

## *Welcome to Aurora United Church*

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



*Crowds gather in Toronto, marching for 'Black Lives Matter', June 2020*

## *Pentecost 2*

*June 14, 2020*

*Compassion asks us to go where it hurts, to enter into the places of pain—to share in brokenness, fear, confusion, and anguish. Compassion challenges us to cry out to those in misery, to mourn with those who are lonely, to weep with those in tears. Compassion requires us to be weak with the weak, vulnerable with vulnerable, and powerless with the powerless. (Henri Nouwen, 20<sup>th</sup> century)*

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE**    How Can I Keep From Singing (*Janet Vogt*)    Lisa Kyriakides

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP**    Frank Pulumbarit & Lara deWaal

Let us give thanks to our Creator  
for the Creator is always with us.

**Creator and creating God,  
you have given life to all around us.**

You call us to be with you whether we  
are inside the shelter of our homes  
or outside in the shelter of your trees.

**God is with us when we are able to  
gather together, when we are social  
distancing with our families or when  
we are alone.**

We answer God's call wherever we are.

**And so we sing and pray, and listen  
attentively for your voice—Creator God—  
Father, Mother, Friend. Let us worship!**

**HYMN**    Come and Find the Quiet Centre    VU 374

Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:  
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see  
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,  
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face,  
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,  
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:  
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

***PRAYER FOR RENEWAL***

Spirit of God, you dance among us, filling our world with possibility, revealing the music of the Creator. We rejoice at your daring spontaneity and find ourselves caught off-guard by your unexpected communications. In a world that is often hostile and violent, your mediating love builds a path from loneliness to companionship—from antagonism and hate to cooperation and understanding. Your vitality shouts a mighty 'Yes' to life and declares the source of all living to be the One from whom you proceed—the Father and Mother--Creator and Love of all. Amen. (*Iona Community, adapted*)

***WORDS OF ASSURANCE***

God works in us and among us to transform the world.  
**Thanks be to God!**

***THEME STORY***     The Giving Tree (A Story by Shel Silverstein) YouTube  
Jordan Hendrickson, artist

***FINDING GOD TOGETHER***

***SCRIPTURE***     Romans 5:1-8 (Justified by faith.)     NRSV     Pat Innes

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.

**GIFT OF MUSIC**      At Peace (*Rob Cairns*)      Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensemble  
*'We offer this piece today in memory of Kate Revington, a member of Faith-A-Peal for the past few years. After a long battle with cancer, we pray she is at peace.'*

**GOSPEL**      Matthew 9:35-10:8 (Jesus and the disciples, preach and heal.)      NRSV

Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him.

These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. As you go, proclaim the good news, 'The kingdom of heaven has come near.' Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

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

**SERMON**      Bearing Witness

**HYMN**      Called by Earth and Sky      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.*

### **SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

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

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER**

**HYMN** May the God of Hope Go with Us VU 424

May the God of hope go with us every day,  
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way,  
bringing light and hope to every land and race.  
Praying, let us work for peace, singing, share our joy with all,  
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

May the God of healing free the earth from fear,  
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.  
May the God of love keep our commitment clear  
to a world restored, to human life renewed.  
Praying, let us work for peace, singing, share our joy with all,  
working for a world that's new, faithful when we hear Christ's call.

### **COMMISSIONING & BLESSING**

In this time of great challenge and of hope,  
let us live with hearts open wide...

**to all the adventure,  
all the pain,  
all the joy,  
of being God's people—  
in every place life calls us to be.**

*(Bob 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** Abraham, Martin and John (*Dion*) David Pilkey



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

Lisa Kyriakides, David Pilkey, Pat Innes, Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensemble,  
Lara deWaal & Frank Pulumbarit

***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)

