Worship:**

One: Do you really not know...

**All: that God is God in the heavens and on the earth?**

One: Have you really not heard...

**All: how she has brought princes to naught and oppressors to their knees?**

One: Haven't you already been told...

**All: that you are counted among the stars, and that you matter?**

One: Do you not know, have you not heard?

**All: We come to learn, we come for renewed strength, we come in hope.**

**Opening Prayer:**

Creator God, you who have called forth each star by name, we are in your presence this hour. We come before you acknowledging and celebrating Black History and it's implications toward us as a country and a people. We come knowing that these journeys have been painful and have often times been met with woundedness, and although there have been triumphs along the way, the pain and brokenness of oppression still lingers. But we come celebrating a people whom you have infused with boundless faith, and whose hope in you has manifested into renewable strength and resilience. Guide our worship this day and may we soar on eagle's wings as one people, bound together in your love. Amen.

**Assurance of Hope:**

Know this and receive this: Our God gives strength to the weary, and mercy to the sorrowful. If you hope in the Lord you shall not stumble or faint but be lifted up on eagle's wings. Amen.

**Hymn: VU 808 On Eagle's Wings**

Word and music: Michael Jonas 1979

1

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
who abide in His shadow for life,  
say to the Lord, "My Refuge,  
my Rock in whom I trust."

Refrain

And I will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of my hand.

2

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
and famine will bring you no fear;  
under His Wings your refuge,  
God's faithfulness your shield.

Refrain

3

You need not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day,  
though thousands fall about you,  
near you it shall not come.

Refrain

4

For to God's angels is given a command,  
to guard you in all of your ways,  
upon their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Refrain

### **We Listen to God's Word**

Isaiah 40:21–31 NIV

<sup>21</sup> Do you not know? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning?

Have you not understood since the earth was founded?

<sup>22</sup> He sits enthroned above the circle of the earth, and its people are like grasshoppers.

He stretches out the heavens like a canopy, and spreads them out like a tent to live in.

<sup>23</sup> He brings princes to naught and reduces the rulers of this world to nothing.

<sup>24</sup> No sooner are they planted, no sooner are they sown,

no sooner do they take root in the ground, than he blows on them and they wither,  
and a whirlwind sweeps them away like chaff.

<sup>25</sup> “To whom will you compare me? Or who is my equal?” says the Holy One.

<sup>26</sup> Lift up your eyes and look to the heavens: Who created all these?

He who brings out the starry host one by one and calls forth each of them by name.

Because of his great power and mighty strength, not one of them is missing.

<sup>27</sup> Why do you complain, Jacob? Why do you say, Israel,

“My way is hidden from the LORD; my cause is disregarded by my God”?

<sup>28</sup> Do you not know? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth.

He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.

<sup>29</sup> He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak.

<sup>30</sup> Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;

<sup>31</sup> but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength.

They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

**Anthem:** Aint Got Time To Die (arr. Philip Kern)

**Reflection:**

Reverend Eleanor Scarlett

Our Offering & Gifts are received even though we are not together in this space. We acknowledge our gifts through PAR, cheques, cash, online donations, time, talents, and selves.

**Offering Prayer:**

Loving God, we offer our gifts of self, time, talents, and money. We make these offerings to you as a sign of your kingdom here on earth. May Your Light embolden us to see our neighbours as we see ourselves. Help us to walk with the hungry, the homeless and hopeless. May these gifts offered here today bring transformation to the world's broken! This we pray in Your name. Amen!

**Pastoral Prayers & Prayers of the People.**

**The Lord's Prayer**

**The Sending Forth**

**Hymn:** VU 670 Precious Lord, Take My Hand

Words: Thomas A Dorsey 1932

Music: George N Allen 1844, adapt. Thomas A Dorsey 1932

1

Precious Lord, take my hand,  
lead me on, let me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn,  
through the storm, through the night,  
lead me on to the light:  
take my hand, precious Lord,  
lead me home.

2

When my way grows drear,  
Precious Lord, linger near,  
When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call,  
hold my hand lest I fall:  
take my hand, precious Lord,  
lead me home.

3

When the darkness appears,  
and the night draws near,  
and the day is past and gone,  
at the river I stand,  
Guide my feet, hold my hand:  
take my hand, precious Lord,  
lead me home.

**Commissioning & Blessing:**

The amazing grace of our teacher, Jesus Christ

The extravagant love of God and the intimate friendship of the Holy Spirit go with you.

As you go from here, remember to stay safe, stay home, love your neighbours and friends and be the hands, feet, and heartbeat of Christ mission for our communities and wider world. Amen!

**Choral Closing:** VU 242 Let All Things Now Living (VERSE 2)

Words: Katherine K Davis 1939, *alt.*

Music: Welch folk melody, *dec* Katherine K Davis 1938

2

By law God enforces, the stars in their courses and sun in its orbit obediently shine;

the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,  
the depths of the ocean proclaim God divine.  
We, too, should be voicing our love and rejoicing;  
with glad adoration a song let us raise:  
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving,  
to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

**Postlude:**

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*This worship service was prepared for Black History month by Charmain Bailey Foutner a diaconal minister serving in o ministry at Bedford United Church, Windsor, ON. The worship Service has been adapted for Bolton United Church by Reverend Eleanor Scarlett.*

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