

Welcome to Aurora United Church

...uniting hearts and hands on the journey



Pentecost 7

July 19, 2020

*In the heated days of summer we seek and sometimes find that cool, green space,
a sanctuary for a weary soul. A space apart in which to shed the dreariness of life;
a holy place where Creation's spirit moves and renewed life begins.*

(Pat Milliken)

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Grace --written and performed by Glenn Marais

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 Hanna/Verschelden Family: Jennifer, Skyler, Damien, Sabrina, Alexis

No matter where we are,

God is with us.

On the highest peaks,

in the deepest oceans.

Wrapped in cool shadows,

or in the bright summer sun.

No matter where we are,

God is with us.

No matter where we are,

We are in God.

HYMN Come Touch Our Hearts (*Gordon Light*) MV 12

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire; love strong enough
to overturn injustice, to seek a world more gracious,
come touch and bless our hearts.

Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
your quiet presence all our fears dispel; create a space
for spirit to grow in us, let life and beauty fill us,
come touch and bless our souls.

Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;
help us to open doors of understanding, to welcome
truth and wisdom, come touch and bless our minds.

Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;
that we may rise to follow and to serve, steady now
our nerve, come touch and bless our wills.

Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,
to break the bread and share the cup of peace;
that we may love you with our heart, our soul, our mind,
our strength, our all, come touch us with your grace.

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

In the stillness of creation there is life and growth. Thank you God, for the trees that shade us, for the river whose waters have come from distant places and are travelling on. Thank you for nature's babies, shielded and taught by protective parents; for the wind and sky, for the breath of summer that warms us, and for the sun's amazing gifts that shine on all. Silently you offer us the wholeness of creation. In trust, you open your hand, gracing us with creation's care. May our living bless your creation. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

As close as our next drawn breath...God is.
Thanks be to God!

THEME STORY The Tin Can (Is it possible for a spider and a fly be friends?)

YouTube

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Romans 8:12-25 (Creation groans with labour pains.) NRSV Nancy Kerswill

So then, brothers and sisters, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— for if you live according to the flesh, you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ—if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and will obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

GIFT OF MUSIC By My Side --written and performed by Glenn Marais

SCRIPTURE Genesis 28:10-19a (Jacob’s dream.) NRSV

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went toward Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, “I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring. Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.”

Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, “Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!” And he was afraid, and said, “How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.” So Jacob rose early in the morning, and he took the stone that he had put under his head and set it up for a pillar and poured oil on the top of it. He called that place Bethel; but the name of the city was Luz at the first.

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Travelling Mercies

HYMN I Am the Dream (S.C.Tufts/R.Gunn) MV 106

I am the dream and you the dreamer.
I am the song and you are the rhyme.
You are the tune sung in every silence.
You are the now in the endless stream of time.

I am the bell and you the silence.
You are the yearning I cannot curtail.
I am the blest and you the blessing.
You are the wilds in which I lose my trail.

You are the word and I the echo.
You are the leader and I am the led.
You are the joy and I the laughter.
You are the Rock on which I lay my head.

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 All the Way My Saviour Leads Me (*Fanny J. Crosby/R.S. Lowry*) VU 635

All the way my Saviour leads me; what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort, here by faith in him to dwell,
for I know where e'er befall me, Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Saviour leads me, cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for every trial, feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter, and my soul athirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me, lo, a spring of joy I see!

All the way my Saviour leads me; O the fullness of his love!
Perfect rest to me is promised in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed, immortal, wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages, 'Jesus led me all the way!'

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

As we return to this warm, summer day,
let us live out what we know to be true:
that God goes with us in all things.

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 The Lord Is My Shepherd (*John Rutter*) John Rutter, conducting *YouTube*
(The Mark Thallander Foundation Choir Festival-February 17, 2008)



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

Glenn Marais

The Hanna/Verschelden Family: Jennifer, Skyler, Damien, Sabrina, Alexis

Nancy Kerswill

With thanks to... Noah Comar, videographer, Bob Kyriakides, worship video editing...
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)

