

# *Welcome to Aurora United Church*

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



***EASTER SUNDAY***

***April 4, 2021***

*'He is not here, he is risen!'*

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE**

Better Is One Day (*Matt Redman*) Mackenzie & John Malarczyk  
Don't Give Up (*Jules Pastoor*) Jules, Justine, and Brian Pastoor  
I Love to Tell the Story (*William G. Fischer*) Lisa Kyriakides  
Someone Who Loves Me (*Sara Bareilles*) David Pilkey/Steve Falk  
Walking in the Footsteps of God (*Glenn Marais*) Glenn Marais

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

***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.*

**LITANY OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

The Easter promise is grounded in the resurrection of Jesus Christ, from death to life,  
**a promise that we celebrate during this Easter season, a promise graciously extended to each of us by Jesus.**

This is a grace that, through the Holy Spirit, empowers our community life to new and deeper experiences.

**We light this Christ candle naming that gracious gift and promise.**

*(The Christ candle is lit.)*

**HYMN** Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (*L. Davidica*) VU 155

Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!  
Our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!  
Who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!  
Suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, hallelujah!  
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!  
Who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!  
Sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!

But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!  
Our salvation have procured; hallelujah!  
Now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!  
Where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!

Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!  
Praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!  
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!  
Praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!

*CALL TO WORSHIP* Bob, Lisa, Elizabeth & Victoria Kyriakides

Jesus said to Mary, 'Woman, why do you weep?'

**Mary wept because**

**all she could see in front of her was death.**

**She had lost her beloved teacher and friend.**

Jesus says to us, 'My people, why do you weep?'

**Because, so often,**

**all we can see in front of us is death.**

**We often lose sight of our path because  
of the tears and fears.**

When Mary recognized the Christ, he said,  
'I am ascending to my father and your father...  
to my God and your God!'

**And so we look for the Christ**

**in the new life that grows within and without.**

**We remember that death has lost its sting.**

**We celebrate that we are one  
with the risen Christ—**

**part of the family and household of God.**

So we come together to worship.

Christ is risen!

**Christ is risen, indeed!**

Alleluia!

**Alleluia, amen!** (R.Bott, Vancouver, B.C.)

**INTROIT** Fantasia No.1 (Largo and Allegro) by G.P. Telemann (*arr. by Wesley Bells*)  
Wesley Bells, violin

***PRAYER FOR RENEWAL***

Easter God, we sing your praise, for you have raised Jesus from the dead, and now all of life is permeated through and through with your rising. We confess the times you startle us with your presence in the shut-down places of our lives—inviting us into hope where we thought nothing new could happen; pushing down the barriers we had put up to keep our lives safe and in control; connecting us with people we had labelled as strangers. What a strange, new world you are creating. Move us beyond our fears and our assumptions. Keep us awake and alert for signs that you are loose in the world. Then, give us the words to share in community that point to you and to your love. We pray in Jesus' name, who lived and died and was raised by you, surprising everyone and making all things new. Amen.

***WORDS OF GRACE***

Jesus Christ is risen today! God's love is all around us.  
**Thanks be to God!**

***EASTER PAGEANT*** 'Twas the Morning of Easter (*written by, Glenys Nellist*)  
(Presented by the children and families of our Funday Sunday program.)

***FINDING GOD TOGETHER***

***SCRIPTURE*** Acts 10:34-43 (Peter's account of Jesus' death and resurrection.) NRSV

<sup>34</sup>Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality,  
<sup>35</sup>but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.  
<sup>36</sup>You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup>That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup>how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup>We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup>but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup>not to all the people but to us

who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup>He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup>All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

**ANTHEM**            Let All the World in Every Corner Sing (*John A. Behnke*)

The AUC Chancel Choir, The Aldbury Gardens Brass Quartet, and the Handbell Ensembles of AUC: Bellissimo, Faith-A-Peal and Embellished, on the occasion of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the congregation--October 28, 2018

**GOSPEL**    John 20:1-18 (Mary and the empty tomb.) NRSV    Video- The Gospel of John

Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. <sup>2</sup>So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, “They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>3</sup>Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup>The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. <sup>5</sup>He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. <sup>6</sup>Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, <sup>7</sup>and the cloth that had been on Jesus’ head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup>Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; <sup>9</sup>for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup>Then the disciples returned to their homes. <sup>11</sup>But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; <sup>12</sup>and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. <sup>13</sup>They said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping?” She said to them, “They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him.” <sup>14</sup>When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. <sup>15</sup>Jesus said to her, “Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?” Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away.” <sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, “Mary!” She turned and said to him in Hebrew, “Rabbouni!” (which means Teacher). <sup>17</sup>Jesus said to her, “Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” <sup>18</sup>Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord”; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

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

**SERMON** Rise Up

**HYMN** In the Bulb There Is a Flower (*N. Sleeth VU 703*)

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;  
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!  
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;  
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.  
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;  
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.  
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,  
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

**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** The Day of Resurrection (*VU 164*)

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;  
the passover of gladness, the passover of God!  
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,  
our Christ has brought us over, with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be free of evil, that we may see aright  
the Christ in rays eternal of resurrection light,  
and, listening to the accents, may hear so calm and plain  
Christ's own 'All hail!' and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,  
the round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;  
let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,  
for Christ indeed is risen, our Joy that has no end.

**\*COMMISSIONING & BLESSING**

The power of the Creator who brings life out of death, be with us;  
**the Risen Christ be our constant companion.**  
The healing embrace of the Holy Spirit encircle us all--  
**let our joy ring out! Hallelujah!**

**POSTLUDE** Hallelujah Chorus (*G.F.Handel*)  
Video--Easter Sunday, 2019 Aurora High School

Hallelujah,  
for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth, (Hallelujah)  
The kingdom of this world is become the kingdom of our Lord  
and of his Christ, and of his Christ;  
And he shall reign forever and ever,  
King of Kings, and Lord of Lords, (forever and ever, Hallelujah, Hallelujah!)  
And he shall reign forever and ever Hallelujah!

**EASTER BELL PEAL** (*arr. Lisa Kyriakides*) Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensemble



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/ Jules, Justine & Brian Pastoor / Steve Falk/David Pilkey/  
Glenn Marais/ Bob, Lisa, Elizabeth & Victoria Kyriakides/ Wesley Bells/ AUC Chancel  
Choir/ The Aldbury Garden Brass Quartet /the Bellissimo, Faith-A-Peal & Embellished  
Handbell Ensembles/ Doug Gilpin, Sylvia Gilpin, Peter Gilpin, Emily Gilpin,  
Jennifer Hannan, Alexis Hanna, Sabrina Hanna, Damien Hanna/ Debby Schieck,  
Grayson McVeigh, Ella Jade McVeigh, Megan Schieck & Aine Belton - masked  
videographers/ Hudson Brock, Bailey-Mae Brock.

***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...***Sing Hallelujah! Volume 2* (produced by  
Ralph Milton, The United Church of Canada, 2015), YouTube