

# *Welcome to Aurora United Church*

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



## *Pentecost 8*

*July 26, 2020*

*Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world.*

*For, indeed, that's all who ever have.*

*(Margaret Mead)*

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Sway (*arr. Sandra Eithun*) Bellissimo Handbell Ensemble, accompanied by Steve Falk, David Pilkey, Marcia Kaye, David Price (AUC 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary concert, May 27, 2018.)

**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 (Chippewas 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**

Make a joyful noise, all you people!

**We come to worship from the comfort and companionship  
of our homes and cottages, with a song in our hearts!**

Know that God has shaped you and forms you and dwells  
deep within you.

**We come with thanksgiving, with praises on our lips.**

God is good.

**God is good indeed!**

Let us worship.

**Let us worship!**

**HYMN** Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven (*Lyte/Goss*) VU 240

Praise my soul, the God of heaven, glad of heart your carols raise;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, who, like me, should sing God's praise.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise the Maker all your days!

Praise God for the grace and favour shown our forebears in distress;  
God is still the same forever, slow to chide and swift to bless.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Sing our Maker's faithfulness!

Like a loving parent caring, God knows well our feeble frame;  
gladly all our burdens bearing, still to countless years the same.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! All within me, praise God's name!

Angels, teach us adoration, you behold God face to face;  
sun and moon and all creation, dwellers all in time and space.  
Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise with us the God of grace!

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

**You we praise, Steadfast Love, for your presence never abandons us, but is at our side in all of life. There is no cobwebbed corner that is not claimed by your grace. You we praise, Teller of parables. Your words challenge us in moments of doubt, as well as in our times of great faith. When we run around in circles chasing our worries and fears like a dog after it's tail, you whisper hope to us. You we praise, Spirit who calls to our hearts. Your voice is that gentle whisper in a world filled with angry shouts; your joy is that refreshing shower when despair parches our souls; your wonder opens our eyes and ears to the gifts which surround our lives. You we praise, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.** (Thom Thurman. Lectionary Liturgies, 2020)

### ***WORDS OF GRACE***

In sorrow so deep we cannot find our way out,  
**God cradles us in comfort;**  
in moments so shadowed we trip over our fears,  
**God lights the way for us;**  
in joy which cascades into our souls,  
**God fills us with healing.**  
Even when we cannot see it, God's hope is all around us,  
surrounding us with peace and healing.  
**Thanks be to God!**

***THEME STORY***     The Box (Sometimes friendship takes patience.) YouTube

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**RESPONSIVE READING**    Psalm 105:1-11, 45b (VU p.828 Part One)    Dawn Horstead

Give thanks and call on God's name.  
Make known to the nations what God has done.

**Sing, O sing the songs of praise;  
tell of all God's wonderful deeds.**

Exult in God's holy name;  
**let those who seek God be joyful in heart.**

Turn for help to the One who is your strength;  
seek God's presence continually.

**Remember the marvels the Most High has done,  
the wonders and judgements God has given,**

O children of Abraham and Sarah, God's servants,  
**O offspring of Israel, chosen of God.**

You are the eternal God,  
**Your justice reaches every corner of the earth.**

You are ever mindful of your covenant,  
the promise you gave to a thousand generations,  
**the covenant you made with Sarah and Abraham,  
the oath you gave Isaac.**

You confirmed it for Jacob as binding.  
To Israel your everlasting covenant you declared,  
**'To you I give the land of Canaan,  
as your appointed inheritance.'**

**GIFT OF MUSIC**    In Faith the Triumph (*Jason Krug*) Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensemble (2015)

**SCRIPTURE**    Romans 8:26-39 (The Spirit intercedes for us.)    NRSV

<sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. <sup>28</sup>We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup>For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. <sup>30</sup>And those whom he predestined he also

called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup>What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

<sup>32</sup>He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. <sup>35</sup>Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." <sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup>nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

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

**SERMON** Inseparable

**HYMN** Spirit God, Be Our Breath (*Bruce Harding*) MV 150

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song. Blow through us,  
bringing strength to move on. Our world seems inward,  
defensive, withdrawn...Spirit God, be our song.

Patient God: soothe our pride, calm our fear. Comfort us.  
When we know you are near we grow more certain,  
our vision is clear. Patient God, calm our fear.

Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer. Reaching out,  
joining hands as we share, we seek your guidance through  
friendship and care. Loving God, be our prayer.

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song. Blow through us,  
bringing strength to move on. Through change, through challenge,  
we'll greet the new dawn...Spirit God, be our song.

**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** Great Is Thy Faithfulness (*T.Chisolm/W.Runyan*) VU 288

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—  
great is thy faithfulness, every to me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—  
great is thy faithfulness, every to me!*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—  
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—  
great is thy faithfulness, every to me!*

**COMMISSIONING & BLESSING**

Summer warmth takes us to thoughtful places—

**places of dreaming--of hoping--of loving.**

In the open-ended possibilities of this day,

**may we reach out to those who struggle to dream--  
to hope—to love...**

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** Sing Gently (*Eric Whitacre*) World Virtual Choir, Eric Whitacre conducting...  
17,572 singers from 129 countries.



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

Dawn Horstead

Bellissimo Handbell Ensemble, Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensemble

***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)

