

Welcome to Aurora United Church

...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.



EASTER 4

April 25, 2021

*But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
(Amos 5:24)*

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies (*C. Wesley/Werner's Choralbuch*)
AUC Chancel Choir, February 11, 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 Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation... and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Now is the time to sing—
to sing the good news of God;
**who awakens us with the bright sun,
who surrounds us with joy and life.**
Now is the time to offer praise to God,
in every place, with every voice:
**to rejoice in the One who leads us
through each moment with a gentle hand
and a word of hope.**

Now is the time to join with all of creation
in praising God—from the depths of the oceans
to the farthest galaxies:
**we will sing the good news of Easter!
We will rejoice in God who loves us!**

HYMN Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet (*N. Sleeth*) VU 245

Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet,
praise the Lord with the harp and lute,
praise the Lord with the gentle sounding flute.
Praise the Lord in the field and forest,
praise the Lord in the city square,
praise the Lord anytime and anywhere.

Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine,
praise the Lord in the dark of night,
praise the Lord in the rain or snow
or in the morning light.
Praise the Lord in the deepest valley,
praise the Lord on the highest hill,
praise the Lord, never let your voice be still.

Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal,
praise the Lord with the pipe and string,
praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing.
Praise the Lord on a weekday morning,
praise the Lord on a Sunday noon,
praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.
Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow,
praise the Lord in the time of joy,
praise the Lord every moment, nothing
let your praise destroy.
Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet,
praise the Lord in your work or play,
praise the Lord everywhere in every way!

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

God of the universe, who is the origin of what is and what will be, we thank you for the wondrous planet Earth and its placement among galaxies, stars, and planets. We thank you for its abundance of life: for the plant life draped green and flowered over the globe, for all the creatures that swim through the seas, for the astounding range of animal life, and for the ways you are seen and sensed in the creatures of the Earth. We thank you for our creation that is part of the fabric of this world, and for the blessing of being inhabitants of Earth. God of the universe, we thank you for the beauty of this land that is our home, for flowers and birdsong and chorusing frogs, for the stewardship of all who have come before us, and for all who care for the land in our time. We give you thanks for the gifts of water and air, and for the sustaining food that soil and human labour yield, and for the Earth's provision of all our needs. We thank you for this world imbued with beauty, for the abundant generosity of your gifts, your world, and ask that we may be partners in Creation, ensuring the health and wellbeing of the Earth, for ourselves and for future generations. God in One, God in Community, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

(Brian Day, Salt Spring Island, U.C., adapted)

WORDS OF GRACE

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

THEME STORY Organic Farm Fun's Story of the Good Shepherd YouTube

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Psalm 23 (The Lord is my shepherd.) Helena Barkla

**The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want;
he makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters;
he restores my soul.
He leads me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death,
I fear no evil;
for thou art with me;
thy rod and thy staff,
they comfort me.
Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
thou anointest my head with oil,
my cup overflows.
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
for ever.**

GIFT OF MUSIC I Am a Rock (*Paul Simon*) Steve Falk/David Pilkey

GOSPEL John 10:11-18 (Jesus is the good shepherd.) NRSV

11 'I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹²The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. ¹³The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. ¹⁴I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, ¹⁵just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd. ¹⁷For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again. ¹⁸No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father.'

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Of Sheep & Justice

HYMN Are You a Shepherd? (R.Duck/W.Rowan) MV 126

Are you a shepherd, good shepherd who leads us
safely through danger, while calming our fears?
Are you a father who shelters and feeds us,
shared in our laughter and wipes away tears?
*Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,
but you are greater than all that we know.
Holy and living, loving and giving, God,
you are with us wherever we go.*

Are you a mother, good mother who bears us,
comforts, protects us and helps us to rest?
Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,
challenging students to offer their best?
*Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,
but you are greater than all that we know.
Holy and living, loving and giving, God,
you are with us wherever we go.*

Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,
lead all your children in paths that are right.
Great, loving parents, wise teacher you guide us.
We want to love you and bring you delight.
*Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,
but you are greater than all that we know.
Holy and living, loving and giving, God,
you are with us wherever we go.*

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 I Love to Tell the Story (*Katherine Hankey/William G.Fischer*) VU 343

I love to tell the story of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story, because I know 'tis true;
it satisfies my longings as nothing else can do.
*I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

I love to tell the story, more wonderful it seems
than all the golden fancies of all our golden dreams.
I love to tell the story, for some have never heard
the message of salvation from God's own holy Word.
*I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

I love to tell the story, for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,
'twill be the old, old story that I have loved so long.
*I love to tell the story, 'twill be my theme in glory,
to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.*

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

Strength and hope and love flow freely.

We stand in this flow in this Easter season.

It washes new life into you and all the world.

And so, we give thanks and praise.

Go share God's blessings of love, strength,
and hope as you are able.

(R. Wardlaw, Toronto, On..adapted)

Creator, Christ and Spirit....Amen!

POSTLUDE The Lord Is My Shepherd *(H. Goodall) YouTube*
The Georgia Boys Choir—soloist, Andrew Liang
(Uppsala Cathedral, Sweden, 2012)



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

AUC Chancel Choir, Helena Barkla, Steve Falk/David Pilkey

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