

Welcome to Aurora United Church

...uniting hearts and hands on the journey



In Praise of a Mothering God...

Sunday, May 10, 2020

Christian Family Sunday

*You don't choose your family. They are God's gift to you,
as you are to them. (Desmond Tutu)*

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Prelude in D Flat, Op. 28 No.15 (*Frederic Chopin*)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *Lighting of the Christ Candle*

CALL TO WORSHIP Colin & Abby Sinclair

It is God who calls us to gather, even here...
even virtually, so we may know God's love.

**We are parents, grandparents and godparents;
foster parents and adoptive parents;
mentors, teachers, coaches and guides;
the neighbourhood aunties, uncles and grandparents;
and the children we care for; the children we are.**

As we celebrate Christian Family Sunday,
we remember our mothers, and those who are like mothers to us;
**we celebrate and honour everyone who teaches us,
everyone who has taught us how to love;
everyone who has shown us love in so many ways.**

We stop and wonder at the richness of our family of faith,
**and praise God that we are still a family,
though we are distanced from one another
in this time.**

Come and worship, family of God!

We come in worship!

HYMN Would You Bless Our Homes and Families *VU 556*

Would you bless our homes and families, Source of life who calls us here;
in our world of stress and tension teach us love that conquers fear.
Help us learn to love each other with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles, love's expressed in many ways.

When our way is undemanding, let us use the time that's ours
to delight in simple pleasures, sharing joys in gentle hours.
When our way is anxious walking, and a heavy path we plod,
teach us trust in one another and in you, our gracious God.

From the homes in which we're nurtured, with the love that shapes us there, teach us, God, to claim as family every one whose life we share. And through all that life may offer, may we in your love remain; may the love we share in families be alive to praise your name.

Let us reach beyond the boundaries of our daily thought and care till the family you have chosen spills its love out everywhere. Help us learn to love each other with a love that constant stays; teach us when we face our troubles love's expressed in many ways.

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Loving God, you parent us all our days. Even before we acknowledged you, you loved us; you laboured to bring us to birth—new birth, and how joyful for you was that birthing. In the inner places of our lives you nourish us, offering us the feeding that we need to grow as people. No matter how often we desert you, you never turn your face away from us, and your abiding concern is always for our good. You weep for us, you laugh with us—you rejoice in our successes and are in anguish at our pain. We rest in the shadow of your wing, knowing that you love us. Loving, mothering God, strong and tender, we are yours. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

God's love embraces each of us.

Thanks be to God!

STORY The Great Realization: A Coronavirus Story (YouTube)

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE 1 Peter 2:2-10 (A chosen race, a royal priesthood, living stones.) Janice Nolan

Like newborn infants, long for the pure, spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow into salvation—if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good. Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in scripture: "See, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious; and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame." To you then who believe, he is precious; but for those who do not believe, "The stone that the builders rejected has become the very head of the corner," and "A stone that makes them stumble, and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble

because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do. But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

GIFT OF MUSIC Know My Heart (*Benjamin Harlan*) AUC Chancel Choir, February 11/18

GOSPEL John 14:1-14 (I am the way, the truth, the life.) NRSV

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also.

And you know the way to the place where I am going.” Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him.” Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father, and we will be satisfied.” Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; but if you do not, then believe me because of the works themselves. Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father. I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If in my name you ask me for anything, I will do it.

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Finding the Way

HYMN Draw the Circle Wide (*G.Light*) MV 145

***Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still. Let this be our song,
no one stands alone, standing side by side, draw the circle wide.***

God the stillpoint of the circle, ‘round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever, in God's gracious arms. ***Draw the circle...***

Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call. *Draw the circle...*

Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door. *Draw the circle...*

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 To Show by Touch and Word VU 427

To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,
to hold in full regard all life that comes to birth,
we need, O God, the will to find the good you had of old in mind.

Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,
our hearts to long for truth till pride of self is lost.
For every challenge that we face we need your guidance and your grace.

Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm,
and let our lives portray your word in human form.
Now come with us that we may have your wits about us where we live.

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

Sent to be a blessing, let us feel ourselves blessed.
For we *are* blessed by God who loves us, cherishes us,
knows us in the deep and quiet stillness of our hearts.
**Sent to be a blessing, let us know ourselves blessed,
held in the good heart of God as we continue to live
in God's world.** (B.Root, adapted)

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 Duo (Suite Du Premier Ton) *Louis-Nicolas Clerambault*



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

Colin & Abby Sinclair, Janice Nolan, AUC Chancel Choir

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

Keegan Comar, videographer...and to all who are filming at home in order
to participate in worship in some way! ☺



