



GRACE UNITED CHURCH

Worship Service

February 5th, 2023 at 10:30 a.m.

Fifth after Epiphany - Black History Month

Guest Preacher: Keith Mayers

Lay Presider: Jemma Boodram

GATHERING TO WORSHIP GOD

Gathering Music (Grace Band)

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot

Down to the River to Pray

African-American Spiritual

African-American Spiritual

Welcome & Announcements – *Presider*

The celebration of February as Black History (or African Heritage) Month begins this week. Officially recognized in Canada since 1996, this is a time to honour the contributions and struggles of peoples of African descent.

Acknowledgment of the Traditional Land – *Presider*

Lighting the Christ Candle

Call to Worship – Responsive Reading: Psalm 112, 1-9 (NLT)

One: Happy are those who fear the Lord. Yes, happy are those who delight in doing what he commands.

All: Their children will be successful everywhere.

An entire generation of godly people will be blessed.

One: They themselves will be wealthy, and their good deeds will never be forgotten.

All: When darkness overtakes the godly, light will come bursting in. They are generous, compassionate, and righteous.

One: All goes well for those who are generous, who lend freely and conduct their business fairly.

All: Such people will not be overcome by evil circumstances. Those who are righteous will be long remembered.

One: They do not fear bad news; they confidently trust the Lord to care for them.

All: They are confident and fearless and can face their foes triumphantly. They give generously to those in need. Their good deeds will never be forgotten. They will have influence and honour.

Praise and Worship 1 (Praise & Worship Team)

1. **Over My Head**

More Voices #88

2. **He's Got the Whole World in His Hands**

Spiritual

Prayer:

Almighty God who giveth good gifts freely, the Father of Lights. Hear our prayer, as the words of our mouth and meditation of our hearts become acceptable in thy sight. Amen.

Time for Youth and Young at Heart: Light of the World

Jesus Wants Me for a Sunbeam

E. Excell & N. Talbot

Children leave for Sunday School

TO DISCOVER THE WORD OF GOD FOR TODAY

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 58: 1-9

Sanarita Kendal

One: Hear what the spirit is saying to the church.

All: Thanks be to God!

Spoken Word: Still I Rise by Maya Angelou

Jenn Gibbs-Reilly

Video: Black History month video from UC resources

Sermon: The Acceptable Fast

TO RESPOND IN FAITH AND HOPE

Offering Invitation

Offertory Music: Kumbaya

African-American Spiritual

Offertory Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer (Sung)

Voices United # 960

Praise and Worship 2 (Praise & Worship Team)

1. **Lift Every Voice and Sing**

J. R. & J. W. Johnson

2. **Shall We Gather at the River**

R. Lowry

THE CHURCH SCATTERS TO LIVE ITS FAITH IN THE WORLD

Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Amens

Voices United #967

Postlude: My Tribute

Andraé Crouch