

Welcome to Aurora United Church

...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.



EASTER 7

Asian Heritage Month

May 16, 2021

God is Holy Mystery, beyond complete knowledge, above perfect description. Yet, in love, the one eternal God seeks relationship. So God creates the universe and with it the possibility of being and relating. God tends the universe, mending the broken and reconciling the estranged. God enlivens the universe, guiding all things toward harmony with their Source. Grateful for God's loving action, we cannot keep from singing. (UCC Song of Faith)

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Lead Me Lord (*Arnel de Pano*) The Philippine Meistersingers 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 Joyce & Brett Hagarty

Come and praise God,
whose wondrous creation
blesses and amazes us.

**Thanks be to God,
for the wonders of your creation.**

Come and praise God,
whose creation is abundant
and generous.

**Thanks be to God,
for the abundance of your creation.**

Come and praise God,
whose creation is beyond
and above our imagining.

**Thanks be to God,
for the surprises of your creation!**

Let us worship!

HYMN God, We Praise You for the Morning (*Jim & Jean Strathdee*) VU 415

God, we praise you for the morning; hope springs forth with each new day,
new beginning, prayer, and promise, joy in work and in play.

God, we praise you for creation, mountains, seas, and prairie land.
Waking souls find joy and healing in your bountiful hand.

God, we praise you for compassion, all the loving that you show;
human touching, tears, and laughter, help your children to grow.

God, we praise you for your Spirit, Comforter and daily friend,
restless searcher, gentle teacher, strength and courage you send.

God, we praise you for the Saviour, come that we may know your ways.
In his loving, dying, rising, Christ is Lord of our days.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Christ is Lord of our days!

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

God of all time and all seasons, we come to you with the rest of our lives before us, wondering where the Way of Jesus leads us. Sometimes it's as though we are in a crowd with many competing voices shouting directions on where to go, what to take, and how to get there. All this noise can make us feel confused and overwhelmed. Sometimes we become hungry and thirsty, or the way seems shadowed and indistinct and it is hard to read our maps. The dust in our throats can make it hard to sing the song that you put in our hearts when we started out. O God, how can we discern your voice amidst the noise? How do we know where to go and how to get there? Who will light our path and show us the way? When we are hungry and thirsty, who will supply our needs? Who will teach us your new song? (*A time of silent reflection...*) Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

Jesus said: 'I am the way, the truth and the life;
my word will light your path and guide your way,
and I will put a new song in your heart.'
Thanks be to God!

THEME STORY Baby Animals in Spring (*Springbella*) YouTube Kids

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 96 (Sing a new song to God.) *VU p.816*
Nancy & Emma Kerswill

Sing to God a new song;

sing your praise, all the earth.

Sing and bless God's holy name,
tell the glad news of salvation from day to day.

**Declare Gods glory among the nations,
among all the peoples God's wonderful works.**

For great is God and greatly to be praised,
to be revered above all the gods.

**For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but you, O God, made the heavens.**

Honour and majesty attend you,
strength and beauty are in your sanctuary.

Ascribe to God, you families of peoples,
ascribe to God glory and strength.

**Ascribe glory to God's name,
bring an offering and enter God's courts.**

Worship God in the beauty of holiness,
and let the whole earth stand in awe.

Say among the nations: It is God who reigns!

The world is made firm and cannot be shaken.

God judges the peoples in equity.

Let the heavens rejoice, and the earth be glad;
**let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
let the fields exult, and all that is in them.**

Then let all the trees of the forest sing for joy,
for you come, O God, to judge the earth.

**You shall judge the earth in righteousness,
its peoples with your truth.**

The Word of God, for the people of God. **Amen.**

GIFT OF MUSIC Panis Angelicus (*Cesar Franck*)
Elizabeth Kyriakides, trombone/Lisa Kyriakides, piano

GOSPEL John 17:6-19 ('May my joy be made complete in them.') NRSV

⁶"I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; ⁸for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them.

¹¹And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. ¹⁵I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. ¹⁶They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world.

¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Do it Anyway

HYMN Spirit, Open My Heart (*Ruth Duck*) MV 79

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind
and tender. All my coldness and fear to your grace
I now surrender.

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal,
my story. In each thought, word, and deed, may my
living bring you glory.

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister,
brother. In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome
one another.

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

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 Come, O Fount of Every Blessing (R.Robinson/J.Wyeth) VU 559

Come, O fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in sojourning, giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger, precious presence, precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

Though set apart from one another,
we can still go with God into the world.
Separated from one another,
we can still go with Jesus to serve others.
Distanced and distancing,
we can still join the Spirit, offering love.

And now, may the blessing of God, giver of every good a perfect gift;
the blessing of Christ, the Redeemer of the lost and broken;
the blessing of the Holy Spirit, God's presence in our lives,
be with each one of us and all whom we love and serve. Amen.

POSTLUDE I Will Not Leave You Comfortless (*W.Byrd*)
St. James' South Pasadena, section leads



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

Joyce & Brett Hagarty, Ellizabeth & Lisa Kyriakides, Nancy & Emma Kerswill

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 & 2* (produced by Ralph Milton, The United Church of Canada, 2015) and YouTube.