

# *Welcome to Aurora United Church*

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



## *EASTER 6*

*Christian Family Sunday*

*Honouring Asian Heritage Month*

*May 9, 2021*

*Having somewhere to go is home. Having someone to love is family.  
Having both is a blessing.*

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE**     Siyahamba (*Zulu Traditional Folksong*) Angel City Chorale,  
with the Amy Foundation Choir

**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**     Doug, Sylvia, Peter & Emily Gilpin

Come, mothers and those who mother!

Come, all who have mothers—

**through birth, adoption, or fostering,  
or simply by being taken under the wing  
of someone with a kindly, mothering soul.**

Come, those for whom today is difficult and  
confusing, those for whom today brings anger  
or grief.

**Today we worship in prayer, music and song  
the God who loves us with a maternal love  
beyond anything we could ask for or imagine,  
beyond what we hope.**

Come, let us worship God!

**HYMN**     Would You Bless Our Homes and Families (*W.Farquharson/R.Klusmeier* VU 556)

Would you bless our homes and families, Source of life who calls us here;  
in our world of stress and tension teach us love that conquers fear.

Help us learn to love each other with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles, loves' expressed in many ways.

When our way is undemanding, let us use the time that's ours  
to delight in simple pleasures, sharing joys in gentle hours.  
When our way is anxious walking, and a heavy path we plod,  
teach us trust in one another and in you, our gracious God.

From the homes in which we're nurtured, with the love that shapes us there,  
teach us, God, to claim as family every one whose life we share.  
And through all that life may offer, may we in your love remain;  
may the love we share in families be alive to praise your name.

Let us reach beyond the boundaries of our daily thought and care  
till the family you have chosen spills its love out everywhere.  
Help us learn to love each other with a love that constant stays;  
teach us when we face our troubles love's expressed in many ways.

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

**On Christian Family Sunday, we think of mothers, thankful for those mothers who have loved and cared for us; grieving for mothers lost to us and those unable to love and care. We think of fathers who were caring and kind, always there, and others who are unknown, far away or unable to love. We think of those in our lives of all genders and all generations, biologically connected, adopted, or befriended, in all the various relationships that make up our family. We rejoice in the love we share with those to whom we are close and count ourselves blessed. Today, on Mother's Day (Christian Family Sunday), we think of the new commandment given to us by Jesus that we are to love one another as he has loved us. We ask for your help, Loving God, in meeting the challenge of loving those in our family with whom we have differences and difficulties, those who have caused us suffering or wronged us, those we have caused suffering or wronged, or those from whom we are estranged for reasons we may not even understand. We confess the parts we may bear in these broken relationships and pray that your love will fill our hearts to overflowing, showing us what healing means in these relationships, as we continue to love others as you have loved us. This we ask in Jesus' name. Amen. (Fern Gibbard, Penticton, U.C., Penticton, B.C.)**

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

God's love embraces each of us.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**THEME STORY**      Help Each Other and Love Each Other... 'One Day' (*Matisyahu*)  
Humanity is Love   YouTube

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**RESPONSIVE READING**      Psalm 98 V.U. p.818 (Sing a new song unto God.)  
Jeff & Shannon Clark

Sing to God a new song,  
    **for God has done marvelous things.**  
Your right hand and your holy arm have brought victory.  
    **You have made known your salvation,**  
    **and revealed before the nations your saving power.**  
You have remembered your steadfast love  
and faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
    **all the ends of the earth have seen**  
    **the salvation of our God.**

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;  
    **break into joyous praise, sing psalms.**  
Sing psalms to God with the harp,  
    **with the harp and melodious voice.**  
With trumpets, and the sound of the horn  
    **make a joyful noise before our sovereign God.**

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
    **the world, and its inhabitants.**  
Let the rivers clap their hands,  
    **the hills sing together for joy before God.**  
You come to judge the earth, O God,  
    **to judge the world with righteousness,**  
    **and the peoples with equity.**

**GIFT OF MUSIC**      He Ain't Heavy, He's My Brother (*R.Russell/B.Scott*)  
David Pilkey/Steve Falk

**GOSPEL** John 15:9-17 (To love God is to obey God's commands.) NRSV

<sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. <sup>12</sup>"This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. <sup>16</sup>You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

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

**SERMON** It's About the Love

**HYMN** Draw the Circle Wide (G.Light/M.Bloss) MV145

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.*

God the stillpoint of the circle, 'round whom all  
Creation turns; nothing lost, but held forever,  
in God's gracious arms.

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stand alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.*

Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass  
great and small; let our loving know no borders,  
faithful to God's call.

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stand alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.*

Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever  
dreamed before; let the dream of Christ be in us,  
open every door.

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stand alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.*

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.  
Let this be our song, no one stand alone,  
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.  
Draw the circle wide, draw the circle wide.*

### **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** To Show by Touch and Word (F.Kaan/R.Klusmeier) VU 427

To show by touch and word devotion to the earth,  
to hold in full regard all life that comes to birth;  
we need, O God the will to find the good you had  
of old in mind.

Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most,  
our hearts to long for truth till pride itself is lost.  
For every challenge that we face we need your guidance  
and your grace.

Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule and norm,  
and let our lives portray your word in human form.  
Now come with us that we may have your wits about  
us where we live.

### **COMMISSIONING & BLESSING**

And now, let us go into the rest of our day,  
knowing we belong to the family of God—  
that we are loved.

**We share the love of God in Christ! Amen!**

**POSTLUDE** Sing Gently (*Eric Whitacre*) Virtual Choir...15,572 singers from 129 countries  
*May we sing together, always...may your voice be soft ...may our singing be for others...  
and may it keep others aloft...Sing gently, always.*



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  
Doug, Sylvia, Peter & Emily Gilpin, Jeff & Shannon Clark,  
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...** *Sing Hallelujah! Volume 1 & 5* (produced by  
Ralph Milton, The United Church of Canada, 2015) and YouTube.