

# *Welcome to Aurora United Church*

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



## *Pentecost 16*

*September 12, 2021*

*“The world as we have created it is a process of our thinking. It cannot be changed without changing our thinking.” — Albert Einstein*

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Take Up Your Cross (*Bourbon*) Cathedral of St. John the Divine Choir 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** Joyce & Brett Hagarty

Some of your people are beginning to gather  
in sanctuaries while others continue to worship  
in the sacred spaces of their living rooms,  
cottages or back yards.

**Yet, all join to worship you,  
God who is with the scattered  
and the gathered.**

Some of your followers are going out to serve  
and work, while others will stay at home.

**Yet, all seek to follow your example,  
Jesus who calls the scattered and gathered.**

Some care for others by shopping for them,  
while plant seeds of peace and hope.

**Yet, whether gathered or scattered,  
all seek to live out your gifts, Spirit of us all.  
Let us worship!**

**HYMN** God, We Praise You for the Morning (*Jim/Jean Strathdee*) VU 415

God, we praise you for the morning; hope springs forth with each new day,  
new beginning, prayer, and promise, joy in work and in play.

God, we praise you for creation, mountains, seas, and prairie land.  
Waking souls find joy and healing in your bountiful hand.

God, we praise you for compassion, all the loving that you show;  
human touching, tears, and laughter, help your children to grow.

God, we praise you for your Spirit, Comforter and daily friend,  
restless searcher, gentle teacher, strength and courage you send.

God, we praise you for the Saviour, come that we may know your ways.  
In his loving, dying, rising, Christ is Lord of our days.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, Hallelujah, hallelujah!  
Hallelujah, hallelujah! Christ is Lord of our days.

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

**You speak O God, and the world comes to life; this greening of your Creation, alive and vibrant with the energy of your Spirit reflects the love you bear for the world. We would speak your truth—your wisdom, if we could and yet we struggle at times to find the words to express our need of you. You coax words of love and forgiveness from us and we clamp our jaws tight against them—we hardly recognize ourselves at times as we resist what we know is the better way—the kinder way. Infuse our language we pray, with images, concepts and symbols that speak of you—that acknowledge that Creation is not complete in us—that there is always a way forward as we unfold into You. Amen.**

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

The language of God's love envelops us.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen!**

***THEME STORY***      Going Back to School after COVID Lockdown      YouTube

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 19 (The heavens declare the glory of God.) VU p.740  
Martha Bailkowski

The heavens declare the glory of God;  
and the vault of the sky reveals God's handiwork.

**One day speaks to another,  
and night shares its knowledge with night,**  
and this without speech or language;  
their voices are not heard.

**But their sound goes out to all the lands,  
their words to the ends of the earth.**

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun  
which comes out like a bridegroom from under the canopy,  
like an athlete eager to run the race.

**Its rising is at one end of the sky,  
it runs its course to the other,  
and there is nothing that is hidden from its heat.**

God's law is perfect, refreshing the soul;

**God's instruction is sure,  
giving wisdom to the simple;**

God's precepts are right, rejoicing the heart;

**God's commandment is pure  
giving light to the eyes;**

God's fear is clean, enduring forever;

**God's judgements are true,  
every one of them righteous;**

more desirable than gold, even much fine gold;

**sweeter also than honey,  
pure honey from the comb.**

By them is your servant warned;

**for in keeping them there is great reward.**

But who can discern unwitting sins?

**O cleanse me from my secret faults.**

Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins,  
lest they get the better of me.

**Then shall I be clean and innocent of great offence.**

**Let the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight, O God, my strength and my redeemer. Amen.**

**GIFT OF MUSIC** The Heavenly Aeroplane (*John Rutter*) 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service, May 2018  
(AUC Chancel Choir, Steve Cooke, bass guitar/Frank Pulumbarit, drums)

**GOSPEL** Mark 8:27-38 (Who do people say that I am?) NRSV

<sup>27</sup>Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” <sup>28</sup>And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” <sup>29</sup>He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” <sup>30</sup>And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

<sup>31</sup>Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

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

**SERMON** Reality Check

**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**

### **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 blessing of God,  
**who made us in love and for relationship  
with one another and all creation;**  
the blessing of Jesus,  
**whose footprints are deep in our earth  
and deep in our hearts;**  
and the blessing of Spirit,  
**who blows through us and all around us,**  
go with us this day, this night, and always. Amen.  
(Bob Root, adapted., Peterborough, Ont.)

***POSTLUDE*** Great Is Thy Faithfulness (*T.Chisholm/W.Runyan*) Veritas 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,  
Joyce & Brett Hagarty, Martha Bailkowski, AUC Chancel Choir,  
Steve Cooke, Frank Pulumbarit.

***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***