

## **SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Sicilienne (Mark D. Himmelman)

### **WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters**  
Frank Pulumbarit

**INTROIT** Water Flowing from the Mountains  
(jim hanna arr. D. Melhorn-Boe)

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

As people of the journey  
we gather,

**supporting and uplifting one another.**

As people of the journey  
we venture on,

**unsure as to what lies around the next bend.**

As people of the journey  
we go in faith,

**confident that God is with us.**

As people of the journey  
we follow the light,

**the light that is in Jesus.**

As people of the journey  
we seek guidance,

**the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

Come, people of the journey,  
the Lenten path continues before us.

**Let us worship!**

**\*HYMN** Come, Let Us Sing pg 7

## **LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY** Holly Williamson

On this third Sunday of Lent we acknowledge that we  
have thirsty souls. We come like the woman at the well  
seeking life that wells up from within.

*(One candle is extinguished.)*

*Let us pray...*

**God of life, all day and all night, we hunger and thirst  
for you. Help us to have compassion towards others  
who share this need. Amen.**

**SUNG RESPONSE** Don't Be Afraid (Bell/Maule) MV 90  
**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger.  
My love is stronger than your fear.  
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger  
and I have promised, promised to be always near.**

## **FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** Exodus 17:1-7 p.64 Pew Bible OT  
(Water from the rock.) Jackie Catto

**ANTHEM** Lord of the River (Ed Meade)

**GOSPEL** John 4:5-42 p.94-95 Pew Bible NT  
(Jesus and the Samaritan woman.)

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

**SERMON** Draw Deep

**\*HYMN** Like a Healing Stream (Bruce Harding) MV 144

Like a healing stream in a barren desert, Spirit water  
bringing life to dusty earth, God is trickling through our  
lives as in a dream unfolding, promising revival and  
rebirth...like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden, Spirit water come to  
nourish tiny seed, God is bubbling through the soil to coax  
a new creation, yearning for an end to want and need...  
like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current, Spirit water  
rushing on to distant shore, God is carving out a channel  
in a new direction, calling for an end to hate and war...  
like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons, Spirit water with  
a love both deep and wide, God is working in our hearts to  
shape a new tomorrow: God will always challenge and  
provide! Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,  
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

## **SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

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

**OFFERTORY** O Great Spirit (Kathleen Wissinger)  
Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensemble

**\*DEDICATION** Take, O Take Me as I Am (Bell/Maule)  
MV 85 **Take, O take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.**  
(sing twice)

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**  
**PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING**

**PRAYER PRELUDE** Spirit God, Be Our Breath *MV 150*  
**Loving God, be our voice, be our prayer.**  
**Reaching out, joining hands as we share,**  
**we seek your guidance through friendship**  
**and care. Loving God, be our prayer.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER**  
*VU p.910*

**\*HYMN** He Leadeth Me *pg 7*

**\* COMMISSIONING**

God be with us on our continued Lenten journey.  
**Jesus, guide us in your love.**  
Spirit, gift us through each other—  
**and send us out into the world.**

**\*SUNG BLESSING** May the Love of the Lord (MV 218)  
**May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.**  
**May God's love dwell in you, throughout every day.**  
**May God's countenance shine upon you**  
**and be gracious to you. May God's Spirit**  
**be upon you as you leave this place.**

**POSTLUDE** Postlude on 'Silver Street' (*G. Peterson*)



**Mission and Service**  
Religion in the Service of Humanity

The entanglement of religion and politics in the Middle East often divides communities and leads to conflict, particularly among young people. "We all agreed that it is important to focus on universal values and ethics, reject extremism, and make the necessary efforts to develop practical formulas for fruitful cooperation," says Rima Bayan Sleem, a 33-year-old judicial assistant from Chouf, Lebanon.

**"We all agreed that it is important to focus on universal values and ethics, reject extremism, and make the necessary efforts to develop practical formulas for fruitful cooperation."**

Thanks to your Mission & Service gifts, Rima and 36 other young adults gathered in Beirut, Lebanon, for the World Student Christian Federation-Middle East Region (WSCF-ME\*) 2021. They participated in an Interfaith Dialogue program that develops leaders skilled in preventing violence and fostering peace between communities.

WSCF-ME's role is to be a mediator of peace and understanding amid all the overwhelming regional issues that include sectarian strife. "The Interfaith Dialogue program's importance lies in the fact that it brings together youth from different religious backgrounds...to engage in a constructive peace-facilitating dialogue," says Mira Neaimeh, Regional Executive for WSCF-ME. "I personally believe that change is done in small steps, starting from our regional gatherings that sow seeds of peace to be reaped in the future."

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Your [Mission & Service](#) gifts help leaders in the Middle East and across the world collaborate and promote peaceful dialogue.

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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**



***LENT 3***  
**Like a Rock-Becoming Living Stones**  
**March 12, 2023**  
**11:00 AM**

*If gold has been prized because it is the most inert element, changeless and incorruptible, water is prized for the opposite reason-its fluidity, mobility, changeability that make it necessary and a metaphor for life itself. To value gold over water is to value economy over ecology, that which can be locked up over that which connects all things. (R.Solvict)*

### Come, Let Us Sing

Come, let us sing to the Lord our song, we have stood silently too long; surely the Lord deserves our praise, so joyfully thank God for our days.

O thirsty soul, come drink at the well; God's living waters will never fail. Surely the Lord will help you to stand, strengthened and comforted by God's hand.

You dwell among us and cause us to pray, and walk with each other following your way; our precious brothers and sisters will grow in the fulfilling love they know.

Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing to the desire of all living things. Come, all you creatures, high and low, let your praises endlessly flow.

### He Leadeth Me

He leadeth me: O blessed thought! O words with heavenly comfort fraught!  
Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's hand that leadeth me.

**He leadeth me! He leadeth me!**  
**By his own hand he leadeth me!**  
**His faithful follower I would be,**  
**for by his hand he leadeth me!**

Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom, sometimes where Eden's bowers bloom,  
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea, still 'tis his hand that leadeth me. **R**

Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ever murmur nor repine, content,  
whatever lot I see, since 'tis my God that leadeth me. **R**

And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the victory's won, even  
death's old wave I will not flee, since God through Jordan leadeth me. **R**

