

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



*Pentecost 18*  
*September 26, 2021*

*All good gifts around us, are sent from heaven above,  
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,  
for all His love. (Mattias Claudius, 1782)*

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** I Can Tell the World (*N. Dett*) The Nathaniel Dett Chorale,  
directed by Brainard Blyden-Taylor

**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** Jennifer, Damien, Sabrina & Alexis Hanna

We gather in virtual worship,  
**woven together in community,**  
by God's design;  
**each of us unique in every way.**  
We are woven together in patterns  
we could not imagine for ourselves.  
**We are God's people,**  
**called and sent in many different ways.**  
And so we come in worship.  
**Let us worship God!**

**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 splendour 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***

**God of autumn, help us to be more like nature, accepting the changing seasons; like the changing of the trees: not a dying as life sometimes feels, but a stripping bare in preparation for inner growth, knowing that to shed the outer layers will reveal a strength that is hidden underneath. God of autumn, it is so difficult to let things go: the shields, the camouflage, the flimsy covers...We cannot hide from you; you are our strength, you see our inner beauty. You see beyond the human dressings and wish to clothe us in your love. God, help us to be more like nature, accepting the changing seasons, sharing in this time of great change and beauty. God in Community—Holy in One, we pray. Amen. (Iona Community, adapted.)**

***WORDS OF GRACE***

God knows us and loves us—  
in all the seasons of our lives.  
**Thanks be to God!**

***THEME STORY***    The Beauty of Autumn (*Stuart Spicer*) YouTube

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 8 (God, how glorious is your name.) VU p.732

Pat Innes

O God, our God, how glorious is your name in all the earth!  
From the lips of infants and children your praises reach up to the heavens.

**You have set up a stronghold against your foes,  
to quell the enemy and the avenger.**

When I look to the heavens, the work of your fingers,  
the moon and the stars you have set in their places.

**What are we mortals that you should be mindful of us,  
mere human beings that you should care for us?**

You have made us little less than divine,  
and crowned us with glory and honour.

**You have made us rulers over all your creation,  
And put all things under our feet,**

All sheep and cattle, all creatures of the wild,  
**the birds of the air and the fish in the sea,  
and all that make their way through the waters.**

**GIFT OF MUSIC** Viva la Vida (*K.Chesney*) AUC Handbell Ensembles  
with, Steve Cooke, Steve Falk, Brian Pastoor, Frank Pulumbarit  
200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert, May 2018

**GOSPEL** Mark 9:38-50 (Have salt in yourselves.) NRSV

<sup>38</sup>John said to him, "Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us." <sup>39</sup>But Jesus said, "Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup>Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup>For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. <sup>42</sup>"If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup>If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup>And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup>And if your eye causes you to

stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup>where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched. <sup>49</sup>“For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup>Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

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

**SERMON** Seasoned

**HYMN** Dear Weaver of Our Lives' Design (N. Dorian/C.H. Parry) VU 623

Dear weaver of our lives' design  
whose patterns all obey,  
with skillful fingers gently guide  
the sturdy threads that will survive  
the tangle of our days, the tangle of our days.

Take up the fabric of our lives  
with hands that gently hold;  
bind in the ragged edge that care  
would sunder and that pain would tear,  
and mend our ravelling souls,  
and mend our ravelling souls.

Let eyes that in the plainest cloth  
a hidden beauty see  
discern in us our richest hues,  
show us the patterns we may use  
to set our spirits free,  
to set our spirits free.

**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**      Come, O Fount of Every Blessing (*R. Robinson/J. Wyeth*) VU 559

Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace;  
streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of endless praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come,  
come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God,  
came to rescue me from danger, precious presence, precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debtor daily I am drawn anew!  
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you.  
Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known:  
here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

**COMMISSIONING & BLESSING**

And now, may the Creator within us and around us—  
**above us and below us,**  
bless us and keep us—  
**now and forever.**

**POSTLUDE**      The Irish Blessing – Be Thou My Vision



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,  
Jennifer, Damien, Sabrina & Alexis Hanna; Pat Innes,  
AUC Chancel Choir... Steve Cooke, Steve Falk, Brian Pastoor, 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