

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



World Food Sunday

October 17, 2021

*For food in a world where many walk in hunger; for faith in a world
where many walk in fear; for friends in a world where many walk alone,
we give you humble thanks, O God.*

(Manfred Wester/Robert J. Crocker)

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Viva La Vida (*Coldplay/arr. Kevin McChesney*)

Bellissimo and Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensembles, with Steve Cooke, bass guitar;
Steve Falk, guitar; Brian Pastoor, synthesizer; Frank Pulumbarit, drums
200th Anniversary Celebration Concert, May 27, 2018

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 David & Carol Lever

Are you hungry today?

**We are hungry for meaning in our lives,
for hope in our hearts, and for service to others.**

And we remember all who are physically hungry today.

Are you thirsty today?

**We thirst for right relationships with one another,
for justice to be done, for everyone,
for food to be shared equitably,
and for knowledge of God's presence in our lives.**

We come in worship today,
mindful of the world's needs and of our own—

Let us worship God.

HYMN Come Touch Our Hearts (*Gordon Light*) MV 12

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire; love strong enough
to overturn injustice, to seek a world more gracious,
come touch and bless our hearts.

Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
your quiet presence all our fears dispel; create a space
for spirit to grow in us, let life and beauty fill us,
come touch and bless our souls.

Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;
help us to open doors of understanding, to welcome
truth and wisdom, come touch and bless our minds.

Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;
that we may rise to follow and to serve, steady now
our nerve, come touch and bless our wills.

Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,
to break the bread and share the cup of peace;
that we may love you with our heart, our soul, our mind,
our strength, our all, come touch us with your grace.

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Gracious God, we know we live in a world of want
and abundance existing side by side.

**Yet we know that is not how it was in the beginning.
In the beginning, you planted a garden with enough
food for everyone to eat.**

Today, O God, we realize the earth garden is not as
healthy as it once was. Droughts and floods, wild fires
and tropical storms have wreaked havoc in the garden
so that food supplies are disrupted.

**We realize too that not everyone has the same access
to food. Some are employed; some are unemployed.
Some have good access to education while others
cannot afford it or it is not available. Some have
stores full of food and other supplies while others
are met with empty shelves and limited options.**

Help us, O God, to make it possible for all of us,
all the people of the world, to have access to good
education, training, jobs, and food, so that no one
goes hungry.

**As Jesus said at the feeding of the five thousand,
'You yourselves give them something to eat.' Amen.**

(Mtt 14:16) Allan Warren, Appleby U.C., Burlington, Ont.

WORDS OF GRACE

God calls us to live out such abundance so all the world
may be fed. May this be so, in our lives and in our world.

Thanks be to God!

THEME STORY Saying Grace

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 58:9b-11 (You shall be like a watered garden, a spring of water.)
Laurie Marie (Torno)

Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

GIFT OF MUSIC Down to the River to Pray (*Traditional*)

Steve Falk, Linda Henshaw, Janice Nolan, David Pilkey & Youthful Spirits

GOSPEL Matthew 13:1-9 (And he told them many things in parables.) NRSV

13That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. 2Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. 3And he told them many things in parables, saying: "Listen! A sower went out to sow. 4And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. 5Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. 6But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. 7Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. 8Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. 9Let anyone with ears listen!"

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON For Food in a World...

HYMN Soil of God, You and I (*J. Hannah/D. Melhorn-Boe*) MV 174

Soil of God, you and I, stand ready to bear
seeds of faith nourished by God's tender care.
Growing in everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are...Holy ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now ready to be
part of God's promise for others to see.
Open to everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are...Holy ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now called to rebirth,
joining as partners with all of the earth.
Living in harmony for here God is found.
All stand together, this is...Holy ground.

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 Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples (*J. K. Carmichael*) VU 507

Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free, make ploughshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.

God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud, we sow not peace but strife,
our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.

Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.

May we in service to our God act out the living Word,
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

These words of commissioning come from 1 Corinthians 10:31:
**'Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything
for the glory of God.'**

And may God, our Creator, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer,
and the Holy Spirit, our Sustainer inspire us to live our mission
this day and forevermore. Amen.

POSTLUDE How Can I Keep From Singing? (*Traditional/R.Lowry*)
NYC Virtual Choir and Orchestra (140 singers and musicians)



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, David & Carol Lever, Laurie Marie, Bellissimo and Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensembles, Steve Cooke, Steve Falk, Linda Henshaw, Janice Nolan, Brian Pastoor, Frank Pulumbarit, David Pilkey & Youthful Spirits

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Images used in worship video...

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Soil of God, You and I - Aaron Burden - Unsplash

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples – Emmanuel Baya – World Food Day 2021 slide. Used with permission.

The hymn recordings today are from...

More Voices: Audio CD (The United Church of Canada, 2007) and YouTube.

Come Touch Our Hearts – Trinity United Church Choir, Vernon, BC. Blair Odney, director. November 18, 2006. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A-718074.

Soil of God, You and I - More Voices Festival, Mount Paul United Church, Kamloops, BC. November 20, 2006. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A-718074.

Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples – Strathroy United Church, Strathroy, ON.
January 15, 2012. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A-718074.

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