

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Prelude on ‘St Columba’ (*Greg Chmura*)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters
Charles & Myrtle Truax

INTROIT And On This Path (*L.Bauman/L.Good*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Gather us, O God,
**and we will know your life
that makes us one.**
Gather us, O God,
**and we will celebrate
our variety and uniqueness.**
Gather us, O God,
**and we will give you
the pain of our brokenness.**
Gather us, O God,
and we will share the gifts of your Spirit.
Trinity of love, bind us as one—
**that our brokenness be healed by you;
that our fears be held by you;
that our gifts be used by you;
that our lives be shaped by you.**
Children of God—let us worship.
Let us worship!

***HYMN** O God beyond All Praising **VU 256**

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

**Creator God, Source of Life and living— we do not
always accept new growth within us. We acknowledge
that often we do not see the beauty that is in the world
or recognize the love that is offered to us each day. We
are so often too busy with our own tasks to see you in
the world, or to take the time to see you. Often we are
afraid to risk, to turn the corner, to empty the cup— to
dance. Unfurl our clenched hands so that we may
accept your gift of new life in Resurrection. Amen**

WORDS OF GRACE

God is alive in us and in the world. **Thanks be to God!**

SUNG RESPONSE Celtic Alleluia (*C. Walker*)
**Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia!** (*sing twice*)

BAPTISMAL HYMN

I Have Called You by Your Name (*Damon/Fines*) *MV 161*

I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name, speak the word your
soul can claim, offer Jesus’ body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation’s ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith
instead of doubt, hold the hem of Jesus’ robe,
then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul, make my
wounded children whole; go and tell my
precious people they are mine.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (*liturgy on insert*)
*We welcome through the Sacrament of Baptism today,
Owen Bryan Wayne Yearwood, son of Kathryn Anne
Yearwood.*

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 23 VU p.749 2nd Refrain
(God is my shepherd.) Lisa Kyriakides

ANTHEM All in the April Evening (*Hugh S. Robertson*)

GOSPEL John 10:1-10 *p.103 Pew Bible NT*
(Jesus the good shepherd and the gate.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Life in Abundance

*** HYMN** The King of Love **VU 273** *vss 1,2,3,4 & 6*

SHARING GOD’S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Behold, I Tell You a Mystery/
The Trumpet Shall Sound (*G.F.Handel*)
Bob McRoberts, Bass & Tim Birtch, trumpet

***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** Thine Is the Glory VU 173

*** COMMISSIONING**
 And so, we journey on.
We journey on.
 May the blessings of God—
Creator, Christ and Spirit,
 go with us now...and always.

***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 An Ever Present Help (R.A. Williamson)



Mission & Service

The Incredible Difference Your Gifts make:
 Bill's Story

None of us can go a single day without having an impact on someone's life. And we can't always predict how what we do to help change a life might wind up changing ours, too. Take Bill Darnell. Bill's love affair with nature began at camp, but it didn't end there. Far from it. Bill's childhood experience of camp wound up inspiring one of the world's most influential environmental movements.

"Camping had a big effect on me. I grew up in suburbia and didn't have much access to the natural world. Camping was an opportunity to go out and be in nature. It was amazing. Being at camp solidified my strong connection with the natural world," he says. Bill's early camp experience instilled such a love of nature that when he became an adult, he became an environmental activist. "When I was 25 years old, not far removed from my years in camp, I saw that they were testing nuclear weapons. That was so obviously wrong that I felt I had to do something to stop it," he says. So Bill and a small group of friends anxiously climbed on board an 85-foot fishing boat later dubbed *Greenpeace*. Together, they set sail for Alaska to stop the testing of a nuclear bomb. Greenpeace as a movement was born.

Bill's story proves that camping experiences in childhood can lead to a lifelong commitment to care for God's creation. As scientists and activists sound the alarm around climate change and experts report that not spending enough time outside is having an impact on our children's health and well-being, outdoor ministry has never been more crucial. It's just one of the many reasons why Mission & Service really matters.

Your Mission & Service gifts support over two dozen United Church run camps across the country. Every year, your generosity gives thousands of children an opportunity to go to camp. There, they learn life skills, meet other campers, explore faith, and spend time outside. Like Bill, some young people may leave camp so impressed by the natural environment that they get on board a movement to take care of it. "Camping made an incredible difference in my life. I know it will make an incredible difference to young people across Canada. I give thanks to those who support it," Bill says.



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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EASTER 4
April 30, 2023
11:00 AM

*We sing of a church seeking to continue the story of
 Jesus by embodying Christ's presence in the world.
 (A Song of Faith. UCC, 2006)*

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 23

2nd Refrain:

The God of love my shepherd is; what can I want or need

God is my shepherd,

there is nothing I shall lack.

You, God, make me lie down in green pastures,

you lead me beside peaceful waters;

you revive my spirit,

you guide me in right pathways, for your name's sake. R

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me,

your rod and your staff are my comfort.

You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies.

you anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

and I will dwell in God's house my whole life long. R

O God beyond All Praising

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today and sing the love
amazing that songs cannot repay; for we can only wonder at every gift you
send, at blessings without number and mercies without end: we lift our hearts
before you and wait upon your word, we honour and adore you, our great
and mighty Lord.

The flower of earthly splendour in time must surely die, its fragile bloom surrender
to you our God most high; but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown,
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown: for Christ, your gift from
heaven, from death has set us free, and we through him are given the final victory.

Then, hear O gracious Saviour, this song of praise we sing. May we, who know your
favour, our humble service bring; and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or
ill, we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still: to marvel at your
beauty and glory in your ways, and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

The King of Love (*vss 1,2,3,4, & 6*)

The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never; I nothing lack if
I am his and he is mine forever.

Where streams of living water flow my ransomed soul he leadeth, and where the
verdant pastures grow with food celestial feedeth.

Perverse and foolish oft I strayed; but yet in love he sought me, and on his shoulder
gently laid, and home rejoicing brought me.

In death's dark vale I fear no ill with thee, dear Lord, beside me; thy rod and staff
my comfort still, thy cross before to guide me.

And so through all the length of days thy goodness faileth never: Good Shepherd,
may I sing thy praise within thy house forever!

Thine Is the Glory

Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son: endless is the victory thou o'er death hast
won. Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away, kept the folded grave-clothes
where the body lay.

**Thine is the glory, risen, conquering Son: endless is the victory
Thou o'er death hast won.**

Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb! Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and
gloom. Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing, for the Lord now liveth:
death hath lost its sting. **R**

No more we doubt thee, glorious Prince of life; life is nought without thee: aid us in
our strife; make us more than conquerors, through thy deathless love;
bring us safe through Jordan to thy home above. **R**