

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

All Are Made in the Image of God.

PRELUDE Andante Religioso-Sonata No.4, Opus 65
(Felix Mendelssohn)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters
Martha Bailkowsky

INTROIT Hush! Hush! (African American Spiritual)
(arr. Stephen Lee)

CALL TO WORSHIP

With what shall we come before our God?

God has already told us what is good.

Shall we come with gifts and offerings?

God wants us to do justice.

What does the Lord require of us?

God wants us to love kindness.

What does the Lord require of us?

God wants us to walk humbly with God.

Come then, let us worship God.

***HYMN** Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love insert p.7

OPENING PRAYER

Hear us, Holy One. You created all human beings in your image and likeness. You have stamped each human person with a unique specialness, and all persons bear your image. Through that image you call on us to reflect your goodness, justice, and love to all the world. Remind us that when we speak out for justice, mercy, and compassion we are displaying the attributes we find in you. As we come to offer to

you what we believe you are worth, show us how to display you in everything we do. Show us how to respect your image in all human beings. Help us to defend your image that is found in all human beings. Amen

Candle of Remembering

Let us light a candle to remember those who have been affected by the transatlantic enslavement of African peoples and all who even today are affected by slavery and its legacy.

Litany of Remembering and Confession

Let us pause to remember those who have been enslaved.

We recall that for over 400 years, more than 15 million people were the victims of the tragic transatlantic slave trade. During this time human beings made in the image of God were bought and sold, treated as property, and considered to be less than human.

Have mercy on us, O God. Help us to regard all persons as made in your image. Create in us a clean heart, and put a new and right spirit within us.

SUNG RESPONSE I Love You, God, Who Heard My Cry
VU 617

***I love you God, who heard my cry and pitied every groan.
Long as I live and troubles rise, I'll hasten to your throne.***

Let us pause to remember the families that were broken by enslavement. We recall the parents who never saw their children. We recall the family ties that were broken because of forced separation, the tears that were shed, the bitterness caused, and the hurts that continue.

Help us O God, to regard others with love and kindness. Create in us a clean heart, and put a new and right spirit within us.

SUNG RESPONSE I Love You, God, Who Heard My Cry
***I love you God, who heard my cry and pitied every groan.
Long as I live and troubles rise, I'll hasten to your throne.***

Let us pause to remember the ways we continue in our world to treat others based on the financial profit we can derive from them: the persons who work in poor conditions and who are underpaid, the children who are forced to work and receive less than minimum wage, the migrant workers who are exploited.

Help us, O God, to live in right relations with others. Create in us a clean heart, and put a new and right spirit within us.

SUNG RESPONSE I Love You, God, Who Heard My Cry
***I love you God, who heard my cry and pitied every groan.
Long as I live and troubles rise, I'll hasten to your throne.***

Slavery still exists today. We remember the women who have been sold into slavery for prostitution. We remember the children who are sold into slavery left vulnerable by poverty. We remember persons who are enslaved because of their addictions.

Forgive us, O God, when we forget that we are each other's neighbours. Create in us a clean heart, and put a new and right spirit within us. Amen.

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 112 insert p.7
(Delight in God's commandments.) Janice Nolan

ANTHEM Let the Heaven Light Shine on Me
(arr. Moses Hogan)

GOSPEL Matthew 5:13-20 p.4 Pew Bible
(You are salt; you are light.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Ours To Tell
Black History Month

***HYMN** Though Ancient Walls insert p.8

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Clair de Lune (*Claude Debussy*)
Wesley Bells, violin

***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** We Are Marching insert p.8

*** COMMISSIONING**

In a world where we have, in the past,
enslaved and dehumanized others,
We go to treat each person with dignity and respect.
In a world where profit is valued more than human life,
we go to proclaim the priceless worth of each person.
In a world where the ugliness of racism and White
supremacy is found,
We go to show that love conquers all social ills.
Go forth into the world in peace;
be of good courage;
hold fast that which is good;
render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted;
support the weak;
help the afflicted;
honour everyone;
love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy
Spirit; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the
Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you and remain with
you always.

***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 Sonata in G Minor
(*H. Purcell arr. A. Goldsborough*) Wesley Bells, violin



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

Church Office 905-727-1935
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**AURORA UNITED
CHURCH**

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



BLACK HISTORY MONTH
EPIPHANY 5
February 5, 2023
11:00 AM

*Every great dream begins with a dreamer. Always
remember you have within you the strength, the
patience, and the passion to reach for the stars-
to change the world. (Harriet Tubman)*

HYMN Jesu,* Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

**Jesu,* Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbours we have from you.**

Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, master who acts as a slave to them. **R**

Neighbours are rich and poor, varied in colour and race, neighbours are near and far away.
R

These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should love,
all are neighbours to us and you. **R**

Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet, this is the way we should live
with you. **R**

* 'Jesu' may be pronounced 'Yay-soo.'

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 112

R—They just shall trust in God alone.

Blessed are those who fear God,
who greatly delight in God's commandments.

Their descendants will be mighty in the land, the generation of the upright will be blessed.

Riches and plenty shall be in their house, their righteousness enduring forever.

They are light in the darkness for the upright, being gracious, compassionate and just.

**It goes well with those who lend generously, who conduct their affairs
with justice. R**

For the righteous will never be shaken; they will be kept in remembrance for ever.

They will not live in fear of bad news; with resolute heart they trust in God.

Their heart is steady, they do not fear; in the end they will see their enemies'
downfall.

**They distribute freely to the poor, their righteousness enduring forever; they
will hold up their heads in honour. R**

HYMN Though Ancient Walls

Though ancient walls may still stand proud and racial strife be fact, though boundaries may
be lines of hate, proclaim God's saving act!

**Walls that divide are broken down;
Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside;
Christ is our liberty!**

When vested power stands firm entrenched and breaks another's back, when waste and want
live side by side, it's Gospel that we lack. **R**

The truth we seek in varied scheme, the life that we pursue, unites us in a
common quest for self and world made new. **R**

The church divided seeks that grace, that newness we proclaim; a unity of serving love that
lives praise to God's name! **R**

This broken world seeks lasting health and vital unity. God's people by God's Word re-
newed, cast off all slavery! **R**

HYMN We Are Marching

We are marching in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God. We are marching
in the light of God, we are marching in the light of God.

(the light of God.)

We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo, (marching,) we are marching in the
light of God.

(the light of God.)

We are marching, (marching, we are marching,) oo-oo, (marching,) we are marching in the
light of God.