

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Come, O Come, Thou Quickening Spirit
(Flor Peeters)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters
Andrea & Peter Drost

INTROIT Love Us Into Fullness (Daniel C. Damon)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Greetings to our brothers and sisters in the faith.

We come to celebrate God's presence,
and God's love expressed through Jesus.

We come remembering Jesus' life and ministry,
and the life we are called to live.

We come as pilgrim people
searching for ways to live out our faith.

We come seeking the vitality to carry on our journey.

Let us rejoice in God's gift to us—

Let us worship!

***HYMN** Praise to the Lord, the Almighty *insert p. 7*

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

As we deepen into worship today, in this month of Black History, we recognize people of African and Caribbean descent and lament anti-Black racism and violence. We pray that God's Spirit will reorient us: challenging us to live by grace rather than entitlement; expecting us to be a blessing to the earth. We pray that by acknowledging our brokenness, we will be closer to becoming a church where the good news is lived out: faith nurtured and hearts comforted,

gifts shared for the good of all, resistance to the forces that exploit and marginalize, fierce love in the face of violence, human dignity defended, members of a community held and inspired by God. May we witness to your love and grace. **God in Community— Holy in One, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

(Black History Month resources-UCC)

WORDS OF GRACE

God's grace is abundant.

God's love is never ending.

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.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM *insert p. 9-10*

*We welcome, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Scarlett Joan Figliano**, daughter of Stephanie Gallagher and Mark Figliano.*

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 *p. 167 Pew Bible OT*
(We are God's servants, working together.) Lisa Kyriakides

ANTHEM A Winter Carol (Winnagene Hatch)

GOSPEL Matthew 5:21-37 *p.4-5 Pew Bible NT*
(Sermon on the Mount— further teachings.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON The Heart of Things

***HYMN** Deep In Our Hearts (Oldham/Klusmeier) MV 154
Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace and harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Where He Leads Me/He Leadeth Me
(arr. Brant Adams) Tim Birtch, trumpet

***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** I Heard the Voice of Jesus *insert p. 8*

*** COMMISSIONING**

And now, may the blessing of our Maker,
whose life flows through us—
the blessings of Jesus,
who found joy in the everyday moments of life—
and the blessing of the Spirit,
whose companionship keeps us on the journey—
surround, enfold, and guide us
this day, this night, and always.
(B.Root, Peterborough, On)

***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 Sunshine in My Soul/Sunlight
(arr. Brant Adams) Tim Birtch, trumpet

Building a “Quilt of Belonging,”
Patricia Watson—Bedford Church Nova Scotia

“...An area that I personally have tried to influence has been in educating the next generation by volunteering my time at several elementary and middle schools in Canada and the United States. From early 2011 until March of 2020, with the cooperation of several dynamic educators, I introduced Grade 2 students in Sahuarita, Arizona, and Lunenburg and New Ross, in Nova Scotia, to the meaning of Kwanzaa through books and videos. I also read books to them about Black history. One of my favourite projects was helping the children identify their heritage. When I asked the question, “Where did your grandparents or parents come from?” most of the children identified themselves as Canadians or Americans. I wanted them to get a sense of who they were and to be proud of their heritage. I introduced them to a book called **The Quilt of Belonging: Stitching Together the Stores of a Nation** by Janice Weaver. I also showed them videos about people from different cultures.

Using the cognitive pedagogy and analogy of the “quilt of belonging,” I emphasized how both local and global societies are made of the fabric of us all. Not that one strand or thread is more important than another, but that we are all intertwined together and symbiotically significant. All must be acknowledged and respected. If you pull on one thread, or try to disrupt, marginalize, erode, or destroy one thread, you will ultimately damage and destroy the whole quilt—and our global society as a whole. I used this to help the students identify their own family history, heritage, and roots. As an example, I used my own personal family heritage, which traces back to Nigeria, Sierra Leone, and Kenya. I spent time helping them go back and identify their roots. I emphasized the importance of the individual threads in making up the whole quilt because it took me a long time to be proud of who I am as a Black woman. I wanted to instill a sense of pride, so these students would grow up proud of themselves and their heritage...” For the full blog see:

<https://united-church.ca/blogs/round-table/building-quilt-belonging>

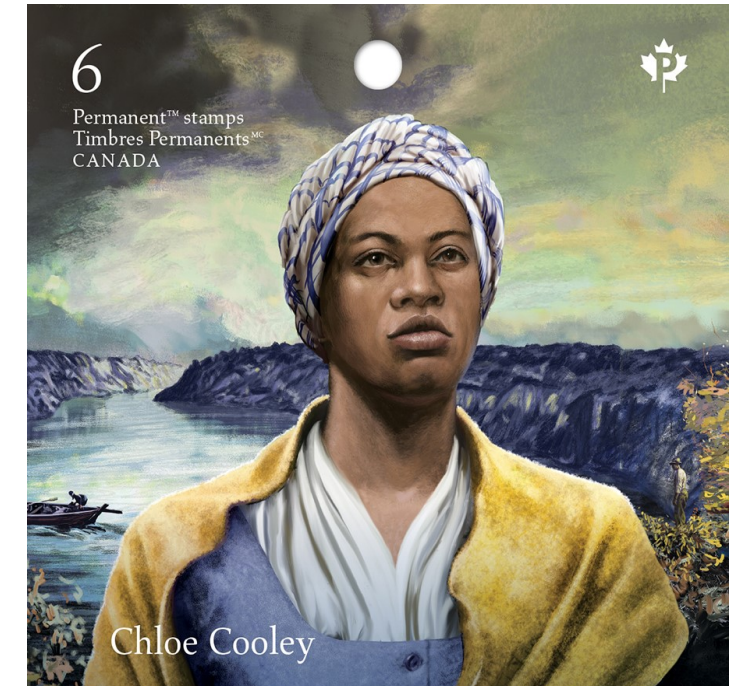


The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.

Church Office 905-727-1935
www.auroraunitedchurch.ca

**AURORA UNITED
CHURCH**

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



(Heritage Minute: (www.historicacanada.ca))

EPIPHANY 6
Honouring Black History Month
February 12, 2023
11:00 AM

Black history is not just for Black people.
Black history is Canadian history.
(Jean Augustine)

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, who rules all creation;
O my soul, praise him, at all times your health and salvation.
Come, all who hear: brothers and sisters draw near, joining
in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, above all things so mightily reigning,
keeping us safe at his side, and so gently sustaining.
Have you not seen how all you needed has been met by
God's gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord who will prosper our work and defend us;
surely his goodness and mercy will daily attend us: ponder
anew what the Almighty can do, who out of love will befriend us.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him! All that has
life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the Amen sound from God's people again: gladly with
praise we adore him.



I heard the Voice of Jesus

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Come unto me and rest; lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.' I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad; I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Behold, I freely give the living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live.' I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream; my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'I am this dark world's light; look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright.' I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and in that light of life I'll walk till travelling days are done.



The Sacrament of Baptism



Statement of Purpose

Brothers and sisters, let us celebrate the gift of grace known to us in the sacrament of baptism. **There is one body, and one Spirit, we have one hope in Christ.**

Presentation of Candidate *Nancy Kerswill*

On behalf of the congregation of Aurora United Church, I present, **Scarlett Joan Figliano**, for initiation into the family of Christ through baptism.

Questions of Parents, Sponsors

Do you believe in God, who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, and who works in us and others by the Spirit?

I do, by the grace of God.

Will you join together with your brothers and sisters in this community of faith to celebrate God's presence, and work and minister to a world in need of God's love?

I will, God being my helper.

Will you grow together with your daughter and offer to teach her the Christian faith, and help her to take her place in the Christian family?

I will, God being my helper.

The Congregation makes a promise: *Nancy Kerswill*

Let us pledge to this family, our support and care.

As a church following in the way of Jesus, we commit ourselves to support and uphold you within this community of faith. May God grant us all the grace to live out our baptism.

The Blessing of the Baptism Water

The water we use in baptism is a symbol of the grace of God—free-flowing, awakening, refreshing, renewing. It is a symbol of the unconditional love that names us and claims us as God's own. It is also a symbol of the faith that we share in common as people of Christ.

Let us pray... **Loving God, bless now this water that we will use in baptism. May it be a sign and promise of new life, not only for Scarlett, but also for all who have passed through the waters of baptism. In the Spirit of Christ, who was himself baptized, we pray. Amen.**

The Baptism *(What is the name of this child?)*

Scarlett Joan,

*I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.***

Scarlett Joan,

*child of God, with the sign of the cross, you become one with Christ Jesus in the family of God. **Amen.***

Scarlett Joan,

*may the blessing of the one God, Mother and Father of us all, be with you today and always. **Amen.***

Presentation of Certificate and Cross/Candlelighting

Sung Blessing *MV 214*

May God's sheltering wings, God's gathering wings protect you. May God's nurturing arms, God's cradling arms sustain you, and hold you in God's love, and hold you in God's love.