

# *Welcome to Aurora United Church*

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



## *Thanksgiving Sunday*

*October 11, 2020*

*As harvest time returns, the varied ways in which God wraps life-giving seeds make for a colourful display of fruit and flowers of every kind; beauty of pattern and design. This is a feast for all to share, filling our hearts with gratitude for God's constant love and care. (B.Chatfield)*

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Sweet Seasons (Carole King) David Pilkey/Steve Falk

**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 Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation... and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Jeff, Shannon & Brendan Clark

For the promise of harvest  
contained within a seed;

**we thank you.**

For the oak tree within the acorn;

**we thank you.**

For the bread within a grain;

**we thank you.**

For the apple within an apple seed;

**we thank you.**

For the mystery of your Creation;  
realized in this thanksgiving time,  
we thank you, God.

**We thank you; let us worship!**

**HYMN** Come, You Thankful People, Come (H.Alford/G.J.Elvey) VU 516

Come, you thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home!  
All is safely gathered in, safe before the storms begin;  
God, our maker, does provide for our needs to be supplied:  
come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home.

All the world is God's own field, harvests for God's praise to yield;  
wheat and weeds together sown, here for joy or sorrow grown;  
first the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear:  
Harvest-giver, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For our God, one day shall come, and shall take this harvest home;  
from the field shall in that day all offences purge away;  
giving angels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast;  
but the fruitful ears to store in the garner evermore.

Even so, God, quickly come to your final harvest home!  
Gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin;  
there for ever purified, in your presence to abide:  
come, with all your angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.

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

**Creating God, Giver of the harvest, Source of creation and growth, we turn to you in the midst of the work of gathering in your bounty, in the midst of enjoying the beauty of this colourful season and to offer thanks for our many blessings. Though our Thanksgiving celebrations in this year of great challenge do not resemble gatherings as in other years, still, Loving God, we are thankful for the gifts of your Spirit in this time of change. When we have forgotten to give thanks, or when we have squandered our gifts, or when we have kept our gifts just for ourselves—turn us—inspire us to create circles of your grace and love in new and creative ways—in thanks. Amen.**

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

God encourages our growth, in living-in giving.  
**Thanks be to God!**

### ***THEME STORY***    Gratitude *(by Meir Kay) YouTube*

(Practicing gratitude/thanksgiving and implementing it in our lives through prayer, lists, sharing, is a major part in realizing the good we have already—right now, in our lives!)

***FINDING GOD TOGETHER***

**RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 65 VU p.782 Emma Kerswill  
(God provides; the valleys shout and sing!)

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 savior—

**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** Thanksgiving Song (*Mary Chapin Carpenter*) David Pilkey/Steve Falk

**GOSPEL** Luke 17:11-19 (Healing and thanksgiving.) NRSV

<sup>11</sup>On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, <sup>13</sup>they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” <sup>14</sup>When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. <sup>15</sup>Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. <sup>16</sup>He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. <sup>17</sup>Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they?” <sup>18</sup>Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup>Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

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

**SERMON** From a Distance—Giving Thanks in Difficult Times

**HYMN** Creator God You Gave Us Life (*J.Snowdon*) MV 27

Creator God you gave us life, your image formed within our souls,  
yet through the mist of time and space, we search for that which makes us whole.

*Through hands that paint majestic skies, and voices chanting melody,  
with words that reach beyond the page, we comprehend your mystery.*

In every flower and every tree, we see your great diversity,  
yet greater still we see your love, expressed in our humanity.

*Through hands that paint majestic skies, and voices chanting melody,  
with words that reach beyond the page, we comprehend your mystery.*

When with our hearts, our hands and minds, we share our gifts with  
all the world, our spirits soar beyond the veil, to touch the very face of God.

*Through hands that paint majestic skies, and voices chanting melody,  
with words that reach beyond the page, we comprehend your mystery.*

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

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

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**PRAYERSHAWL BLESSING** Anne Ella-Arnold

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

**HYMN** For the Fruit of All Creation (*F.P.Green/Welsh Folk Melody*) VU 227

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.  
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,  
silent growth while we are sleeping,  
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,  
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.  
In our world-wide task of caring  
for the hungry and despairing,  
in the harvests we are sharing,  
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us,  
for the truths that still confound us,  
most of all that love has found us,  
thanks be to God.

**COMMISSIONING & BLESSING**

The God of seed and harvest blesses us—  
**and we bless each other;**  
that the beauty of this world  
**and the love that created it**  
might be expressed through our lives  
**to be a blessing to others, now and always.**

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** For the Beauty of the Earth (*J.Rutter*)  
(Girl Choristers of Winchester Cathedral, July 2020)



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

Jeff, Shannon, Evy and Brendan Clark, Emma Kerswill, David Pilkey,  
Steve Falk, Anne Ella-Arnold

***With thanks to...*** Keegan Comar, videographer, and to Bob Kyriakides,  
video editor...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 United Church of Canada, 2007), *Sing Hallelujah! Volume  
1* (produced by Ralph Milton, The United Church of Canada, 2015) and YouTube

