

## **SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Adagio Cantabile  
(Ludwig van Beethoven arr. Edward Broughton)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**  
**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**  
*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters**  
Brian Walter

**INTROIT** Are You a Shepherd? (R.Duck/W.P.Rowan)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**  
The Spirit of God  
calls to our spirits,  
**inviting us to worship.**  
The Spirit of God  
calls to our spirits,  
**inviting us to love and be loved.**  
The Spirit of God  
calls to our spirits,  
**calling us to new life.**  
We gather, seeking unity  
in the Spirit.  
**Let us worship together**  
**in hope and in love.**

\***HYMN** Soil of God, You and I (hanna/Melhorn-Boe)  
MV 174

Soil of God, you and I, stand ready to bear  
seeds of faith nourished by God's tender care.  
Growing in everyone for here God is found.  
All stand together, we are...Holy ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now ready to be  
part of God's promise, for others to see.  
Open to everyone for here God is found.  
All stand together, we are...Holy Ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now called to rebirth,  
joining as partners with all of the earth.  
Living in harmony for here God is found.  
All stand together, this is...Holy ground.

**LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY** Margaret & Myles Heney

On this fourth Sunday of Lent we remember with joy  
that God's ways are not our ways and that God's ways  
will challenge all our well-laid plans.

*(Fourth candle is extinguished.)*

*Let us pray...*  
**Compassionate God, help us to see with your eyes**  
**and to love with your heart. 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** Ephesians 5:8-14 p.194 Pew Bible NT  
(Live as children of the light.) Paula Hanna

**ANTHEM** The Lord is My Shepherd (H.Goodall)  
Janice Nolan, Soprano

**GOSPEL** John 9:1-41 p.102-103 Pew Bible NT  
(A man born blind receives his sight.)

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

**SERMON** Let Me See

\***HYMN** Love Is the Touch (Robertson/Bell) MV 89

Love is the touch of intangible joy;  
love is the force that no fear can destroy;  
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;  
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;  
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;  
love is the will to be whole once again;  
love is the trust of a friend on the road:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;  
love is the kingdom their will has begun;  
love is the path which the saints all have trod:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

## **SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** His Eye is On the Sparrow  
(Z. Strickland/C.D. Durfee/C.H.Gabriel) Susan Guido, trumpet

**\*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** Open My Eyes, That I May See **pg 7**

**\* COMMISSIONING**

And now, go as those who walk with newness of life.  
**Grace, peace and compassion be with us all.**

**\*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** Sheep May Safely Graze  
*(J.S.Bach transcribed Christopher Rock)* Susan Guido, trumpet



Mission and Service  
**Educating the Ministers of Tomorrow**  
 The care of people who are strangers to one another...

You may think Mission & Service just happens far away from your church. But the effects of Mission & Service may be as close as your local pulpit. Mission & Service does a surprising amount of development in your local church, recruiting new ministers and funding theological schools. It even shapes the hymn books you sing from every service.

Another important way Mission & Service supports local ministry: by providing academic bursaries for students studying to become ministers and theological leaders.

"The church has a lot to offer in terms of witness to the community and supporting people who are struggling," explains the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Janzen-Ball, the United Church's Executive Minister for Theological Leadership

The money is really helpful, but the other thing that is so important to students is realizing that people Throughout the church cared enough to donate to Mission & Service.

The Rev. Alexa Gilmour received one of these bursaries when she was still a ministry candidate. "I was a single parent, and I knew I couldn't get through without support," Gilmour says. "I felt blessed by God through people who donated and who, by giving, encouraged me on my journey.

"I have tremendous gratitude for that important role the church played in my life at that time."

Janzen-Ball wants you to know that your gifts do matter. "They matter both tangibly in peoples' lives in a real way but also in intangible ways because they signal the support of the wider community," she says. "The care of people who are strangers to one another—the importance and impact of that can't be overstated.

"Giving to [Mission & Service](#) is an opportunity to support future and current leaders. Those gifts make a significant difference."

Thank you



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 4**  
**Like a Rock-Becoming Living Stones**  
**March 19, 2023**  
**11:00 AM**

*The real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes, but in having new eyes. (Proust)*

## Open My Eyes, That I May See

Open my eyes, that I may see  
glimpses of truth thou hast for me;  
place in my hands the wonderful key  
that shall unclasp and set me free.

Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth thou sendest clear;  
and while the wavenotes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.

Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear  
gladly the warm truth everywhere;  
open my heart and let me prepare  
love with thy children thus to share.

Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God, thy will to see.  
Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

