

Welcome to Aurora United Church

...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.



World Communion Sunday

October 3, 2021

World Communion Sunday reminds us that Christ calls us to a table where the welcome is wide. He offers us a space with bread and wine in abundance to give solace to our sorrow and to stir our joy.

(Jan Richardson)

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE For Everyone Born (A Place at the Table) (B.Mann/S.E.Murray) YouTube
Spirit Song Community Choir

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 Doug & Sylvia Gilpin

Come into worship and know you are not alone.
Christians around the world gather today to celebrate
worldwide communion.

**We come to be immersed in the Holy Mystery
that is Wholly Love.**

Come from living rooms, from offices, from kitchens,
and backyard decks—come from wherever you are
as we commune over the distance.

**We come despite missing one another so deeply,
missing the conversation, the hugs and handshakes,
the small talk, and the deeper sharing—yet knowing
we are part of the Spirited whole.**

Come, as we pay attention to God's eternal presence
as we pray...

**Loving God, who is Holy Mystery, beyond complete
knowledge and above perfect description,* in love may
you embrace us within life-giving relationship. Tend us
as you mend us. Enlighten us as you transform us.**

**May we become the harmony of the beloved who sing
of your good news. Open our hearts to the diversity of
hearts committed to Jesus, making us beacons of self-giving
love worldwide. Amen.**

*(G.Dunbar, Kincardine P.C, adapted . *A Song of Faith: A Statement of Faith: UCC)*

HYMN **We Are One** (*D.Lankshear-Smith/J.Sam*) VU 402

We are one as we come, as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips there's a sense that God is near.
We are one as we sing, as we seek, we are found; and we
come needful of God's grace as we meet, together in this place.

We are one as we share, as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand there's a sense that God is here.
We are one as we care, as we heal, we are healed; and we
share warmth in God's embrace as we pray together in this place.

We are one as we feast, as we feast, peace becomes a sign;
in the bread and the wine there's a sense of love divine.
We are one as we come, as we feed, we are fed; and we
feel God's refreshing grace as we meet at table in this place.

We are one as we hear, as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive there's a sense that God is light.
We are one as we leave, as we love, we are loved; and we
seek justice in God's ways as we move together from this place.

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Jesus prayed that we may be one; one in spirit, one in mission, in union and communion with each other and with you, O God. Today we acknowledge our struggle in accomplishing unity, as we name and share a day to remind ourselves of the task. On this World Communion Sunday, give us eyes to recognize your reflection in the eyes of those we meet, acknowledging that in this time, we hold much in common. Give us a mind to accept and celebrate our differences. Give us hearts big enough to love your children across the world. We thank you for setting a table with space enough for us all. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

God who accepts us will empower us.
**God who loves us will inspire us in our struggle
for a healed and just world. Thanks be to God!**

THEME STORY **The Day You Begin** (*Jacqueline Woodson*)
(A Story for World Communion)

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE 2 Timothy 1:1-14 (A heritage of faith.) NRSV Nancy Kerswill

¹Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, ²To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. ³I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.

⁶For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands; ⁷for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. ⁸Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, relying on the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace. This grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹²and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day what I have entrusted to him. ¹³Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴Guard the good treasure entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

GIFT OF MUSIC Grace - written and performed by Glenn Marais

GOSPEL John 17:20-23 (...so that they may be one, as we are one.) NRSV

²⁰"I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²²The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON A Place at the Table

HYMN We Gather Here (B.J.Leech) VU 469

We gather here in Jesus' name,
his love is burning in our hearts like living flame;
for through the loving son God fashions us as one:
Come taste the bread, come drink the wine,
come share the Lord.

No one is a stranger here, everyone belongs;
finding our forgiveness here, we in turn forgive all wrongs.

He joins us here, he breaks the bread,
the One who pours the cup is risen from the dead;
the One we love the most is now our gracious host:
Come taste the bread, come drink the wine,
come share the Lord.

We are now a family of which Christ is the head;
though unseen he meets us here in the breaking of the bread.

We'll gather soon where angels sing;
we'll see the glory of our Lord and coming King;
now we anticipate the feast for which we wait:
Come taste the bread, come drink the wine,
come share the Lord.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

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

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!

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

Jesus said: *'I am the bread of life,
all who come to me shall not hunger,
and all who believe in me shall not thirst.'*

With Christians around the world
and throughout the centuries,
we, in spirit, gather around these symbols
of bread and wine—simple elements
that speak of nourishment and transformation.

**Loving God, we thank you that you are as close to us
as breath, that your love is constant and unfailing.
We thank you for all that sustains life, and especially
for Jesus Christ, who teaches us how to live out an
ethic of justice and peace, and for the promise of
transformation made manifest in his life, death and
resurrection. We ask you to bless this bread and cup.
Through this meal, make us the body of Christ,
that we may join with you in promoting the wellbeing
of all creation. And so we sing:**

***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.*** *(Kingsfold. MV 203)*

We remember that on the night Jesus and the disciples
Had their last meal together, Jesus took the bread,
Gave thanks, and gave it to the disciples, saying:
*'This is my body, which is broken for you.
Take and eat it, and as often as you do, remember me.'*

**In the symbol of the broken bread, we participate in the life
of Christ and dedicate ourselves to being his disciples.**

In the same way, he took the cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to his disciples, saying: *'Drink this, all of you. This cup is the new covenant, poured out for you and for many. Do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'*

**In the symbol of the cup,
we participate in the new life Christ brings.**

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)

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 THE FEAST

Communion in this time of pandemic will reflect our households as we bring to our worship spaces the things which speak to 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 your elements 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 shared this day: bread and wine for a hungry world; a blessing to those whose hearts are empty; a light in the darkness. Amen.

HYMN Creator God You Gave Us Life (J.Snowdon) MV 27

Creator God you gave us life, your image formed
within our souls, yet through the mist of time and space,
we search for that which makes us whole.

*Through hands that paint majestic skies, and voices
chanting melody, with words that reach beyond the page,
we comprehend your mystery.*

In every flower and every tree, we see your great
diversity, yet greater still we see your love,
expressed in our humanity.

*Through hands that paint majestic skies, and voices
chanting melody, with words that reach beyond the page,
we comprehend your mystery.*

When with our hearts, our hands and minds, we share our
gifts with all the world, our spirits soar beyond the veil,
to touch the very face of God.

*Through hands that paint majestic skies, and voices
chanting melody, with words that reach beyond the page,
we comprehend your mystery.*

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

As many threads are made one in the cloth,
as the many grains are made one in the bread,
as many grapes are made one in the wine,
so we who are many are made one in Christ.

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 Waiting To Happen – written and performed by Frank Pulumbarit



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,

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), and YouTube.