

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE All Glory Be To God On High *(Flor Peeters)*

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters
Peter & Andrea Drost

INTROIT Jesus Saw Them Fishing *(Ken Canedo)*

CALL TO WORSHIP

Many of us spend our lives rushing—
**to get things done, to go places we need to be,
to achieve our destinies.**

Some of us spend our time hurrying—
**from one place to another,
through one activity on the way to another,
forgetting to take time
to enjoy what is around us.**
On this day of Sabbath—
**let us slow our hurrying
and calm our rushing,
taking time to settle into worship,
and taking time to settle into God's presence.**

God is here, with us now, with us always.
Let us recognize this Holy Presence
as we worship today.

Let us worship!

(Heather McClure, Wesley U.C., Montreal, Que., adapted.)

***HYMN** Sing Your Praise to God Eternal *pg 7*

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

As we gather as your community, Loving God, we
acknowledge the breadth of our participation, from here
in this sanctuary, from home and from the places we live
and travel otherwise. From different paths, from
different walks, we marvel at the many ways we
encounter you. In places we might not expect, in people
we might not imagine. Sometimes we see you very clearly
and sometimes we pass by without seeing you at all and
your call to us seems muted somehow. Open our eyes to
see you here and now; to see you among your people
across our congregation, and to hear your call in the
world around us. As your presence is revealed in the
ordinary and in the extraordinary, coax our mouths to
speak and sing and shout the Good News that you are.
God in Community-Holy in One, we pray in Jesus'
name. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

God calls us to new awareness—
to new life, again and again.
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 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 *Pew Bible p. 165-166 NT*
(I thank God for you.) Debra Hilliard

ANTHEM I Thank My God For You *(Joseph M. Martin)*

GOSPEL John 1:29-42 *Pew Bible p.92 NT*
(Simon and Andrew become disciples.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Look. See. Find.

***HYMN** To Show by Touch and Word *pg 8*

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Be Thou My Vision
(Trad. Irish Melody/E. Hull arr. N.Pacheco) George Collins

***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** A Light Is Gleaming *pg 8*

***COMMISSIONING**

And now, may the companionship of God,
 shape us into community;

**embracing each other and the world
 with compassion.**

Let us go gladly into the world as we are able...

to be filled with the love of God.

Dance to the song of the Spirit

and reflect the Christ in each new day.

***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 Alleluia, Song of Gladness (*Robert J. Powell*)



Theological Education Provides a Roadmap to Vitality

“We want to help communities of faith re-focus on
 core principles of church health.”

“We are committed to serve and support the church,” says VST’s President and Vice-Chancellor Richard Topping. To that end, the school has big plans for the coming year: to expand facilities in order to create more teaching space for its growing student body, to begin new partnerships, and to invest in helping congregations flourish.

“Many congregations struggle with issues of viability: for example, managing and maintaining buildings, paying for staff, and other related expenses. Through our **Congregational Vitality through Community Engagement** project, we want to help communities of faith re-focus on core principles of church health and begin to explore new ways of becoming a thriving church,” says Topping.

Right now, through the Congregational Vitality Initiative, VST is working hard to identify the challenges that congregations are facing and help them see what the future might look like. As the research unfolds, VST will gather the best resources and practices that lead to congregational vitality and make them available to the whole church. With proven resources in hand, congregations will be equipped to become more healthy and vital. For communities of faith that are struggling or need extra support, the school plans to offer hands-on support.

“Your gifts are crucial to the work of our school. It is a source of encouragement to our work during these days when the whole of our operations is online because of COVID-19 restrictions. Through the hard work and dedication of a staff, faculty, and student body, who not only work hard but also care deeply, we have been able to continue keep our calling: to educate and form thoughtful, engaged, and generous Christian leaders for the church and the world in the 21st century,” says Topping.

Thank you for your gifts through [Mission & Service](#). By supporting theological education, you ensure not only that the church has strong leaders but also equip them and the whole of the church with a roadmap to vitality, too.

Thank you.



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



EPIPHANY 2
January 15, 2023
11:00 AM

We sing of a church seeking to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ's presence in the world. We are called together by Christ as a community of broken but hopeful believers, loving what he loved, living what he taught, striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and space. (UCC Song of Faith)

Sing Your Praise to God Eternal

Sing your praise to God eternal, sing your praise to God the Son, sing your praise to God the Spirit, living and forever One. God has made us, God has blessed us, God has called us to be true. God rules over all creation, daily making all things new.

Join the praise of every creature, sing with singing birds at dawn; when the stars shine forth at nightfall, hear their heavenly antiphon. Praise God for the light of summer, autumn glories, winter snows, for the coming of the springtime and the life of all that grows.

Praise God on our days of gladness for the summons to rejoice; praise God in our times of sadness for the calm, consoling voice. God our Maker, strong and loving, Christ our Saviour, Leader, Lord, living God, Creator Spirit, be your holy name adored!



To Show by Touch and Word

To show by touch and word devotion to the earth, to hold in full regard all life that comes to birth, we need, O God, the will to find the good you had of old in mind.

Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most, our hearts to long for truth till ride of self is lost. For every challenge that we face we need your guidance and your grace.

Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm, and let our lives portray your word in human form. Now come with us that we may have your wits about us where we live.

A Light is Gleaming

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.' **R**

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: **R**

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 asparkle and ablaze, - warming all our days. **R**