

*Welcome
to Aurora United Church
...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.*



***Pentecost 17**
September 19, 2021*

*'It takes a great deal of bravery to stand up to our enemies,
but just as much to stand up to our friends.'* (J.K.Rowling)

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Laudate Dominum (*Mozart*) Cai Thomas with the London Mozart Players
and the Pegasus Chamber Choir, conducted by Robert Lewis 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 Craig & Anne Arnold

We gather together seeking God's
guidance for our lives.

**We gather seeking wisdom
that we may walk in God's way.**

We gather together seeking hope
for a broken world.

**We gather seeking justice
for all people.**

Come, let us worship God—

in whose word

we find abundant life!

Let us worship.

HYMN Draw the Circle Wide (*G.Light/M.Bloss*) MV145

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.*

God the stillpoint of the circle, 'round whom all
Creation turns; nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms.

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stand alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.*

Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass
great and small; let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call.

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stand alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.*

Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever
dreamed before; let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stand alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.*

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stand alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.
Draw the circle wide, draw the circle wide.*

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

When we look over our shoulders at fear shadowing us today, you go before us loving God into tomorrow, making a path through the sea of yesterday's doubts. When our legs tremble from the effort of standing up for what you hope for all Creation, you stand at our side, offering your hope's strength. When we turn our hearts into deserts of stony bitterness, you transform them into oasis of joy. When we come up with all sorts of rules for those who come to us seeking to find you, you tear up the list, stretching your arms in welcome. When we would clasp old worries to our hearts, you open our eyes to that hope which paves the path ahead of us. God in community, Holy in One, as you are all to us, so we would offer all we are to you. Amen. *(Thom Thurman, Lectionary Liturgies, adapted)*

WORDS OF GRACE

God in the world, changes the world and us.
Thanks be to God. Amen!

THEME STORY Let Us Love (*Elsa Anders Cook*) The Work of the People
based on John 3:16-24

*Please go the September 19 worship page on the AUC website
to watch today's Theme Story.*

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 36 (God's steadfast love.) VU p.762 Bob Kyriakides

Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens;
your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

**Your righteousness is like the mountains, O God,
your judgments are like the great deep;
all living things you save.**

How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

**They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.**

For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light do we see light.

**Continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your salvation to the upright in heart. Amen.**

GIFT OF MUSIC The Seal Lullaby (*Rudyard Kipling/Eric Whitacre*)
AUC Chancel Choir, 200th Anniversary Concert-May 27, 2018

GOSPEL Mark 9:30-37 (Whoever welcomes a child, welcomes me.)

³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." ³²But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

³³Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" ³⁴But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.

³⁵He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON By What Matters Most...

HYMN I Am a Child of God (*Cheryl & Bruce Harding*) MV 157

I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God's new creation.
I am a child of God, I am a child of God.

I am an endless prayer, I am a yearning for contemplation,
I am an endless prayer, I am an endless prayer.

I am an angry voice, I am compassion and consternation,
I am an angry voice, I am an angry voice.

I am a cry for peace, I am commitment and dedication,
I am a cry for peace, I am a cry for peace.

I am a song of joy, I am the moment of jubilation,
I am a song of joy, I am a song of joy.

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 We Are Pilgrims (The Servant Song) R.Gillard VU 595

We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ-light for you, in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony;
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to let me be your servant too.

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

As we have been gathered,
so we must be sown back into the world,
**to witness to the power of God's
transforming love;**
to support and challenge one another,
**to bring healing and justice
to the world around us.**

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 The Irish Blessing –Be Thou My Vision [YouTube](#)
over 300 churches sing a blessing over Ireland and beyond...



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,
Craig & Anne Arnold, Lisa Kyriakides, the AUC Chancel Choir.

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.