

Welcome to Aurora United Church

uniting hearts and hands on the journey



Sunday, March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Lent

If we learn to love the Earth, we will find labyrinths, gardens, fountains and precious jewels! A whole new world will open itself to us, we will discover what it means to be truly alive. (St. Teresa of Avila 1515-1582)

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE I Lay My Sins on Jesus (*Edward Broughton*)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *Lighting of the Christ Candle*

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Spirit of God
calls to our spirits,
inviting us to worship.

The Spirit of God
calls to our spirits,
inviting us to love and be loved.

The Spirit of God
calls to our spirits,
calling us to new life.

We gather, seeking unity in the Spirit.

**Let us worship together in hope
and in love.**

HYMN (VU 415 vs 1-5) God, We Praise You for the Morning

God, we praise you for the morning; hope springs forth with each new day,
new beginning, prayer, and promise, joy in work and in play.

God, we praise you for creation, mountains, seas, and prairie land.
Waking souls find joy and healing in your bountiful hand.

God, we praise you for compassion, all the loving that you show;
human touching, tears, and laughter, help your children to grow.

God, we praise you for your Spirit; Comforter and daily friend,
restless searcher, gentle teacher, strength and courage you send.

God, we praise you for the Saviour, come that we may know your
ways. In his loving dying, rising, Christ is Lord of our days.

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY

On this fourth Sunday of Lent we remember with joy that God's ways are not our ways and that God's ways will challenge all our well-laid plans.

(Fourth candle is extinguished.)

God helps us to see what is really important.

Let us pray...

Compassionate God, help us to see with your eyes and to love with your heart. Amen.

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Ephesians 5:8-14 (Live as children of the light.)

GIFT OF MUSIC Shepherd Me, O God (*Marty Haugen arr. Mark Hayes*)

GOSPEL John 9:1-41 (Jesus heals the man born blind.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Opening Our Eyes

HYMN Love Is the Touch (*A.Robertson/J.Bell*) MV 89

Love is the touch of intangible joy; love is the force that no fear can destroy;
love is the goodness we gladly applaud: God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the lilt in a lingering voice; love is the hope that can make us rejoice;
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed: God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the light in the tunnel of pain; love is the will to be whole once again;
love is the trust of a friend on the road: God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son; love is the kingdom their will has begun;
love is the path which the saints all have trod: God is where love is, for love is of God.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

A Statement about the gifts we bring in worship for the life of the church....

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN (VU 626) I Heard the Voice of Jesus

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad;
I found in him my resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Behold I freely give
the living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live.'
'I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and in
that light of life I'll walk till travelling days are done.

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

And now—in every word, with every gesture,
by every art, through every means,
may we be—a living gospel in the world.

...and may the blessing of God, giver of every good and perfect gift;
the blessing of Christ, the Redeemer of the lost and broken;
the blessing of the Holy Spirit, God's presence in our lives,
be with each one of us and all whom we love and serve. Amen.

POSTLUDE Prelude and Fugue in G Major (*J.S. Bach*)

****** Stay tuned for a message from Bill Newman (Chair, AUC Council)***



