

# *Welcome to Aurora United Church*

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



*Pride/Every Child Matters, design-Noah Comar*

## ***PRIDE SUNDAY***

***Pride/Indigenous History Month***

***June 6, 2021***

*Loving God, You made humanity in your likeness, each and every human identity,  
in all our sexual and gender diversity, in all our racial and cultural diversity,  
we bear Your sacred image. (Shining Waters Regional Council)*

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Every Season (*Nicole Nordeman*) David Pilkey

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** *Lighting of the Christ Candle*

***Acknowledgment of Territory/Candle of Remembrance-Every Child Matters***

*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** Noah & Keegan Comar

God's love has no exceptions, Alleluia!

**We are the body of Christ!**

Justice seeking, bread breaking, hymn singing, risk taking:

**body of Christ!**

Baptized by one Spirit, we are members of one body:

**many and varied in culture, sexuality, age, class and ability,**

**we are members of Christ's beautiful body.**

None of us can say to another, "I have no need of you."

**For only together can we find wholeness.**

None of us can say to another, "I will not care for you."

**For we are connected like muscle and bone.**

**If one suffers, we all suffer. If one rejoices, we all rejoice!**

Come into worship wherever you are! Come with your longings, your questions, and your fears.

**We come with our dreams of a better day,**

**one with dignity and safety for all!**

Thanks be to God who in Christ has made us one!

**Let us worship God! Alleluia!**

**HYMN** Let Us Build a House (*M.Haugen*) *MV 1*

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.

Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;

here the love of Christ shall end division: All are welcome,

all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: All are welcome,  
all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;  
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are welcome,  
all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger: All are welcome,  
all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Build of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: All are welcome,  
all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

***PRAYER FOR RENEWAL***

**Imaginative and Vibrant God, creator of all things, you made this planet and all its variety. Let us celebrate the diversity of the colours of the world. With red, yellow, and orange, we praise and give thanks: for the warmth of your love shared between all your children, for the energy of the Holy Spirit that powers us forward in service to you, and for the joy of being accepted by you, just as we are. With green, blue, and violet, we worship and honour you: for the softness of your caring and grace, for the stillness of prayer when we draw close to you, and for the peace of knowing you hold us in your loving embrace. Imaginative and Vibrant God, creator of each of us, you made us the way we are. Together, we are a diverse blend of all your colours. Help us love and celebrate one another, as part of your beloved creation.**

**Amen.** *(Gill Le Fevere, Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville, On)*

**WORDS OF GRACE**

In God we are known and loved!  
Thanks be to God!

**THEME STORY** A Family is a Family is a Family (*Sarah O'Leary/Qin Leng*)

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1 NRSV Brian Walter

<sup>13</sup>But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—"I believed, and so I spoke"—we also believe, and so we speak, <sup>14</sup>because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. <sup>15</sup>Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. <sup>16</sup>So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. <sup>17</sup>For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, <sup>18</sup>because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal. <sup>5</sup>For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

**GIFT OF MUSIC** True Colours (*Cindy Lauper*) David Pilkey

**SCRIPTURE** 1 John 4:7-11 (Love one another.) NRSV

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup>God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.

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

## **SERMON** What Matters

***Affirming Vision Statement/October 2019*** Debby Schieck

*In the spirit of welcome and inclusion,  
we the members of Aurora United Church  
declare our ongoing commitment to being  
an Affirming community.*

*We will celebrate in welcoming all people,  
inclusive of all ages, genders, gender identities,  
sexual orientations, races, differing abilities,  
ethnic and cultural backgrounds, and  
economic circumstances.*

*We invite into membership, leadership, mission,  
life passages and marriage, all who would  
seek to participate in the life of  
Aurora United Church.*

*In responding to the love of God,  
and to Jesus' instruction that we  
'love one another',  
we offer a safe space in which all persons  
are welcome into the fullness of community.*

***HYMN*** My Love Colours Outside the Lines *(G.Light) MV 138*

My love colours outside the lines, exploring paths that few could ever find;  
and takes me into places where I've never been before, and opens doors  
to worlds outside the lines.

My Lord colours outside the lines, turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;  
and takes me into places where I've never been before, and open doors  
to worlds outside the lines.

*We`ll never walk on water if we`re not prepared to drown, body and soul  
need a soaking from time to time. And we`ll never move the gravestones  
if we`re not prepared to die, and realize there are worlds outside the lines.*

My soul longs to colour outside the lines, tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;  
I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I`ve never been before, throw open doors  
to worlds outside the lines.

*We`ll never walk on water if we`re not prepared to drown, body and soul  
need a soaking from time to time. And we`ll never move the gravestones  
if we`re not prepared to die, and realize there are worlds outside the lines.*

My soul longs to colour outside the lines, tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;  
I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I`ve never been before, throw open doors  
to worlds outside the lines.

### **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** We Are Pilgrims (The Servant Song) R.Gillard VU 595

We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ-light for you, in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I`ll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we`ve seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony;  
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to let me be your servant too.

***COMMISSIONING & BLESSING***

And now, touched by God's Spirit which makes us free,  
**held in God's love, which gives us strength,**  
befriended by God's Son, who breaks down walls,  
let us live with hearts open wide....

**To all the adventure, all the pain,  
all the joy, of being God's people—  
In every place life calls us to be. Amen.**

***POSTLUDE*** I Will Always Love You (*Dolly Parton*) The Halifax Gay Men's Chorus



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast  
are on traditional Territories of Indigenous Peoples.

---

***All hymns and music used today are reprinted and podcast with permission  
under One License #A-718074 and CCLI Licenses #20425240 and #20425257***

***Participating in Worship today...***

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar

Noah & Keegan Comar, Brian Walter, Debby Schieck, 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) and YouTube**