

# *Welcome to Aurora United Church*

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



## *Pentecost 5*

### *Indigenous History Month/Pride Month*

*June 27, 2021*

*Gratitude is the way the heart remembers—remembers kindnesses, cherished interactions with others, compassionate actions of strangers, surprise gifts, and everyday blessings. By remembering we honor and acknowledge the many ways in which who and what we are has been shaped by others, both living and dead. (Robert Emmons)*

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Comfort Ye, Every Valley (G.F.Handel) Spencer Britten  
The Toronto Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Johannes Debus.

**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** Nellie Lopez & Carmen Harany

As we approach the 154<sup>th</sup> Canada Day,  
God invites us into the complexities of relationship.

**We come to grow as a family of faith,  
cherishing the ways of Love.**

Come to sing, to pray, to listen, to dance,  
and to deepen the journey of faith.

**We come in trust, though we are never sure  
where God will lead us.**

Come together in prayer....

**Loving God, we long to follow in Jesus' footsteps,  
journeying the path of self-giving and of ever-growing  
wisdom, seeking out reconciliation and right relationship  
with the First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples of this land.**

**Lead us by the power of your Spirit, that together, each  
supporting one another equally, we may follow. Let us  
celebrate together. Amen.**

*(Gord Dunbar, Kincardine P.C., Kincardine, Ont.)*

**HYMN** Spirit Dancing (*W.Farquharson/L.Erhardt*) VU 388

Spirit dancing on the waters, sun reflecting song of grace  
calling life to all the creatures, giving life to human race.

Spirit dancing on the waters, naming moment they should part,  
Giving freedom to the peoples, signed for all in dancer's art.

Spirit dancing on the waters, paradox of womb and grave,  
Welcome now the Word child's coming, no one prisoner, no one slave.

Spirit dancing on the waters, can the dance by cross be stilled?  
Earth be shaken! Dead awaken! What was emptied shall be filled.

Spirit dancing on the waters, give your people their new birth,  
healing, loving one another in community with earth.

Spirit dancing on the waters, we would come and dance with you  
'til our world is filled with music and in Christ all things are new.

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

**We believe in one God—Creator, Christ and Spirit, who loves us, heals us, and leads us. We believe in one God, who challenges us in ways we sometimes don't want to be challenged, but who walks with us and encourages us to face those challenges even when we are fearful. We believe in a God who loves us and cares for us even when we choose the wrong way, and who invites us to return again to a place of wholeness. We are committed to following in the way of Christ, even when we stumble or take the wrong path, for we know that no matter where we are, God is with us, God loves us and we belong to Christ. Amen.**

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

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

### ***THEME STORY***

**The Legend of Weesakayjack - First Nation Legend –  
How North America came to be - Canada YouTube**

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** 2 Corinthians 8:7-15 (Excel in generosity.) NRSV

Martha Bailkowski

<sup>7</sup>Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking. <sup>8</sup>I do not say this as a command, but I am testing the genuineness of your love against the earnestness of others. <sup>9</sup>For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich. <sup>10</sup>And in this matter I am giving my advice: it is appropriate for you who began last year not only to do something but even to desire to do something—<sup>11</sup>now finish doing it, so that your eagerness may be matched by completing it according to your means. <sup>12</sup>For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has—not according to what one does not have. <sup>13</sup>I do not mean that there should be relief for others and pressure on you, but it is a question of a fair balance between <sup>14</sup>your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may be for your need, in order that there may be a fair balance. <sup>15</sup>As it is written, “The one who had much did not have too much, and the one who had little did not have too little.”

**GIFT OF MUSIC** O How I Love Jesus (*Linda Lamb*) EmBellished Handbell Ensemble

**GOSPEL** Mark 5:21-43 (A young girl is raised, a hemorrhaging woman healed.)

<sup>21</sup>When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a great crowd gathered around him; and he was by the sea. <sup>22</sup>Then one of the leaders of the synagogue named Jairus came and, when he saw him, fell at his feet <sup>23</sup>and begged him repeatedly, “My little daughter is at the point of death. Come and lay your hands on her, so that she may be made well, and live.”

<sup>24</sup>So he went with him. And a large crowd followed him and pressed in on him. <sup>25</sup>Now there was a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years. <sup>26</sup>She had endured much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had; and she was no better, but rather grew worse. <sup>27</sup>She had heard about Jesus, and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, <sup>28</sup>for she said, “If I but touch his clothes, I will be made well.” <sup>29</sup>Immediately her hemorrhage stopped; and she felt in her body that she was healed of her disease. <sup>30</sup>Immediately aware that power had gone forth from him, Jesus turned about in the crowd and said, “Who touched my clothes?” <sup>31</sup>And his disciples said

to him, “You see the crowd pressing in on you; how can you say, ‘Who touched me?’” <sup>32</sup>He looked all around to see who had done it. <sup>33</sup>But the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came in fear and trembling, fell down before him, and told him the whole truth. <sup>34</sup>He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.”

<sup>35</sup>While he was still speaking, some people came from the leader’s house to say, “Your daughter is dead. Why trouble the teacher any further?” <sup>36</sup>But overhearing what they said, Jesus said to the leader of the synagogue, “Do not fear, only believe.” <sup>37</sup>He allowed no one to follow him except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James. <sup>38</sup>When they came to the house of the leader of the synagogue, he saw a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. <sup>39</sup>When he had entered, he said to them, “Why do you make a commotion and weep? The child is not dead but sleeping.” <sup>40</sup>And they laughed at him. Then he put them all outside, and took the child’s father and mother and those who were with him, and went in where the child was. <sup>41</sup>He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha cum,” which means, “Little girl, get up!” <sup>42</sup>And immediately the girl got up and began to walk about (she was twelve years of age). At this they were overcome with amazement. <sup>43</sup>He strictly ordered them that no one should know this, and told them to give her something to eat.

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

## **SERMON**   *Better Angels*

**HYMN**   *Like a Healing Stream (Bruce Harding) MV 144*

Like a healing stream in a barren desert,  
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,  
God is trickling through our lives as in  
a dream unfolding, promising revival  
and rebirth...like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,  
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,  
God is bubbling through the soil to coax  
a new creation, yearning for an end to  
want and need...like a gentle rain.



Like a river strong with a restless garden,  
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,  
God is carving out a channel in a new direction,  
calling for an end to hate and war...  
like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,  
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,  
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:  
God will always challenge and provide!  
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,  
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

### **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** Will You Come and Follow Me VU 567

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?"  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

### ***COMMISSIONING & BLESSING***

May the God of creation create in you,  
new hope for the future.

**May the Christ of the common road  
guide your every step.**

May the Spirit of Compassion instill in you  
a deep sense of caring for everyone you meet,  
**and may we be blessed by the Holy One,  
now and always. Amen.**

***POSTLUDE***    Appalachian Spring (Musicians of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra) 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

Nellie Lopez, Carmen Harany, Martha Bailkowski, Embellished 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...*** *More Voices: Audio CD* (The United Church of Canada, 2007), and YouTube.