

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Blessed Holy Presence (H. S. Livingston Jr.)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE  
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters**  
Martha Bailkowski

**INTROIT** Dry Bones (*Traditional arr. Livingston Gearhart*)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

God of all our journeys,  
you call your people to gather.

**We come as we are;  
you meet us here.**

Though we are slow to open  
ourselves to you—

**you take what we offer  
and give it back again.**

These Lenten days provide  
a way for us—a path to journey on —

**and like living stones,  
be built into a spiritual house.**

Come, then, people of God,  
and worship—

**and so we worship,  
in the fullness of God's love.**

**\*HYMN** Come Touch Our Hearts (*Gordon Light*) MV 12

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,  
from failing embers build a blazing fire; love strong  
enough to overturn injustice, to seek a world more  
gracious, come touch and bless our hearts.

Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,  
your quiet presence all our fears dispel; create a space  
for spirit to grow in us, let life and beauty fill us,  
come touch and bless our souls.

Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,  
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;  
help us to open doors of understanding, to welcome  
truth and wisdom, come touch and bless our minds.

Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,  
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;  
that we may rise to follow and to serve, steady now  
our nerve, come touch and bless our wills.

**LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY** Noah Comar

On this fifth Sunday of Lent we open ourselves to the  
possibility of new life in impossible situations. Like the  
prophet Ezekiel in the valley of the dry bones, and Jesus  
facing Lazarus' tomb, we are called to find life where all  
others have given up hope.

*(Fifth candle is extinguished.)*

*Let us pray...*

**God of hope, your Spirit is alive in places where we only  
see death. Help us to be open to the possibilities of new  
life that lie before us. 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** Romans 8:6-11 p.157-158 *Pew Bible NT*  
(The Spirit is life, not death.) Bill Newman

**ANTHEM** Cantique de Jean Racine  
(*Gabriel Fauré arr. John Rutter*)  
*O Divine Word above, our hope and consolation,  
eternal light of the heav'ns and the earth:  
the peaceful night is past:  
our voices greet the morning.*

**SCRIPTURE** Ezekiel 37:1-14 p.806 *Pew Bible OT*  
(The valley of the dry bones.)

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

**SERMON** Can These Bones Live?

**\*HYMN** Deep in Our Hearts (*J.Oldham/Khusmeier*) 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 in 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** Elegy (*Jason W. Krug*)  
EmBellished 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** Great Is Thy Faithfulness **pg 6**

**\* COMMISSIONING**  
We go now in the joy of God's love,  
**knowing that nothing, not even death**  
**can separate us from that love.**  
May God's grace go with you,  
**and also with you.**

**\*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** The Spirit of Joy (*Lani Smith*)

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*AUC Annual General Meeting*  
Please remain following worship today for our  
Annual General Meeting.  
Lunch will be served immediately following  
worship—meeting will begin at 12:30 pm.



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

## **AURORA UNITED CHURCH**

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

**Church Office 905-727-1935**  
**[www.auroraunitedchurch.ca](http://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca)**



***LENT 5***  
**Like a Rock-Becoming Living Stones**  
**March 26, 2023**  
**11:00 AM**

*'When your dreams and your wishes seem dried up,  
the song goes, you prophesy to them. If we proclaim  
God's truth to our dreams, God's Spirit will enter in.'*  
*(Linnea Good. The Greatest of These)*


### **Great is Thy Faithfulness**

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy  
faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -  
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!**

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **R**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -  
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. **R**



Great is Thy  
Faithfulness