

Welcome to Aurora United Church

...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.



The Waking Garden: Forsythia, twelve years dormant, springs to life. (Holly Williamson)

EASTER 3

April 18, 2021

Beyond Easter we go singing. Having been grabbed by Resurrection, we are full of tears and laughter. The way ahead is unknown; it will always be like that. But having danced in the light, we will look for glory everywhere. (Ruth Burgess. Iona)

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Be Still for the Presence of the Lord (*D. Evans*) Aled Jones

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

All of life is a circle.

Sunrise to sunset.

Today and tomorrow.

Birth to death.

But there is One, who,
in one timeless moment,
was made to break that pattern.

One who conquered death,
not only for himself, but for us all.

Jesus, whom we call the Christ.

As people of God, as followers of the Christ,
we are invited into this timeless moment.

So we come, in the spirit of worship...

and we worship our God...Alleluia!

Alleluia!

HYMN Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks (*J. Fishel*) VU 179

*Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.*

Jesus is Lord of all the earth, first-born of all creation.

*Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.*

Spread the good news o'er all the earth: Jesus has died and is risen.

*Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.*

We have been crucified with Christ, now we shall live forever.

*Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.*

Come let us praise the living God, joyfully sing to our Saviour.

*Hallelujah, hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ;
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Give praise to God's name.*

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

When we are blinded by anger, you pour out your love for all to see O God; when we wonder what tomorrow will bring, you call us to trust in you; when sadness fills our hearts, you plant gladness in our hearts. God of Easter, touch us with your grace. You show us your hands, so we may reach out to mend the broken; you show us your feet, so we may walk with those the world passes by; you show us your face, so we may know who our sisters and brothers look like. Risen Christ: touch us with your compassion. You open our eyes, so we may see God's love; you open our minds, so we may welcome God's Word; you open our lips, so we may be God's witnesses. Spirit of Hope: touch us with your peace. God in Community, Holy in One, open us to your presence, in Jesus' name. Amen. *(T. Thurman, Lectionary Liturgies, adapted)*

WORDS OF GRACE

By grace we are God's people.
Thanks be to God!

THEME STORY Caterpillar Shoes (The Old Branch) YouTube

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE 1 John 3:1-7 (We are children of God.) NRSV Pat Innes

³See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

GIFT OF MUSIC The Rising (*B. Springsteen*) Frank Pulumbarit, Margaret Heney and the AUC Chancel Choir

GOSPEL Luke 24:36b-48 (Jesus invites the disciples to touch his hands and feet.) NRSV

³⁶While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." ³⁷They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." ⁴⁰And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" ⁴²They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things.

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Practicing Resurrection

HYMN Love is the Touch (*A. Robertson/J. L. Bell*) MV 89

Love is the touch of intangible joy;
love is the force that no fear can destroy;
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;
love is the will to be whole once again;
love is the trust of a friend on the road:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;
love is the kingdom their will has begun;
love is the path which the saints all have trod:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

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 This Is God's Wondrous World (*M. D. Babcock/English Trad.*) VU 296

This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears
all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres.
This is God's wondrous world; I rest me in the thought of rocks
and trees, of skies and seas, God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world: the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise.
This is God's wondrous world: God shines in all that's fair; in the
rustling grass or mountain pass, God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world: O let me ne'er forget that though
the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet.
This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad?
Let voices sing, let the heaven's ring: God reigns, let earth be glad!

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

And now, may Christ who died bless your every day.
May Christ who was raised inspire us in every way.
May Christ who lives, live with you today and always.
We go in the peace of the Risen One!

Creator, Christ and Spirit....Amen!

POSTLUDE A Gaelic Blessing (*J. Rutter*)
Cathedral of St. John the Divine Choir & Chorale



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

Pat Innes, Frank Pulumbarit, Margaret Heney and the AUC Chancel Choir

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), YouTube