

# *Welcome to Aurora United Church*

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



## *TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY*

*Honouring Black History Month*

*February 14, 2021*

*We sing of a church seeking to continue the story of Jesus,  
by embodying Christ's presence in the world.*

*(A Song of Faith. U.C.C.2008.)*

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Hymn to Freedom (*Oscar Peterson*) Honouring Black History Month  
Presented by the Kitchener-Waterloo Multicultural Centre YouTube

**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** Peter & Andrea Drost

Who is Jesus for us?

**The continuation of the covenant.**

**The promise of something new.**

**The presence of God's love.**

Who are we for him?

**The continuation of the covenant.**

**The promise of something new.**

**The presence of God's love.**

In God's love—

**he was changed,  
transfigured, and transformed.**

In God's love—

**we are changed,  
given hope,  
made new.**

As people changed and changing,  
as disciples of Christ,  
as followers of Jesus' Way—

**We worship God!**

*(R.Bott, Vancouver, B.C.)*

***HYMN*** We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding (*C.P.Daw /C.V.Taylor*) *VU 104*

We have come at Christ's own bidding  
to this high and holy place; where we wait  
with hope and longing for some token of God's  
grace. Here we pray for new assurance that our  
faith is not in vain, searching like those first  
disciples for a sign both clear and plain.

Light breaks in upon our darkness;  
splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word; Moses  
and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard.  
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the Law  
and Prophets meet. Christ with garments drenched in  
brightness, stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory,  
fearful lest our faith decline, we like Peter find it  
tempting to remain and build a shrine. But true worship  
gives us courage to proclaim what we profess, that our  
daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.

***PRAYER FOR RENEWAL***

**Creator God, you are the source of all time. Yet it neither contains nor constrains you. We who are time-bound acknowledge that often we do not take the time or make the time to enter into your great stillness and gaze on you. In the restless pursuit of the next great thing, we become distracted and wander away from reflecting on you. Help us to escape the bondage of busyness and find those moments of intersection with eternity, when your time and our time come together And we can grow in our awareness of you and of your purposes. We ask this in the name of Christ—the one who came into the world to make visible the Time of God. Amen.**

***WORDS OF GRACE***

God transforms the everyday.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**THEME STORY** The Transfiguration of Jesus Bible Story (*Kids on the Move*) YouTube

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 (The light of knowledge shines in our hearts.) NRSV  
Laurie Bentolila

<sup>3</sup>And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup>In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup>For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup>For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

**GIFT OF MUSIC** Waiting on the World to Change (*J.Mayer*) Steve Falk  
Video: David Pilkey

**GOSPEL** Mark 9:2-9 (The Transfiguration of Jesus.) NRSV

<sup>2</sup>Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain apart, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup>and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup>And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus. <sup>5</sup>Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>6</sup>He did not know what to say, for they were terrified. <sup>7</sup>Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud there came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!" <sup>8</sup>Suddenly when they looked around, they saw no one with them any more, but only Jesus. <sup>9</sup>As they were coming down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

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

**SERMON** Changed

***HYMN*** We Gather Here (*Brian J. Leech*) *VU 469*

We gather here in Jesus' name, his love is burning  
in our hearts like living flame; for through the loving son  
God fashions us as one: Come take the bread, come drink  
the wine, come share the Lord.

No one is a stranger here, everyone belongs; finding  
our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.

He joins us here, he breaks the bread, the One who  
pours the cup is risen from the dead; the One we love  
the most is now our gracious host: Come take the bread,  
come drink the wine, come share the Lord.

We are now a family of which Christ is the head; though  
unseen he meets us here in the breaking of the bread.

We'll gather soon where angels sing; we'll see the glory  
of our Lord and coming King; now we anticipate the feast  
for which we wait: Come take the bread, come drink  
the wine, come share the Lord.

***SHARING GOD'S LOVE***

***THE NEW CREED*** *VU p. 918*

We are not alone,  
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

*(The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968, alt.)*

### ***THE PEACE***

The peace of Christ be with you!  
**And also with you!**

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

### ***OFFERTORY PRAYER***

### ***THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION***

#### Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

O God, you spoke—a word, a yearning, a creation—  
'Let there be light' In that light—your light—creation  
dawned through Love.

**Within the deep and abiding light of your Love,  
relationships evolved into ever greater complexity:  
light upon light, love within love.**

Gazing upon the countless twinkling lights of starry nights,  
Sarah and Abraham envisioned their descendants.

**Witnessing the awe-inspiring beauty of a rainbow's  
light, Noah perceived your promise of hope and of  
communion.**

Led by a fiery pillar blazing in the wilderness night,  
Moses led a grumbling people into identity as a People of God.

**Following the glorious light of a persistent star, Wise Ones  
discovered your vulnerability in a baby boy.**

Hiking to a mountain top for prayer and for retreat, three disciples  
witnessed your revealed glory in Jesus; the Word made flesh,  
a light of humble self-giving for all people. Fear, intrigue,  
uncertainty and doubt overtook too many. Though Jesus brought  
liberation to the oppressed as the Light of the World, we were  
stopped by our fears,

**choosing the familiar instead of the just.**

But you, O God, continued to bring forth light, raising the  
crucified one to life and to wholeness. Therefore, we join  
with all creation to sing:

***O Holy, holy holy God, O God of time and space. All earth and sea  
and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna in the highest  
heav'n, creation sings your praise. And blessed is the One who  
comes and bears your name always. (MV 203)***

*Words of Institution...*

Each time we break this bread and pour this cup, we, too,  
seek to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.  
Each time we break this bread and pour this cup, we, too, seek to  
proclaim the reign of God and the mystery of faith.

***Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again.  
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again! (MV 204)***

God of light and of Love revealed in Jesus, bathe us in your Spirited light which brings us to wholeness.

**Within that light may we know Christ in the breaking of bread, that in word and in deed we may also become light and life.**

Into your loving heart, gracious God, we lift those among us, In our community and in our world who yearn for wholeness In their living, and for light in their loving...

*(prayers for the community...)*

We turn to you now as a mother, praying the words that Jesus taught us to pray, saying, 'Our Father....

***Amen, Amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!***

***Amen, Amen, O Holy One, Hosanna and Amen!*** (MV 205)

### ***SHARING THE FEAST***

*Communion in this time of pandemic will reflect our households as we bring to our living spaces the things which speak of our lives...bread/wine, bread/juice, pita, rice cracker or otherwise. In response to the invitations: 'Jesus Christ, bread of heaven' and, 'Jesus Christ, cup of salvation'... take the elements of your choice, each in their turn, knowing you reside in the embrace of a broad faith community, tied to one another in the Spirit of God made known in Jesus. We are not alone.*

### ***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION***

**Loving One, as our bodies take in the nourishment of your love expressed in Jesus, may we be transformed by it, filled, as we are, with gift and grace. Amen.**

***HYMN*** Bless Now, O God, the Journey (S.Dunstan/B.Harwood) VU 633

Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make,  
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.  
The trail is found in dessert and winds the mountain round,  
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.



Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way,  
whose hope burns through the terrors, whose love sustains  
the day. We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound.  
Together we are seeking the road where faith is found.

Divine Eternal Lover, you meet us on the road.  
We wait for lands of promise where milk and honey flow.  
But waiting not for places, you meet us all around.  
Our covenant is written on roads, where faith is found.

### ***COMMISSIONING & BLESSING***

Jesus was transformed before his friends,  
**filled with the Light of God.**  
We take courage for all of life's uphill journeys;  
**God's light is ours.**

Let us go gladly into the world as we are able...  
to be filled with the love of God. Dance to the song of the Spirit  
and reflect the Christ in each new day. Amen.

***POSTLUDE***    *Amazing Grace (J.Newton)* Jessye Norman  
Kennedy Centre Honours: Sidney Poitier Tribute, 1995 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  
Peter & Andrea Drost, Laurie Bentolila, Steve Falk

*With thanks to...* Noah 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) and YouTube

