

## **SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Partita on ‘Eisenach’ (*Anthony Giamanco*)

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

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters**  
Elizabeth Ramsell

**INTROIT** Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above  
(*J.J. Schütz trans. F.E.Cox/Bohemian Brethren Kirchengesang  
harm. M.F. Bell*)

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Now is the time to sing—

to sing the good news of God;  
**who awakens us with dawn’s embrace,  
who surrounds us with joy and life.**

Now is the time to offer praise to God,  
in every place, with every voice:  
**to rejoice in the One who leads us  
through each moment with a gentle hand  
and a word of hope.**

Now is the time to join all creation in  
praising God, from the depths of the seas  
to the farthest galaxies:

**we will sing the good news of Easter!  
we will rejoice in the God who loves us.**

**\*HYMN** Come, Children, Join to Sing *insert p. 8*

### **PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**

**When every day seems the same, with no one listen-  
ing to our dreams, our hopes, our fears and worries,  
you pause, Loving God, turning your head so you  
can catch every word. When every road seems the**

same, filled with despair’s potholes and littered with  
pain’s echoes, you come alongside us, God, as  
companion. When every step trips us up, when every  
loss weighs us down, when every grief breaks our  
heart, you come, God our Keeper, with your book of  
grace filled with easy words and lots of pictures to  
teach us hope. When every one ignores us, when every  
thing disappoints us, you walk with us, you talk with  
us, you refuse to abandon us, God in Community, Holy  
in One. We pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

(*T. Thurman, Lectionary Liturgies. Adapted.*)

### **WORDS OF GRACE**

By grace, we are God’s people.  
Thanks be to God!

**SUNG RESPONSE** Celtic Alleluia (*C. Walker*)

Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia, alleluia! (*sing twice*)

## **FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 116 *insert p. 7*  
(How can I repay you, God?) Nancy Kerswill

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

**GOSPEL** Luke 24:13-35 *p.90 Pew Bible NT*  
(Jesus’ appearance on the road to Emmaus.)

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

**SERMON** Stay With Us

**\*HYMN** We Are Pilgrims *insert p. 8*

## **SHARING GOD’S LOVE**

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

**OFFERTORY** If With All Your Hearts (Elijah)  
(*Felix Mendelssohn*) Lisa Kyriakides

**\*DEDICATION** God We Praise You (*VU 415*)

**God, we praise you for the morning,  
hope is born with each new day.**

**Hearts and hands reveal your promise,  
accept our gifts now we pray.**

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

### **PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING**

**PRAYER PRELUDE** Be Still and Know (*MV 77*)

**Be still and know, that I am God.**

**Be still and know that I am God.** (*sing twice*)

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD’S PRAYER**

*VU p.910*

**\*HYMN** Soil of God, You and I (*Hannah/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.

**\* COMMISSIONING**

Let us go now—  
engaging and growing  
into God's love—  
**for ourselves, for our communities,  
and for the world.**

**\*SUNG BLESSING** Take Up His Song (MV 213)

**Take up his song of love and go into the world.  
Take up his song of love in ev'ry moment.  
In ev'ry moment of the journey, we're laying down  
our lives; lay them down in love, lay them down,  
and take up his song.**

**POSTLUDE** God Is Our Refuge and Strength  
(Robert J. Powell)



**Choose Something Like a Star**

(Robert Frost/Randall Thompson)

*O Star (the fairest one in sight),  
we grant your loftiness the right  
to some obscurity of cloud --  
It will not do to say of night,  
since dark is what brings out your light.  
Some mystery becomes the proud.  
But to be wholly taciturn  
in your reserve is not allowed.*

*Say something to us we can learn  
by heart and when alone repeat.  
Say something! And it says "I burn."  
But say with what degree of heat.  
Talk Fahrenheit, talk Centigrade.  
Use language we can comprehend.  
Tell us what elements you blend.*

*It gives us strangely little aid,  
but does tell something in the end.  
And steadfast as Keats' Eremit,   
not even stooping from its sphere,  
It asks a little of us here.*

*It asks of us a certain height,  
So when at times the mob is swayed  
to carry praise or blame too far,  
we may choose something like a star  
to stay our minds on and be staid.*

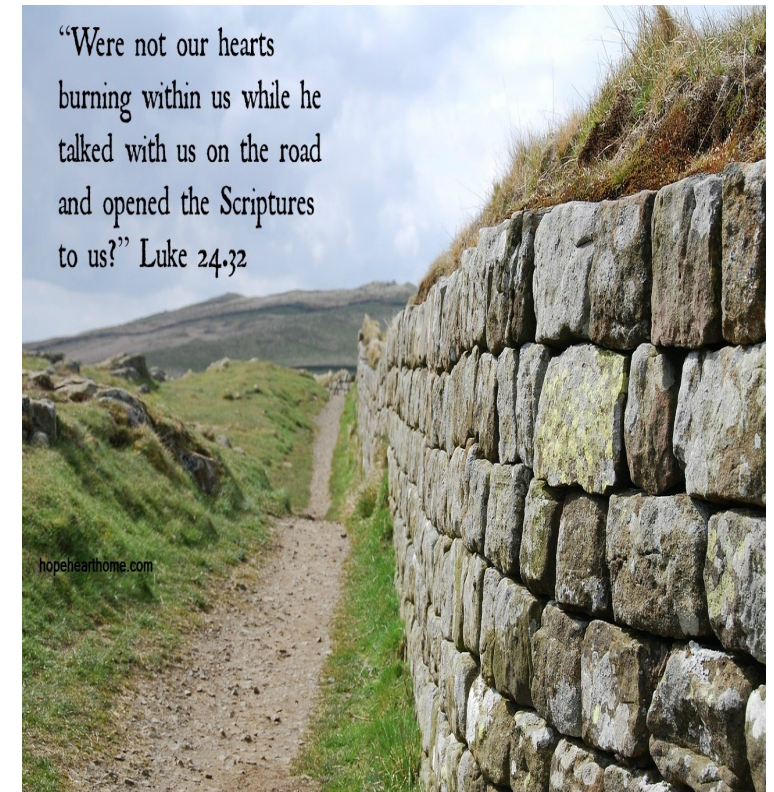


The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries,  
from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.

**AURORA UNITED  
CHURCH**

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

**Church Office 905-727-1935**  
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“Were not our hearts  
burning within us while he  
talked with us on the road  
and opened the Scriptures  
to us?” Luke 24.32

**EASTER 3**  
**April 23, 2023**  
**11:00 AM**

## Psalm 116

**R      How can I repay you, God,  
         for all the goodness you show to me?**

I love you, God, because you heard my voice  
when I made supplication,

**because you turned your ear to me,  
when I called upon your name.**

The cords of death entangled me,  
and the pangs of the Grave laid hold on me;

**I suffered distress and anguish.**

Then I called upon the name of God:

**“O God, I pray, save my life.” R**

How can I repay you, God,  
for all the good things you have done for me?

**I will take up the cup of salvation,  
and call upon the name of God.**

**I will pay my vows in the presence of all God’s people. R**

Precious in the sight of God is the death of the saints.

**O God, I am your servant;**

I am your servant, the child of your maidservant.

**You have freed me from my bonds.**

I will offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving,

**And will call upon the name of God.**

I will pay my vows to God in the presence of all God’s people,

**In the courts of the house of God, in your midst, O Jerusalem. R**

## Come, Children, Join to Sing

Come, children, join to sing: Hallelujah! Praise to our Servant King: Hallelujah! Let all with heart and voice, saved by God's gracious choice, now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah! Let praises fill the sky: Hallelujah! Christ calls his people friends, the helpless he defends, a love that never ends: Hallelujah!

Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah! Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah! The whole creation o'er let all God's love adore, singing for evermore: Hallelujah!

## We Are Pilgrims

We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you; I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony, born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

