



**SUNDAY, FEB. 12, 2023**  
**ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH**  
**How Long Will We Have To Cry?**  
**A Service of Lament for Anti-Black Racism**

A United Church of Canada worship resource written by Alydia Smith.

Minister: The Reverend Karen Ptolemy-Stam  
Music Director: Victoria Warwick  
Readers: Lynne Angus, Terry MacPherson  
Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Gabriela & Rick Dell, Bruce Wilcox

**WELCOME/ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**HYMN** VU #278 "In the Quiet Curve of Evening"

1. In the quiet curve of evening, in the sinking of the days,  
in the silky void of darkness, you are there.  
In the lapses of my breathing, in the space between my ways,  
in the crater carved by sadness, you are there.  
You are there, you are there, you are there.
2. In the rests between the phrases, in the cracks between the stars,  
in the gaps between the meaning, you are there.  
In the melting down of endings, in the cooling of the sun,  
in the solstice of the winter, you are there.  
You are there, you are there, you are there.
3. In the mystery of my hungers, in the silence of my rooms,  
in the cloud of my unknowing, you are there.  
In the empty cave of grieving, in the desert of my dreams,  
in the tunnel of my sorrow, you are there.  
You are there, you are there, you are there.

**OPENING PRAYER** (based on A Song of Faith) read by Lynne Angus

**LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE AND SUNG RESPONSE**

One: As we light this Christ candle may it remind us that Christ is in us and in our world.

Sung Response: VU#82 "A Light is Gleaming" Refrain and Verse 1

**Refrain: A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night,  
living in the light. Come share its gladness, God's radiant love is  
burning bright, living in the light.**

When light comes pouring into the darkest place, it hurts our eyes to see the glow. Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears, our memories and tears. **Refrain**

**THEME CONVERSATION:** What Is Lamentation?

**HYMN:** MV #66 "Senzeni Na?" [*Children leave for Discovery Kids*]

**PRAYER OF LAMENTATION** with a response sung by musicians from Mount Royal United Church.

## **PREPARATION FOR SCRIPTURE:**

We join with the prophet Habakkuk, who lamented that justice never prevailed and that things were not as they could be. There was still violence, famine, and destruction in his community. There were better possibilities for being together... Habakkuk wondered out loud, "What shall I do?" Habakkuk's laments started the movement toward the revelation of God's vision.

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:** Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 (a paraphrase), read by Terry MacPherson

**VIDEO:** Sam Cooke's "A Change Is Gonna Come"

**REFLECTION:** Signs of Hope

## **LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE OF HOPE** (*text from a Traditional Spiritual*):

We heard the voice of Jesus say, "come unto me and rest.  
Lay down thou weary one, Lay down thy head upon my breast."  
With pitying eyes, the Prince of Peace beheld our helpless grief.  
He saw, and O amazing love! He came to our relief.  
And the light from the lighthouse, shone on us.  
*[Hope Candle is lit]*

**Sung Response:** "Shine on Me" (Traditional Spiritual)

Shine on me, shine on me. I wonder if the lighthouse will shine on me. (2x)

**OFFERTORY ANTHEM:** "I'm Gonna Sing So God Can Use Me"

**SUNG RESPONSE:** MV #182 "Grateful"

Grateful for the life you give us,  
thankful for your Holy Son,  
Joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of love.  
Grateful for the birth of Jesus, Thankful for Emmanuel.  
Jesus born in Bethlehem and in our hearts as well.

**OFFERING AND OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE** Read by Lynne Angus

**CLOSING HYMN** VU #646 "Siyahamba"

1. We are marching in the light of God; we are marching in the light of God. (2x)  
We are marching, marching, we are marching in the light of God. (2x)

**COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING**

**POSTLUDE**

