

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE I Shall Be Released (*Bob Dylan*)
Steve Falk/David Pilkey

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters
Brian Walter

INTROIT What Does the Lord Require of You
(*Jim Strathdee*)

CALL TO WORSHIP
God of the sacred Word,
in worship
we respond to your inspiration.
God of the lively hymn,
in worship
we respond to your rhythm.
God of the heartfelt prayer,
in worship
we respond to your healing presence.
God of the prophetic vision,
in worship
we respond to your call.
And so we come...
let us worship!

***HYMN** God, We Praise You for the Morning **VU 415**

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

**Called to be light in your world O God, we would
carry your hope into the shadows of the world.
Called to reach out beyond ourselves, we would
enhance the lives of those around us, meeting their**

**needs as we discover them. Called to live, reflecting
your realm, we would welcome everyone as sisters and
brothers in faith. Connect our intent to action, Loving
God; spark the motivation we need within us to speak
your love and grace in the world, embodying peace and
justice in all the parts of our lives. May we reflect your
light in the world. God in Community-Holy in One, we
pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

God touches our hearts,
and fills us with grace and healing.
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 1:18-31 *p.166 Pew Bible NT*
(Boast in the Lord.) Nancy Kerswill

ANTHEM This Is The House Of God (*John Rutter*)

GOSPEL Matthew 5:1-12 *p.4 Pew Bible NT*
(The Beatitudes.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON As If

***HYMN** The Servant Song **VU 595**

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY What's Going On (*M.Gaye*)
Steve Falk/David Pilkey

***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** O Master, Let Me Walk With Thee **VU 560**

*** COMMISSIONING**

And now, may God's blessing be ours:
a blessing of loving kindness,
a blessing of hope and courage,
a blessing of listening and love.
 God's blessing be ours, and ours to share.
(R. Burgess, Winter.)

***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 Pasticcio *(Jean Langlais)*



The Mission & Service Fund

Tamilarasi is a very bright 15-year-old from a small village in Tamil Nadu, South India. She is lucky to be able to go to school. In her village, girls her age are often pulled out of school to be married. Life isn't easy. Tamilarasi's father recently died in an accident and she is

living with her mother and two other siblings. As a widow with no inheritance rights, Tamilarasi's mother may lose their family home when her brother marries. The teenager worries about where she and her family will live in the future.

"Our life has become a question mark now," she writes in a thank-you letter to the Human Rights Advocacy and Research Foundation (HRF), our Mission & Service partner. "Questions haunt me and sometimes I'm unable to sleep," she says.

When a representative from HRF visited Tamilarasi's school, she gave a presentation on children's rights to the students at a school assembly. At the assembly, Tamilarasi and other students were encouraged to stay in school and they received a backpack. "The schoolbag was of good quality and spacious enough to carry all my books and notebooks," she wrote. "I felt very happy."

Offering school supplies to students makes it possible for our Mission & Service partners to help young people like Tamilarasi complete their education and stay in school.

What's more, with support Gifts with Vision, the United Church's gift catalogue, HRF provided backpacks stocked with school supplies to almost 500 Tamil Nadu children who live in poverty. Without those supplies, the children would not be able to attend or participate in classes. Your generosity helps students around the world pursue their dreams.

One day, Tamilarasi wants to become a doctor. "I want to protect children like myself from diseases," she explained. "I know I can't afford to while away my time!"

Thank you for making a difference by providing life-transforming advocacy and school supplies. Your support truly does help change lives.



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 4
January 29, 2023
11:00 AM

Within the struggle, joy, pain and delight that attend our life, there is an invisible circle of grace that enfolds and encompasses us in every moment. Blessings help us to perceive this circle of grace, to find our place of belonging within it, and to receive the strength the circle holds for us. (J. Richardson)