

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE O My Soul Rejoice With Gladness
(Sigfrid Karg-Elert arr. Noel Rawsthorne)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters
Brian Walter

INTROIT My Soul is Thirsting for You (S.Angrisano)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy is the Creator of the heavens and the earth,
of sunlight and starlight, forest and ocean.

Holy is the composer of birdsong and thunderstorm.
Let all creation sing praise!

Holy is the One who was born in a stable,
who knelt down in the dust to wash feet.

Holy is the One whose crown was twisted thorns.
Let all creation sing praise!

Holy is the Spirit who confounds the powerful,
who lifts up the silenced and forgotten.

Holy is the love that breaks the rules of empire.
Let all creation sing praise!

Let us worship!

(Church of Scotland, Sunday Liturgies)

***HYMN** Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation **VU 325**

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Christ, reigning. When the first are last, you reign.
When hearers hear, you reign. When the heavy-
laden find rest, you reign. This is a peculiar reign: a
glory that can only reflect from tarnished gold, an
audience given only to broken angels, a banquet set

out for the least of these. This is a peculiar reign: the
world shifts on its axis, the darkness creeps back, the
forgotten find themselves with names. This is the reign
we long for, the realm we dream of, the community we
believe in. May we live dangerously and turn our words
of faith into acts of trust. May we be part of this, O
Christ: may we lift your torn robe and wrap the poor in
it. May we take your crown of thorns and stand with the
suffering. May we break the bread and feed the hungry
of the world. May we hold the cross and know what must
be given. This is a peculiar reign, but it is yours and it
will change the world, if only we would find you, follow
you and worship you in this way. Christ, reigning. Make
space for us and may we make space for you. So be it.
Amen (Roddy Hamilton, Winter/Iona)

WORDS OF GRACE

God creates new hearts within us.
Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE Dance With the Spirit (J.Strathdee)
MV 156 **Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.
work and hope for the new life abornin',
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.**

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Luke 1:68-79 VU p. 900
(The Song of Zechariah.) Charles Truax

ANTHEM There Is Power in Jesus' Name (Pepper Choplin)

GOSPEL Luke 23:33-43 p.89 Pew Bible NT
(‘Remember me when you come into your kingdom.’)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON His Majesty

***HYMN** What Wondrous Love Is This **VU 147**

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY This is My Father's World (arr. Mocklebust)
Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensemble/Mackenzie Malarczyk, flute

***DEDICATION** Take, O Take Me as I Am (Belle/Maule)
MV 85 **Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart,
and live in me. (sing twice)**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING

PRAYER PRELUDE Spirit of Life (C.McDade) **VU 381**
**Spirit of Life, come unto me.
Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER
Voices United p. 910

***HYMN** O World of God VU 258

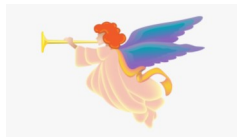
*** COMMISSIONING**

And now, may God who brings to birth
and sustains all life, sustain you;
**may Christ who fashions hope
and strengthens faith, strengthen us.**
May the Spirit who empowers and inspires
action, inspire you;
today, and in the days to come.

***SUNG BLESSING** Wherever You May Go (MV 216)

**Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.**

POSTLUDE Recessional on ‘Lasst uns erfreuen’ (A.Smith)



Carols by Candlelight—What Sweeter Music
AUC Chancel Choir, AUC Handbells
& the Cathedral Brass Quartet
Sunday, December 11th 4pm
Trinity Sanctuary

No Way to Treat a Child. Obaida’s Story

The first time he was detained by Israeli military forces,
Obaida was only 14.

Military violence exposes children to unimaginable brutality. “I was on my way to the store when they arrested me,” Obaida, a Palestinian child from Al-Aroub refugee camp, says to the camera. “When they took me for interrogation, they bound my hands in plastic cords. They used two of them so that I couldn’t move my hands at all. My eyes were covered in a thick blindfold that also covered my nose and made it hard to breathe.” He is talking about the first time he was detained by Israeli military forces. Obaida was only 14. Palestinians in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip have lived under Israeli occupation since 1967. Any one—including children—can be arrested without a warrant if there is suspicion that a “security offence” has been committed. According to The United Church of Canada’s mission partner Defense for Children International–Palestine (DCIP), Israeli forces detain and prosecute around 700 Palestinian children every year. Thirteen thousand Palestinian children have been detained by Israeli forces and held in military detention facilities since 2000. Israel is the only country in the world that routinely convicts children in military courts—which are known to lack fair trial guarantees. On May 17, 2021, just a month shy of his 18th birthday, Obaida was tragically killed. He was one of the 67 children who were killed by Israeli forces during an 11-day military assault on the Gaza Strip. Palestinian children, like all children, deserve a childhood that is free of violence. Your [Mission & Service](#) gifts support DCIP in defending and promoting the rights of children living in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip. Thank you for helping to provide a safe and just future for all children.



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

AURORA UNITED CHURCH

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Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar
Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney



Wales Window for Alabama: Sixteenth St. Baptist Church, Birmingham

REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

November 20, 2022

11:00 AM

*We sing of Jesus, a Jew, born to a woman in poverty
in a time of social upheaval and political oppression.
He knew human joy and sorrow. So filled with the
Holy Spirit was he that in him people experienced the
presence of God among them. We sing to God
incarnate. (UCC Statement of Faith, 2006)*

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation VU 325

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone, chosen of the Lord, and precious, binding all the church in one, holy Zion's help for ever, and its confidence alone.

To this temple where we call you, come, O Lord of hosts, today; with your faithful loving-kindness hear your servants as they pray, and your fullest benediction shed within its walls always.

Here bestow on all your servants what they ask of you to gain, what they gain from you for ever with the blessed to retain, and hereafter in your glory evermore with you to reign.

Laud and honour to the Father, laud and honour to the Son, laud and honour to the Spirit, ever three and ever one, one in might, and one in glory, while unending ages run.

What Wondrous Love Is This VU 147

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul, what wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, that caused the Lord of life to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, to lay aside his crown for my soul.

To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I Am, while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing; while millions join the theme I will sing.

And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be, and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and through eternity I'll sing on.

Responsive Reading: Luke 1:68-79

R God shall fulfil the promise and bring the people peace.

Blessed be the God of Israel,

who has come to the people and set them free,

Who has raised up for us a mighty saviour,

born of the house of the servant David.

Through the holy prophets of old God promised to save us from our enemies,

from the hands of all who hate us,

to show the mercy promised to our ancestors,

to remember the holy covenant, the oath God swore to our ancestors

Abraham and Sarah,

to set us free from the hands of our enemies,

free to serve God without fear, holy and righteous in God's presence, all

the days of our life. R

And you child, will be called the prophet of the Most High, for you will go before the Lord to prepare the way,

to give the people knowledge of salvation, by the forgiveness of their sins.

In the tender compassion of our God, the dawn from on high shall break upon us.

To shine on those who sit in darkness, in the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace. R

O World of God VU 258

O world of God, so vast and strange, profound and wonderful and fair, beyond the utmost each of thought but not beyond our Maker's care! We are not strangers on this earth whirling amid the suns of space; we are God's children, this our home, with those of every clime and race.

O world where human life is lived, so strangely mingling joy and pain, so full of evil and of good, so needful that the good shall reign! It is this world that God has loved, and goodness was its Maker's plan, the promise of God's triumph is a humble birth in Bethlehem.

O world of time's far-stretching years! There was a day when time stood still, a central moment when there rose a cross upon a cruel hill; in pain and death love's power was seen, the mystery of time revealed, the wisdom of the ways of God, the grace through which our hurt is healed.