

Welcome to Aurora United Church

...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.



Photo Credit: Brian Elliot

Pentecost 3

Pride/Indigenous History Month

June 13, 2021

*God is soaked in our world, God's Spirit lives and breathes in and through all that is.
We are lost only when we do not understand that God is already with and in each one of us.
Our task is recognition of God's initiative to be at home in us—acceptance of God-With-Us.
Then we cannot but be glad. (Edwina Gately)*

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE The Seed (Aurora) Live at the Forum/Melbourne Indie Voices YouTube

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 Frank Pulumbarit & Lara de Waal

Let us give thanks to our Creator,
for the Creator is always with us.

**Creator and creating God,
You have given life to all around us.**

You call us to be with you whether we
are inside the shelter of our homes,
or outside in the shelter of your trees.

**God is with us when we are ble to
gather together, when we are social
distancing with our families or when
we are alone.**

We answer God's call wherever we are.

**And so we sing and pray, and listen
Attentively for your voice--Creator God—
Father, Mother, Friend. Let us worship!**

HYMN Come, Let Us Sing (*J.Strathdee*) VU 222

Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,
we have stood silently too long;
surely the Lord deserves our praise,
so joyfully thank God for our days.

O thirsty soul, come drink at the well;
God's living waters will never fail.
Surely the Lord will help you to stand,
strengthened and comforted by God's hand.

You dwell among us and cause us to pray,
and walk with each other following your way;
our precious brothers and sisters will grow
in the fulfilling love they know.

Desserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing
to the desire of all living things.
Come, all you creatures, high and low,
let your praises endlessly flow.

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

God of Love, down the waning days of Spring to Summer; as days lengthen with deepening warmth, thoughts of life and living press on our considerations and we look back. The value of our days are high-lighted and we bring to memory other days, other years. Thoughts of family and friends, and those who have passed through our lives, even for a short time, flicker in and out again. We are thankful for the love we have received and given. Although we regret missed opportunities for love and change and growth, we are mindful now that no matter where we are on our life's journey, the potential for love and change and growth are always present. Bless to us, Loving God, the grace to grow into you, though our days be many or few. God in One-God in Community...we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

In the shadow of God's wing,
we are held and loved!
Thanks be to God!

THEME STORY The Giving Tree (A Story by Shel Silverstein) YouTube

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 5:6-10, 14-17 (Walk by faith, not by sight.) NRSV
Pat Innes

⁶So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. ⁹So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰For all of us must appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may receive recompense for what has been done in the body, whether good or evil. ¹⁴For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. ¹⁵And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them. ¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.

GIFT OF MUSIC At Peace (*Rob Cairns*) Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensemble
“This performance was done in honor of Kate Revington, a former member of Faith-A-Peal”.

GOSPEL Mark 4:26-34 (Parables of the growing seed and the mustard seed.) NRSV

²⁶He also said, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground, ²⁷and would sleep and rise night and day, and the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how. ²⁸The earth produces of itself, first the stalk, then the head, then the full grain in the head. ²⁹But when the grain is ripe, at once he goes in with his sickle, because the harvest has come.” ³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” ³³With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it; ³⁴he did not speak to them except in parables, but he explained everything in private to his disciples.

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON *Seedlings*

HYMN In the Bulb There Is a Flower (*N. Sleeth*) VU 703

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

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 Be Thou My Vision (*Irish trad.melody,trans. M.E.Byrnes/E.H.Hull*) VU 642

Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight;
be thou my dignity, thou my delight,
thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower;
raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

And now, may the blessing of God, giver of every good and 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 One World (We Are One) IlluminNative/Mag 7 YouTube



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

Frank Pulumbarit, Lara de Waal, Pat Innes, Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensemble

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 (produced by Ralph Milton, The United Church of Canada, 2015) and YouTube