

# *Welcome to Aurora United Church*

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



*The Sower (Sower with Setting Sun) 1888—Vincent van Gogh*

## *Pentecost 6*

*July 12, 2020*

*'Every leaf that grows will tell you: what you sow will bear fruit,  
so if you have any sense my friend, don't plant anything but love.'*  
(Rumi)

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Be Thou My Vision (*Hall/Slane*) Mackenzie & John Malarczyk

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

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

***Acknowledgment of Territory***

*As we come into worship today, we acknowledge that we reside and worship on the traditional lands of the people of the William Treaty First Nations (Chippiwias of Beausoleil First Nation) Georgina Island First Nation, Rama First Nation, Mississaugas of Alderville First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation and the Scugog First Nation...and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** The Gilpin Family: Doug, Sylvia, Peter & Emily

Like a seed growing  
in the darkness of the soil,

**Our faith puts down roots  
and breaks through into sunlight.**

Like a mustard seed  
starting out small and insignificant,

**our faith can grow to be  
far more than we imagined.**

Our God is with us;

**encouraging our faith and growth.**

God is in the places where we live and worship.

**We come in worship!**

**HYMN** How Firm a Foundation (*Welsh Folk Melody*) VU 660

How firm a foundation, you servants of God,

is laid for your faith in God's excellent word!

What more can be said than to you has been said,

to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

‘Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I’ll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.’

‘When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.’

‘When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply:  
the flame shall not hurt you, I only design  
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.’

‘The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not—I will not desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavor to shake,  
I’ll never—no, never—no, never forsake!’

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

**God of Creation, you speak, and when we listen we are moved to act and to be the people you have made us to be. You put a song of freedom and love and life deep within us. Sometimes we sing that song with confidence and honesty and courage, and at other times it is as though we have forgotten the words and the timing. Sing to us again, O God, in ways that move us and inspire us. Help us to discern the rhythms and cadences of your way in the world so that we might, with all our hearts—sing along. Amen.**

### ***WORDS OF ASSURANCE***

God’s grace washes over us.

**Thanks be to God!**

***THEME STORY*** Taking Flight (A small boy’s day with Grandpa transforms into an epic adventure.)  
(Moombot Studios Emmy-nominated short film inspired by the life and heritage of Antonio Pasin,  
inventor of the Radio Flyer wagon.) YouTube

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 65 (Praise is due to God.) VU p.782 Paula Hanna

Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion;  
to you shall vows be performed.

**You give heed to prayer; to you all mortals shall come.**

The burden of our sins is too great for us,  
**but you will purge them away.**

Blessed are the people you choose  
and bring to dwell in your courts.

**We shall be filled with the blessings of your house,  
your holy temple.**

With awesome deeds you answer our prayers for deliverance,  
O God our saviour—

**you that are the hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the far-off seas.**

By your strength you make fast the mountains,  
**and gird yourself round with power.**

You still the raging of the seas,  
**and the roaring of the waves, the tumult of the peoples.**

Those who dwell at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your wonders;  
**the gateways of both morning and evening shout for joy.**

You visit the earth and water it,

**You make it very fruitful.**

The waters of heaven brim over their banks,

**providing us with grain, for so you have prepared the land,**

drenching its furrows, settling its ridges,

**softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.**

You crown the year with goodness,

**and your paths overflow with plenty.**

The pastures of the wilderness abound with grass,

**and the hills are girded with joy.**

The fields are clothed with sheep;

**The valleys are decked with wheat,  
so that they shout and sing for joy.**

**GIFT OF MUSIC**    Come Thou Fount (*Wyeth/Robinson*) Mackenzie & John Marlarczyk

**GOSPEL**    Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (The Parable of the Sower.)                      NRSV

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

'Hear then the parable of the sower. When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what is sown in the heart; this is what was sown on the path. As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet such a person has no root, but endures only for a while, and when trouble or persecution arises on account of the word, that person immediately falls away. As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the lure of wealth choke the word, and it yields nothing. But as for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty.'

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

**SERMON**    Sown in Generosity

**HYMN**    Though I May Speak (*Hal H. Hopson*) VU 372

Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
and have the gift to all inspire,  
and have not love, my words are vain,  
as sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,  
and striving so my love profess,  
but not be given by love within,  
the profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
by this we worship , and are freed.

### **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** Lord, Your Hands Have Formed (*Ramon and Sanio Oliano/Ikahlahan Melody*) MV 181

God, your hands have formed this world, every part is shaped by you.  
Water tumbling over rocks, air and sunlight each day's signs  
that you make all things new.

Yours the soil that holds the seed, you give warmth and moisture, too.  
Sprouting crops and blossom buds, trees and plants: the season's signs  
that you make all things new.

We search out new ground to weed, even mountain fields will do.  
You uproot the toughest sins from our souls: both steward signs  
that you make all things new.

Like a mat you roll out land, space to build for us and you  
earthly homes and in our midst, homes for Christ, the truest sign  
that you make all things new.

#### **COMMISSIONING & BLESSING**

For the sowing to be effective,  
the seeds must be scattered broadly and in quantity.

**And so, in this time, we will find new ways  
to sow the love of God into 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** And So It Goes (Stay At Home Choir, with the King's Singers) YouTube



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  
John & Mackenzie Malarczyk, Doug, Sylvia, Peter & Emily Gilpin,  
Paula Hanna

***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)

