

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Trio (Suite Du Premier Ton)
Louis-Nicolas Clerambault

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters

INTROIT Lead Us to Still Waters *(Dan C. Damon)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Advent days of waiting
have passed;
The days of Christmas celebration
have passed;
and even the star of the Magi
has dimmed.

What is next for us who come in worship this day?

**In these post-Christmas days of Epiphany,
we claim anew the promises of Advent
as we seek new visions of what hope, peace,
joy and love mean in our lives.**

Then come—
let us worship!

***HYMN** Arise, Your Light Is Come *p.7*

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Creative and compassionate God, you give a vision to us and to our world. It is a vision of a world where nations will live in peace; where the poor will hear the good news that there will be enough for all, where those who oppress will lose their power. We come, acknowledging that the vision has not yet

become a reality. For the times and places we have added to the hurt and not the healing, we pray for new resolve and commitment to shine as Christ's light in the world, for the transforming of the world. God in community-Holy in One, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

God is at work in the world,
creating new opportunities in every day.
Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE Arise, Be Clothed in the Light *VU 886*
Arise, be clothed in the light.
Arise, be clothed in the light.
Your light has come. Your light has come.
Hallelujah.

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Acts 10:34-43 *Pew Bible p.129-130 NT*
(Peter's sermon to the Gentiles.) Paula Hanna

ANTHEM Candle Burning *(Pat Mayberry/David Kai)*

GOSPEL Matthew 3:13-17 *Pew Bible p.3 NT*
(Jesus is baptized by John.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON River Stories

***HYMN** Like a Healing Stream *(Bruce Harding) MV 144*

Like a healing stream in a barren desert, Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth, God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding, promising revival and rebirth...like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden, Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed, God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation, yearning for an end to want and need... like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current, Spirit water rushing on to distant shore, God is carving out a channel in a new direction, calling for an end to hate and war... like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons, Spirit water with a love both deep and wide, God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow: God will always challenge and provide! Like a mighty sea, like a river strong, like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Night of Nights *(Beardsley Van De Water)*
Bob McRoberts

***DEDICATION** We Are an Offering *(D. Liles)*
We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are yours;
we are an offering. We are an offering.

OFFERTORY PRAYER
PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING

PRAYER PRELUDE Let My Spirit Always Sing *MV 83*

Let my spirit always sing, to your spirit answering,
through the silence, through the pain
know my hope is not in vain,
like a feather on your breath
trust your love, through life and death.

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

***HYMN** Will You Come and See the Light *p.8*

***COMMISSIONING**

And now, we go as one body,
united in Christ's body.
Love—**forgive.**
Show mercy—**make peace.**
And tell the good news of Christ—
the world's Light.

***SUNG BLESSING**

Go Now in Peace, Guided by the Light *(Rubalcava) MV 211*

Go now in peace, guided by the light of Christ,
so you may be nourished by the Word of Life.
Go now in peace, guided by the light of Christ,
so you may be nourished by the Word of Life.

POSTLUDE Song for a New Year *(Gilbert M. Martin)*



A BETTER WORLD:
ONE WATER PROJECT AT A TIME

According to UNICEF, more than half of the global population does not have access to safe sanitation and 2.2 billion people still lack access to safe drinking water. Today—Baptism of Jesus Sunday—is a good day to consider our relationship with water.

How many Bible stories do you know have to do with water? Many of us have heard the story of Moses making water flow from rock and parting the Red Sea. We may remember stories about Jesus turning water into wine, walking on water, and calming it, too. So often, water is the focal point of God's miracles and grace. It figures prominently because it's necessary.

Clean water is essential to life, and yet around the world people suffer for lack of it.

The issues are complex. Climate change is altering weather and water patterns, causing shortages and droughts in some areas and floods in others. In some parts of the world, a growing population means rising demand and there isn't enough water to go around. Water infrastructure problems sometimes mean people can't access water even when it is available.

There are racial and gender implications to accessing water, too. Did you know that, on average, women and children in the Global South walk nearly 6 kilometres to access water and carry nearly 19 liters of water every day?

Through [Mission & Service](#) you help provide solutions to water issues worldwide.



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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AURORA UNITED
CHURCH

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



BAPTISM OF JESUS
January 8, 2023
11:00 AM

*Becoming the Beloved means letting the truth of
our Belovedness become enfleshed in everything
we think, say, and do. (Henri Nouwen)*

