

Welcome to Aurora United Church

...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.



Pentecost 8

July 18, 2021

There shall be eternal summer in the grateful heart.

(Celia Thaxter)

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE '215' (written and performed by Lois O'Hanley Jones)

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 Bob & Lisa Kyriakides

Come with us, Loving God,
into the relaxation and warmth of summer.

Enable us to find the peace we seek.

In the joy of gathered friends,
we discover you.

In the reunion of family,
we experience you.

In inspiring encounters with strangers,
we realize you are with us.

In the fresh ideas that engage us,
we sense your leading.

You are with us, Loving God,
in all our summer days.

**You will stay with us
when the days shorten
and the leaves begin to fall.**

Let us worship! (adapted, D.Sparks, Summerland, B.C.)

HYMN O God beyond All Praising (*M.Perry/G.T.Holst*) VU 256

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honour and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

The flower of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you our God most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown,
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.

Then, hear O gracious Saviour, this song of praise we sing.
May we, who know your favour, our humble service bring;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

In the stillness of creation there is life and growth. Thank you, God, for the trees that shade us, for the river whose waters have come from distant places and are travelling on. Thank you for nature's babies, shielded and taught by protective parents; for the wind and sky, for the breath of summer that warms us, and for the sun's amazing gifts that shine on all. Silently, you offer us the wholeness of creation. In trust, you open your hand, gracing us with creation's care. May our living bless your creation. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

As close as our next-drawn breath—God is.
Thanks be to God. Amen!

THEME STORY Summertime Fun With Jesse [YouTube](#)

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 84 (How lovely is your dwelling place, O God.) VU p.800
Paula Hanna

How lovely is your dwelling place, God of hosts!
My soul longs, even faints for the courts of God;
my heart and my flesh cry for joy to the living God.
Even the sparrow finds a house,
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young,
at your altars, God of hosts, my sovereign, my God.

Happy are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise.
**Happy are those whose strength is in you,
who have set their heart on pilgrimage.**
Going through the valley of Baca
they find a spring from which to drink;
the early rain also covers it with pools of water.
They go from strength to strength,
to appear before God in Zion.

O God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob.
Behold, O God, our shield, look on the face of your anointed.
Truly a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
**I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.**
For you, God, are a sun and shield,
you will give grace and honour.
No good thing will you withhold
from those who live an upright life.
**O God of hosts,
happy are those who put their trust in you.**

GIFT OF MUSIC Hymn to Freedom (*Oscar Peterson*) David Pilkey/Steve Falk
(follow up narrative by Gord Downie)

GOSPEL Mark 6:30-34, 53-56 (Jesus teaches from a boat and heals the sick.)

³⁰The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught.

³¹He said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. ³²And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

⁵³When they had crossed over, they came to land at Gennesaret and moored the boat. ⁵⁴When they got out of the boat, people at once recognized him, ⁵⁵and rushed about that whole region and began to bring the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. ⁵⁶And wherever he went, into villages or cities or farms, they laid the sick in the marketplaces, and begged him that they might touch even the fringe of his cloak; and all who touched it were healed.

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON To Rest, To Dream, To Hope

HYMN Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore (*R.Gutierrez-Achon/C.Gabarain*) VU 563

Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.
O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

You know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
you will find there my nets and labour.
O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

You need my hands full of caring
through my labours to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving.
O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me.
O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

A Statement about the gifts we bring in worship for the life of the church....

OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE NEW CREED VU p. 918 (The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968, alt.)

Bell Ringers: Joanne Banfill, Nancy Birtch, Joyce Hagarty, Pat Innes, Lisa Kyriakides,
Carol Lever, Sue Linley, John Malarczyk, Mackenzie Malarczyk, Laura Wells

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you!
And also with you!

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

Let us open our hearts to the One who breaks bread.
We offer our doubt, our fears, our needs.
Let us give thanks to the Root of the vine.
We offer our hope, our joy, our praise.

We praise you, Source and Sustainer of life: in love you cause all things to be; from stardust and spirit you weave our humanity; when we mourn, your tears comfort us; when we weary you, your prophets pursue us; when we come home, your feast awaits us. Thank you, gracious Host for inviting us to your table, though we are separated from one another. Here, we receive bread to sustain us on our journey, and share life's cup of laughter and tears.

We give thanks for the life and ministry of Jesus, who feeds us and feasts with us, who heals us and suffers with us, who proclaims the nearness of your reign. Christ's death and resurrection release us from the poverty of brokenness and teaches us how to die so that we may live.

Therefore, with all creation and all creatures, with all who hunger for your reign and hope for new creation we share the song of praise which echoes through the universe:

*O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space,
all earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always.* (MV 203)

At his last meal with his friends, Jesus renewed your covenant promise. He took bread, sign of their work together; He blessed it, broke it, and gave it to them, symbol of his body they would become. After supper, he took a cup of wine, sign of the life they shared—their laughter and their tears. He blessed it, and gave it to them, a symbol of God's covenantal love, the family they would become.

Loving God, in this bread we offer you the life and work we share With one another. In this cup, we offer our laughter and our suffering, Our darkness and our joy. Grant that, in praise and thanksgiving, we may so offer ourselves to you that our lives may proclaim the mystery of our faith:

*Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!* (MV 204)

May your Holy Spirit rest upon us and upon these gifts. May they nourish and sustain us for your work in the world. For in our joy, you are the overflowing cup and in our need you are the bread by which we journey on. Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory is yours, God most holy, now and forever.

Prayers of the People & Lord's Prayer

***Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen! Amen, amen,
O Holy One, Hosanna and Amen! (MV 205)***

SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

Communion in this time of pandemic will reflect our households as we bring to our living spaces the things which speak of our lives...bread/wine, bread/juice, pita, rice cracker or otherwise. In response to the invitations: 'Jesus Christ, bread of heaven' and, 'Jesus Christ, cup of salvation'... take the elements of your choice, each in their turn, knowing you reside in the embrace of a broad faith community, tied to one another in the Spirit of God made known in Jesus. We are not alone.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May we become what we have been given: bread and wine for a hungry world; a blessing to those whose hearts are empty; a light in the darkness. Amen.

HYMN I Heard the Voice of Jesus (*H.Bonar*) *VU 626*

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
your head upon my breast.'
I came to Jesus as I was,
weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'Behold, I freely give
the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down, and drink, and live.'
I came to Jesus, and I drank
of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched,
my soul revived,
and now I live for him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say,
'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
and all your day be bright.'
I looked to Jesus, and I found
in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
till travelling days are done.

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

May the Creator, within us and around us,
above us and below us,
bless us and keep us,
now and always.

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 Psalm 84 (*M.Larkin*) St.George's Anglican Cathedral, Oshawa
The Summer Institute of Church Music, virtual choir...watch for Margaret Heney!



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

Lisa & Bob Kyriakides, Paula Hanna, David Pilkey, Steve Falk, Lois O'Hanley Jones,
the Summer Institute of Church Music Virtual Choir (Margaret Heney)

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...

YouTube