

Welcome to Aurora United Church

...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.



Pentecost 7

July 11, 2021

“Summer is a period of luxurious growth. To be in harmony with the atmosphere of summer, awaken early in the morning and reach to the sun for nourishment to flourish as the gardens do. Work, play, travel, be joyful, and grow into selfless service. The bounty of the outside world enters and enlivens us.” (Paul Pitchford)

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Be Thou My Vision (*Hall/Slane*) Mackenzie & John Malarczyk

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 Comar/Rev. Lorraine

Creator God, we give you thanks
that you are among us.

We thank you for the gift of your creation;

for the gift of family and friends;

for the gift of stories;

for the gifts of learning and knowledge;

for the gifts of question and doubt;

for the fire of enthusiasm;

for the wind of reason.

For all we understand,

for all that remains a mystery,

for your loving presence in and through it all,

we give you thanks and praise.

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 Creation, you speak, and when we listen we are moved to act and to be who you know we can be. You put a song of freedom and love and life deep within us. Sometimes we sing that song with confidence and courage and at other times it's as though we have forgotten the words. Sing to us again, O God, in ways that move us and inspire us. Help us to discern the rhythms and cadences of your way in the world, that we might sing along. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

God's grace sings to our spirits and we are renewed!
Thanks be to God. Amen!

THEME STORY What a Wonderful World (*L.Armstrong*)
Playing for Change/Song Around the World YouTube

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Ephesians 1:3-14 (Adopted through Christ-given an inheritance.) NRSV
Nancy Kerswill

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

GIFT OF MUSIC Come Thou Fount (*Wyeth/Robinson*) Mackenzie & John Malarczyk

GOSPEL Mark 6:14-29 (The death of John the Baptist.) NRSV

¹⁴King Herod heard of it, for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." ¹⁵But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." ¹⁶But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

¹⁷For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. ¹⁸For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." ¹⁹And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, ²⁰for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him.

²¹But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. ²²When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." ²³And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." ²⁴She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." ²⁵Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." ²⁶The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. ²⁷Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, ²⁸brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. ²⁹When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Timing

HYMN Called by Earth and Sky (Pat Mayberry) MV 135

***Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.***

Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean's dream,
waters of healing, rivers of rain, the wash of love again.
Called by earth and sky...

Precious this gift, the air we breathe; wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,
our gathering and our grace. ***Called by earth and sky...***

Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,
Creation's faithful song. ***Called by earth and sky...***

Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone, our faith and justice one.

*Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky, called by earth and sky.*

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 Great Is Thy Faithfulness (*T.Chisolm/W.Runyan*) VU 288

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
great is thy faithfulness, every to me!

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
great is thy faithfulness, every to me!

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.
Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided—
great is thy faithfulness, every to me!

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

Go now into the warmth of this summer day
to live what you know to be true;
that God goes with us in all things.

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 Swing Low, Sweet Chariot (*S.H.Sheppard*) *YouTube*
The Fisk Jubilee Singers



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

John & Mackenzie Malarczyk, Noah Comar, Nancy 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...*More Voices: Audio CD* (The United Church of Canada, 2007), *Sing Hallelujah! Volume 1* (produced by Ralph Milton, The United Church of Canada, 2015), and YouTube.