

## **SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** I am Black But Comely, O Daughters of  
Jerusalem (*Marcel Dupré*)

### **WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

#### **PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters**  
Paula Hanna

**INTROIT** When Heaven's Bright With Mystery  
(*Rob Johns, English Trad. Melody arr. R.V. Williams*)

#### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

God touches the world,  
**and the world changes.**  
God touches us,  
**and we are transformed.**  
In the brightness of day,  
**in the deep dark of night;**  
on mountain,  
**in valley.**  
Let us climb and descend together—  
**to embrace the light of Christ.**  
**Let us worship!**

**\*HYMN** We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding  
p 7

#### **PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**

Creator God, you are the source of all time. Yet it  
neither contains nor constrains you. We who are  
time-bound acknowledge that often we do not take  
the time or make the time to enter into your great  
stillness and gaze on you. In the restless pursuit of  
the next great thing, we become distracted and  
wander away from reflecting on you. Help us to

escape the bondage of busyness and find those moments  
of intersection with eternity, when your time and our  
time come together and we can grow in our awareness  
of you and of your purposes. We ask this in the name of  
Christ—the one who came into the world to make  
visible the Time of God. Amen.

#### **WORDS OF GRACE**

Our God is a God of mountain top experiences;  
One who journeys into the valleys of our lives.  
**We are never alone.**  
Through God's transforming love, we find boldness  
to speak, courage to stand, and strength to listen.  
**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** 2 Peter 1:16-21 *p.236 Pew Bible NT*  
(The morning star rises in your hearts.) Pat Innes

**ANTHEM** Choose Something Like a Star  
(*Robert Frost/Randall Thompson*)

**GOSPEL** Matthew 17:1-9 *p.18-19 Pew Bible NT*  
(Jesus is transfigured on the mountain.)

*Come to the quiet...a time for reflection*

**SERMON** Sea Change

**\*HYMN** Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ p 7

## **SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

**\*THE NEW CREED** p 8

**\*THE PEACE**

### **OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** How Good Lord to be Here (*arr.L.Delancy*)  
EmBellished Handbell Ensemble

**\*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**

#### **SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION (p.5)**

**\*HYMN** Bless Now O God, the Journey p 8

#### **\* COMMISSIONING**

Jesus was transformed before his friends.,  
**filled with the light of God.**  
Take courage for all of life's uphill journeys;  
**God's light is ours.**

#### **\*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** Prelude and Fugue in e minor BWV 533  
(*J.S. Bach*)

## The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you,**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

O God, you spoke— a word, a yearning, a creation—  
‘Let there be light!’ In that light—your light—creation  
dawned through Love.

**Within the deep and abiding light of your Love,  
relationships evolved into ever greater complexity:  
light upon light, love within love.**

Gazing upon the countless twinkling lights of starry nights,  
Sarah and Abraham envisioned their descendants.

**Witnessing the awe-inspiring beauty of a rainbow’s light,  
Noah perceived your promise of hope and of communion.**

Led by a fiery pillar blazing in the wilderness night, Moses  
led a grumbling people into identity as a People of God.

**Following the glorious light of a persistent star, Wise Ones  
discovered your vulnerability in a baby boy.**

Hiking to a mountain top for prayer and for retreat, three  
disciples witnessed your revealed glory in Jesus: the Word  
made flesh, a light of humble self-giving for all people. Fear,  
intrigue, uncertainty and doubt overtook too many. Though  
Jesus brought liberation to the oppressed as the Light of the  
World, we were stopped by our fears,  
**choosing the familiar instead of the just.**

But you, O God, continued to bring forth light, raising the  
crucified one to life and to wholeness. Therefore, we join with  
all creation to sing:

***O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space. All earth  
and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna  
in the highest heav’n, creation sings your praise. And blessed  
is the One who comes and bears your name always. MV 203***

*Words of Institution...*

Each time we break this bread and pour this cup, we, too, seek  
to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.  
Each time we break this bread and pour this cup, we, too, seek  
to proclaim the reign of God and the mystery of faith:

***Sing Christ has died and Christ has risen, Christ will come  
again. Sing Christ has died and Christ has risen, Christ will  
come again. MV 204***

God of light and of Love revealed in Jesus,  
bathe us in your Spirited light, which brings wholeness.  
**Within that light may we know Christ in the breaking  
of bread, that in word and in deed we may also become  
light and life.**

Into your loving heart, gracious God, we lift those among us in  
our community and in our world who yearn for wholeness in  
their living and for light in their loving...

*(Prayers for the community...)*

We turn to you now as a mother, praying the words that Jesus  
taught us to pray, saying: **Our Father...**

***Amen, Amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!  
Amen, Amen, O Holy One! Hosanna, and Amen! MV 205***

### ***SHARING THE FEAST***

Communion will be shared today by using the pre-filled  
Communion cups. Following the statements, ‘*Jesus Christ, bread  
of heaven*’ and, ‘*Jesus Christ, cup of salvation*’, you are invited  
to, first peel the top layer of the cup to reveal the bread, and then  
the bottom layer for the juice.

### ***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION***

**Loving One, as our bodies take in the nourishment of your  
love expressed in Jesus, may we be transformed by it, filled,  
as we are, with gift and grace. Amen.**



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](http://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca)

## AURORA UNITED CHURCH

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



## ***TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY***

***Honouring Black History Month***

**February 19, 2023**

**11:00 AM**

*Wherever you turn your eyes the world can shine like  
transfiguration. You don't have to bring a thing to it  
except a little willingness to see. Only, who could have  
the courage to see it?  
(Marilynne Robinson, Gilead)*

### **We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding**

We have come at Christ's own bidding to this high and holy place, where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God's grace. Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain, searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.

Light breaks in upon our darkness; splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word; Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the Law and Prophets meet: Christ, with garments drenched in brightness, stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory, fearful lest our faith decline, we like Peter find it tempting to remain and build a shrine. But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess, that our daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.

### **Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ**

Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy: bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

**Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound! Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again, pass the Word around: loaves abound!**

Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone, teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express. **R**

Jesus calls us in, sends us out, bearing fruit in a world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Immanuel) everywhere! **R**



### **The New Creed**

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We believe in God: who as created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God

### **Bless Now, O God, the Journey**

Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make, the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take. The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round, then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.

Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way, whose hope burns through the terrors, whose love sustains the day. We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound. Together we are seeking the road where faith is found.

Divine Eternal Lover, you meet us on the road. We wait for lands of promise where milk and honey flow. But waiting not for places, you meet us all around. Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.