

# *Welcome to Aurora United Church*

*...uniting hearts and hands on the journey*



*Sunday, April 26, 2020*

*Third Sunday of Easter*

*You wake from dreams of doom and, for a moment, you know: beyond all the noise and the gestures, the only real thing, love's calm unwavering flame in the half-light of an early dawn. (Dag Hammarskjöld)*

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Reverie *Claude Debussy*

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** *Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**INTROIT** Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies (*Charles Wesley/Werner's Choralbuch*)  
AUC Chancel Choir, February 18, 2018

**CALL TO WORSHIP** The Lyon family

Now is the time to sing—

to sing the good news of God;

**who awakens us with dawn's embrace,**

**who surrounds us with joy and life.**

Now is the time to offer praise to God,

in every place, with every voice:

**to rejoice in the One who leads us**

**through each moment with a gentle hand**

**and a word of hope.**

Now is the time to join all creation in praising God,

from the depths of the seas to the farthest galaxies:

**we will sing the good news of Easter!**

**We will rejoice in the God who loves us.**

*(Thom Thurman, Lectionary Liturgies)*

**HYMN** Come, Children, Join to Sing (*VU 345*)

Come, children, join to sing: Hallelujah! Praise to our Servant King: Hallelujah!

Let all with heart and voice, saved by God's gracious choice, now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah! Let praises fill the sky: Hallelujah!

Christ calls his people friends, the helpless he defends, a love that never ends: Hallelujah!

Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah! Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah!  
The whole creation o'er let all God's love adore, singing forever more: Hallelujah!

### ***PRAYER FOR RENEWAL***

**Creator God—maker and shaper of our pathways, you sent Jesus to live among us, entering and experiencing the human journey—walking beside us on the road. In your Spirit—midwife and nurturer of our potential, we hear the call to venture out to new lands and experiences. God in Three—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—shaper, sharer and stirrer of our journeys—grace us with mission and adventure. Amen.**

### ***WORDS OF GRACE***

By grace, we are God's people.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## **FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** Acts 2:14a, 36-41 (Three thousand new followers of the Way.) NRSV Helena Barkla

<sup>14</sup>But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen to what I say. <sup>36</sup>Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

<sup>37</sup>Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” <sup>38</sup>Peter said to them, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>39</sup>For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” <sup>40</sup>And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” <sup>41</sup>So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

**GIFT OF MUSIC** Christ Still Rises (B.Brody/D.Bjorlin) David Pilkey

*Christ still rises when fear grips our city, when death takes no pity, when much is unknown.  
Christ still rises when friends are divided, when joy feels misguided, when we are alone.  
Christ still rises when churches are shuttered, when praises are muttered, when prayers go unsaid.  
Christ still rises when peace has all faded, when we are most jaded, when faith turns to dread,  
when faith turns to dread.*

*Christ still rises when we give to neighbours, when we share our labours, when strangers belong.  
Christ still rises when we come together, when love is our tether, when hope is our song.  
Christ still rises when grieving is ended, when bodies are mended, when beauty heals pain.  
Christ still rises when fear is retreated, when death is defeated and joy will remain, and joy will remain.*

**GOSPEL** Luke 24:13-35 (Jesus' appearance on the road to Emmaus.) NRSV

<sup>13</sup>Now on that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, <sup>14</sup>and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. <sup>15</sup>While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, <sup>16</sup>but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. <sup>17</sup>And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. <sup>18</sup>Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" <sup>19</sup>He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, <sup>20</sup>and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. <sup>21</sup>But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. <sup>22</sup>Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, <sup>23</sup>and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. <sup>24</sup>Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him." <sup>25</sup>Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! <sup>26</sup>Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" <sup>27</sup>Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. <sup>28</sup>As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. <sup>29</sup>But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. <sup>30</sup>When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. <sup>31</sup>Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. <sup>32</sup>They said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?" <sup>33</sup>That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. <sup>34</sup>They were saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!" <sup>35</sup>Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

*Come to the quiet...a time for reflection*

**SERMON** Easter Road

**HYMN** We Are Pilgrims (VU 595)

We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other walk the mile and share the load.

Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the truth you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

**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** Called by Earth and Sky (*Mayberry/Stubington*) MV 135

*Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high. This is our sacred, living trust,  
treasure of life, sanctified, called by earth and sky.*

Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean's dream,  
waters of healing, rivers of rain, the wash of love again. *Called by earth and sky...*

Precious this gift, the air we breathe; wind born and free.  
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place, our gathering and our grace. *Called by earth and sky...*

Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile land.  
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong, Creation's faithful song. *Called by earth and sky...*

Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day.  
Fire of passion, sorrows undone, our faith and justice one.

*Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high. This is our sacred, living trust,  
treasure of life, sanctified, called by earth and sky. Called by earth and sky.*

**COMMISSIONING & BLESSING**

Let us go now—engaging and growing into God's love—  
**for ourselves, for our communities, and for the world.**

And now, 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 (Suite Bergamasque) *Claude Debussy*



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast are on traditional Territories of Indigenous Peoples.



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***Participating in Worship today...***

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar

Margaret Heney, Music Coordinator

The Lyon & Keffer-Lyon family, Helena Barkla, David Pilkey

The AUC Chancel Choir

***With thanks to...*** Bob Kyriakides, worship video editing

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