

## *Welcome to Aurora United Church*

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



### *Epiphany 5*

## *Honouring Black History Month*

*February 6, 2022*

The theme for Black History Month 2022 is, **February and Forever:  
Celebrating Black History today and every day.**

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** In The Garden (*arr. Kevin McChesney*) EmBellished Handbell Ensemble

**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** Bill & Nancy Newman

Greeting to our brothers and sisters in faith.

**We come to celebrate God's presence,  
and God's love expressed through Jesus.**

We come remembering Jesus' life and ministry,  
**and the life we are called to live.**

We come as pilgrim people  
searching for ways to live out our faith.

**We come seeking the vitality  
to carry on our journey.**

Let us celebrate God's gift to us!

**Let us worship!**

**HYMN** A Light is Gleaming (*L. Good*) VU 82

*A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night,  
living in the light. Come share its gladness, God's radiant  
love is burning bright, living in the light.*

When light comes pouring into the darkest place,  
it hurts our eyes to see the glow. Sometimes a word of hope  
reminds us of our fears, our memories and tears.

*A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night,  
living in the light. Come share its gladness, God's radiant  
love is burning bright, living in the light.*

When night is round us and every shadow grows,  
a star is there to light our way. It tells a story of Jesus who  
came near to say: 'God's light will ever stay.'

*A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night,  
living in the light. Come share its gladness, God's radiant  
love is burning bright, living in the light.*

And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.  
He showed us things we hadn't seen. Now we, like Jesus,  
can help creation shine, and this will be a sign:

*A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night,  
living in the light. Come share its gladness, God's radiant  
love is burning bright, living in the light.*

So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n,  
and let us rise to see the dawn. We trust that God is here  
a sparkle and blaze, warming all our days.

*A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night,  
living in the light. Come share its gladness, God's radiant  
love is burning bright, living in the light.*

### **PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**

**Loving God, forgive us when we fail to respond to your call for unity among our kindred and siblings. Forgive us when we are bound by our narrow understandings of discipleship. Forgive us when we turn our backs on opportunities to secure a place in your Beloved Community. Forgive us when we make excuses to be advocates of fairness and justice for the oppressed. Forgive us when we fail to acknowledge each other. Just God, through your Holy Spirit, we are drawn to the flame of your empowering love; through your Spirit we offer ourselves in discipleship, and through your Holy Spirit we seek to follow the loving ways of our brother Jesus. God in community-Holy in One, we pray. Amen.**

*(Black History Month: Fishing So Others Can Have a Meal. UCC.Adapted)*

**WORDS OF GRACE**

God is our refuge and home—our strength-our centre.

**Thanks be to God!**

**THEME STORY** Jesus Calls His First Disciples (LifeKids) YouTube

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 (An account of Jesus' resurrection.) Martha Bailkowski

15Now I would remind you, brothers and sisters, of the good news that I proclaimed to you, which you in turn received, in which also you stand, <sup>2</sup>through which also you are being saved, if you hold firmly to the message that I proclaimed to you—unless you have come to believe in vain. <sup>3</sup>For I handed on to you as of first importance what I in turn had received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>4</sup>and that he was buried, and that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, <sup>5</sup>and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. <sup>6</sup>Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles. <sup>8</sup>Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me. <sup>9</sup>For I am the least of the apostles, unfit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. <sup>10</sup>But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me has not been in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them—though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me. <sup>11</sup>Whether then it was I or they, so we proclaim and so you have come to believe.

**GIFT OF MUSIC** Winter from the Four Seasons (Largo) *A. Vivaldi, arr. M. Carnelli*  
Wesley Bells, violin & Margaret Heney, piano

**GOSPEL** Luke 5:1-11 (Jesus calls Simon, James and John) NRSV

5Once while Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, <sup>2</sup>he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets. <sup>3</sup>He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat. <sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.” <sup>5</sup>Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught

nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.”<sup>6</sup>When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break.<sup>7</sup>So they signaled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats, so that they began to sink.<sup>8</sup>But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’ knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!”<sup>9</sup>For he and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken;<sup>10</sup>and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.”<sup>11</sup>When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.

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

## **SERMON** February and Forever—Black History Month

**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 (*Iona Community/Scottish Trad.*) 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***

O Living, Disturbing God,  
**let us go in peace with you,**  
to disrupt those who are comfortable,  
**comfort those who mourn,**  
**and walk alongside those who suffer**  
**various forms of racial discrimination.**  
Now receive the blessing of God all-loving;  
**our Mother-God who holds us in our pain,**  
our Brother-God, Jesus the Christ,  
who gives us courage to resist,  
**and Spirit-God who binds us together**  
**in all that is free and liberated.**

**Amen.** (*Worship Liturgy for Black History Month: UCC, 2022*)

***POSTLUDE*** Winter from the Four Seasons (Allegro non molto)

*Antonio Vivaldi arr. Maurizio Carnelli*

Wesley Bells, violin & Margaret Heney, piano



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast  
are on traditional Territories of Indigenous Peoples.

---

***All hymns and music used today are reprinted and podcast with permission  
under One License #A-718074 and CCLI Licenses #20425240 and #20425257***

***Participating in Worship today...***Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar,  
Margaret Heney, Bill & Nancy Newman, Martha Bailkowski, Wesley Bells, and  
Embellished Handbell Ensemble.

*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! ☺

***Images used in worship video...***

Bulletin Cover – Robin Jonathan Deutch - Unsplash

A Light is Gleaming - Peter Zhang - Unsplash

Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore – Neale Johnson -- Unsplash

Will You Come and Follow Me – unsplash.jpg

***The hymn recordings today are from ...***

YouTube.

A Light Is Gleaming – Linnea Good. January 9, 2020. Used with permission. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A-718074 and CCLI Licenses #20425240 and #20425257.

Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore – Ebenezer United Church, Markham, Ontario. August 8, 2020. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A-718074.

Will You Come and Follow Me – Recorded remotely by the Choral Scholars of St. Martin-in-the-Fields in their homes. London, England. 2020. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A-718074 and CCLI Licenses #20425240 and #20425257.

In The Garden (arr. Kevin McChesney). EmBellished Handbell Ensemble. Podcast with permission under One License #A-718074.

Winter from the Four Seasons (Largo). (Antonio Vivaldi arr. Maurizio Carnelli). Wesley Bells, violin. Public Domain.

Winter from the Four Seasons (Allegro non molto). (Antonio Vivaldi arr. Maurizio Carnelli). Wesley Bells, violin. Public Domain.

Jesus Calls His First Disciples. LifeKids. February 8, 2016