

Welcome to Aurora United Church

...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.



Indigenous Day of Prayer/Father's Day

Pride Month

June 20, 2021

*And so we sing of God the Spirit,
who from the beginning has swept over the face of creation,
animating all energy and matter and moving in the human heart.
(Song of Faith: A Statement of Faith. UCC, 2008)*

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE They Don't Make Em' Like That Anymore (*Jason Blaine*) *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 Jeff & Shannon Clark

Gather us, O God,
**that we will know your life
that makes us one.**

Gather us, O God,
**and we will celebrate
our variety and uniqueness.**

Gather us, O God,
**and we will give you
the pain of our brokenness.**

Gather us, O God,
**and we will share the gifts
of your Spirit.**

Trinity of Love, bind us as one—
**that our brokenness be healed by you;
that our fears be held by you;
that our gifts be used by you;
that our lives be shaped by you.**

People of God—
let us worship!

HYMN We Praise You, O God (*J.Cory/Netherlands melody*) VU 218

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'er-take us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

God, Creator and Great Mystery, we praise you for the Sacred Fires that burn today and for the prayer-filled smoke that you receive and bless. We offer our deep gratitude that the Fire's light informs and guides our journey. We pray, just as the Elders prayed, for renewal and for the restoration of beauty to the land and its people. We acknowledge the diverse and abundant gifts of Canada's Indigenous Peoples. We recognize that their knowledge and wisdom have benefited generations past and present, and that this blessing will continue for generations to come. We remember the many who are committed to the healing of family, community, and nations. We pray for Mother Earth, the waters, the winds, for our siblings the animals, birds, and fish, and all of life that surrounds us. We pray that we will walk the good Red Road of life, and that we will walk with courage, honesty, humility, love, respect, truth and wisdom. We offer this prayer in humility and hope, and in the name, of our brother Jesus, the one who lights our path to wholeness, justice and peace. Amen.

—A prayer for [Indigenous Day of Prayer](#) by the Rev. Maggie Dieter, former Executive Minister, Aboriginal Ministries and Indigenous Justice; and Bill Snow, Stoney Nakoda First Nation, Alberta, member of the Indigenous Justice and Residential School Committee

WORDS OF GRACE

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

THEME STORY Shi-shi-etko (*Nicola I. Campbell/Kim LaFave*)

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE 2 Corinthians 6:1-13 (Open wide your hearts.) NRSV
Lisa Kyriakides

⁶As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.” See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything. ¹¹We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. ¹²There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. ¹³In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.

GIFT OF MUSIC Hallelujah (*Leonard Cohen*) David Pilkey/Steve Falk
(*A tribute to our AUC church building, past and future.*)

GOSPEL Mark 4:35-41 (Jesus stills the storm.) NRSV

³⁵On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.” ³⁶And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON ...and out of the Chaos--Calm

HYMN I Feel the Winds of God Today (*J.Adams/R.V.Williams*) VU 625

I feel the winds of God today, today my sail I lift,
though heavy oft with drenching spray and torn with many a rift;
if hope but light the water's crest, and Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at his behest, and brave another cruise.

It is the wind of God that dries my vain regretful tears,
until with braver thoughts shall rise the purer, brighter years;
if cast on shores of selfish ease or pleasure I should be,
O let me feel your freshening breeze, and I'll put back to sea.

If ever I forget your love and how that love was shown,
lift high the blood-red flag above; it bears your name alone.
Great pilot of my onward way, you will not let me drift,
I feel the winds of God today; today my sail I lift.

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 Though Ancient Walls (*W.Farquharson/R.Klusmeier*) VU 691

Though ancient walls may still stand proud and racial strife be fact,
though boundaries may be lines of hate, proclaim God's saving act!
Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!

When vested power stands firm entrenched and breaks another's back,
when waste and want live side by side, it's Gospel that we lack.

Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!

Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!

The truth we seek in varied scheme, the life that we pursue,
unites us in a common quest for self and world made new.

Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!

Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!

The church divided seeks that grace, that newness we proclaim;
a unity of serving love that lives praise to God's name!

Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!

Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!

This broken world seeks lasting health and vital unity.

God's people by God's Word renewed, cast off all slavery!

Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!

Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

Return now to the circle of Life,
knowing that the love of the Creator is with us,
the compassion of Jesus inspires us,
the hope of the Holy Spirit comforts us.

**May everyone we meet know of our praise
of God's name by the love expressed through
our lives. Amen.**

(Lee Claus. Francis Sandy Theological Centre. Adapted)

POSTLUDE We Are a Rainbow *(D.Kai)* Christ First Choir-UCC



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Participating in Worship today...

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar

Jeff & Shannon Clark, Lisa Kyriakides, David Pilkey, Steve Falk

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), *Sing Hallelujah! Volume 5* (produced by Ralph Milton, The United Church of Canada, 2015) and YouTube.