

Welcome to Aurora United Church

...uniting hearts and hands on the journey



Pride/Church Union/Trinity Sunday

June 7, 2020

*Holy Mystery, Wholly Love, God who comes in wind and dove: fire of creation, ice on sea,
wave of wheat field, word in Cree; all who sing your love are loved. All who love your song now sing:
singing thanks for your embrace, lead us to healing with holy grace.*

(Catherine MacLean, 2008)

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Every Season (*Nicole Nordeman*) David Pilkey

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *Lighting of the Christ Candle*

CALL TO WORSHIP Joyce & Brett Hagarty

Gather us, O God,

and we will know your life

that makes us one.

Gather us, O God,

and we will celebrate

our variety and uniqueness.

Gather us, O God,

and we will give you

the pain of our brokenness.

Gather us, O God,

and we will share the gifts of your Spirit.

Trinity of love, bind us as one—

that our brokenness be healed by you;

that our fears be held by you;

that our gifts be used by you;

that our lives be shaped by you.

People of God—

Let us worship!

Lighting of the Red Candle

Today we light the red candle, symbolizing life in all its richness.

Come, let us worship, learn and celebrate together.

HYMN Let Us Build a House (*Marty Haugen*) MV 1

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,

a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;

here the love of Christ shall end divisions: All are welcome, all are welcome,

all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Creating God—God of mercy, as we have acknowledged the diversity in this amazing world, created in atoms and molecules but with an underlying spirit of mystery, we must also admit that, at times, we have forgotten of the wonders of that diversity. We have longed for things to be familiar and as they have always been. We know that the great religious traditions have caused harm in the past and continue to cause harm and pain to those who express their being in ways different than the majority. We know, too, that we individually, both intentionally and unintentionally, have rejected and shunned those who are not like us. For this we are truly sorry and ask your patience as we learn and strive for ways to be more inclusive and celebrate all in this wondrous world. Amen.

Lighting of the Orange Candle

We light the orange candle, symbolizing healing. As scripture assures, 'If I take the wings of the Morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right Hand shall hold me fast.' (*Psalm 139:9-10 NRSV*)

Thanks be to God!

THEME STORY Families, Families, Families (by Suzanne & Max Lang)

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 (Agree with one another; live in peace.) NRSV

Debbie Schieck

Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell. Put things in order, listen to my appeal, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you. The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

GIFT OF MUSIC True Colours (Cyndi Lauper) David Pilkey

SCRIPTURE Acts 15:4-13 (The call to embrace those who are marginalized.) The Message

4-5 When they got to Jerusalem, Paul and Barnabas were graciously received by the whole church, including the apostles and leaders. They reported on their recent journey and how God had used them to open things up to the outsiders. Some Pharisees stood up to say their piece. They had become believers, but continued to hold to the hard party line of the Pharisees. “You have to circumcise the pagan converts,” they said. “You must make them keep the Law of Moses.”

6-9 The apostles and leaders called a special meeting to consider the matter. The arguments went on and on, back and forth, getting more and more heated. Then Peter took the floor: “Friends, you well know that from early on God made it quite plain that he wanted the pagans to hear the Message of this good news and embrace it—and not in any secondhand or roundabout way, but firsthand, straight from my mouth. And God, who can’t be fooled by any pretense on our part but always knows a person’s thoughts, gave them the Holy Spirit exactly as he gave him to us. He treated the outsiders exactly as he treated us, beginning at the very center of who they were and working from that center outward, cleaning up their lives as they trusted and believed him.

10-11 “So why are you now trying to out-god God, loading these new believers down with rules that crushed our ancestors and crushed us, too? Don’t we believe that we are saved because the Master Jesus amazingly and out of sheer generosity moved to save us just as he did those from beyond our nation? So what are we arguing about?”

12-13 There was dead silence. No one said a word. With the room quiet, Barnabas and Paul reported matter-of-factly on the miracles and wonders God had done among the other nations through their ministry. The silence deepened; you could hear a pin drop.

Lighting of the Yellow Candle

We light the yellow candle, symbolizing sunlight/enlightenment.

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON **The Rainbow Connection**

HYMN **Open My Eyes, That I May See** VU 371

Open my eyes that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me;
place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear;
and while the wave-notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere;
open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share.
Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see.
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Lighting of the Green Candle

We light the green candle now, symbolizing nature.

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

Lighting of the Blue Candle

We light the blue candle now, symbolizing harmony.

HYMN My Love Colours Outside the Lines *(G.Light) MV 138*

My love colours outside the lines, exploring paths that few could ever find;
and takes me into places where I've never been before, and opens doors
to worlds outside the lines.

My Lord colours outside the lines, turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
and takes me into places where I've never been before, and open doors
to worlds outside the lines.

*We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown, body and soul need a soaking
from time to time. And we'll never move the gravestones if we're not prepared to die,
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.*

My soul longs to colour outside the lines, tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I've never been before, throw open doors
to worlds outside the lines.

We'll never walk on water....

My soul longs to colour outside the lines, tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I've never been before, throw open doors
to worlds outside the lines.

Lighting of the Purple Candle

We light the purple candle, symbolizing Spirit....of unity, diversity and love.

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

This morning we have lit candles:

Red for life in all its forms,

Orange for healing,

Yellow for sunlight and enlightenment,

Green for nature in all her diversity,

Blue for harmony, and

Purple for the Spirit—of unity, diversity and love...

the Spirit which guides us all...

We are called to practice this rainbow of colours in our lives—in the conversations and interactions in our lives in this time—sharing the message that God’s love is for everyone!

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 I Will Always Love You (*Dolly Parton*) Halifax Gay Men’s Chorus



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

Debbie Schieck, David Pilkey, Joyce & Brett Hagarty

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

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

The hymn recordings today are from...

More Voices: Audio CD (The UCC, 2007)

Voices United-Accompaniment Collection Volume 4 (The UCC, 2009)

Portions of today’s liturgy are taken from... ‘Stories From the Heart: Worship Service for Pride
by Linda Hutchinson, 2019.

