

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Come, Come, Ye Saints (*Marilyn Thompson*)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters
Martha Bailkowski

INTROIT Praise God for This Holy Ground (*John L. Bell*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Awesome, wondrous God—
dark, deep and holy One,
we come to feel the mystery of your name.

**Green, growing God—
Christ of many stories and disciples,
we come to hear the parable of your love.**

Bright, flashing God—
blowing wind and Holy Spirit.

**Distant yet intimate God—
woven, puzzled, grained by time,
we come to find the fullness of our
grace in worship.**

***HYMN** Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above
VU 216

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Loving God, down the passing days of spring into
summer, as hours lengthen and days increase in
warmth—thoughts of life and living press on our
considerations and we look back in time. The value
of our days are highlighted and we bring to mind

other days, other years. Thoughts of family and
friends, colleagues and those who have passed through
our lives, even for a short time, flicker in and out again.
We are thankful for the love we have received and
given. Although we regret missed opportunities for love
and change and growth, we are mindful now that no
matter where we are on our life's journey, the potential
for love and change and growth is always present. Bless
to us, O God, the grace to grow into you, though our
days be many or few. God in Community-Holy in One,
we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

God offers to us, abundant living.
Thanks be to God!

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

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 31 VU p.758 Pt 1&3
(My times are in your hands.) Debra Hilliard

ANTHEM Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled (*H. A. Clark*)

GOSPEL John 14:1-14 p.108-109 Pew Bible NT
(I am the way, the truth, the life.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON The Way
One God. Many Rooms. Many Paths

HYMN Creator God, You Gave Us Life (*J. Snowdon*)
MV 27

Creator God you gave us life, your image formed
within our souls, yet through the mist of time and space,
we search for that which makes us whole.

*Through hands that paint majestic skies, and voices
chanting melody, with words that reach beyond the
page, we comprehend your mystery.*

In every flow'r and ev'ry tree, we see your great
diversity, yet greater still we see your love, expressed
in our humanity. *Through hands that paint majestic
skies...*

When with our hearts, our hands and minds, we share
your gifts with all the world, our spirits soar beyond
the veil, to touch the very face of God. *Through hands
that paint majestic skies...*

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

Be Thou My Vision/My Shepherd Will Supply My Need
Tim Birtch, trumpet (*arr. Brant Adams*)

***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** God, as We Rise to Leave VU 417

*** COMMISSIONING**

And now, we venture on—

to all the places

that give our lives meaning.

Back into the world—

**bringing with us, all we have experienced
and expressed in this place.**

***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 Sacred Harp Medley (arr. Brant Adams)
Tim Birtch, trumpet



Mission and Service

**How do we help transform and save lives through
Mission & Service?**

Compassion lies at the heart of generosity. From serving a hot meal at a local community kitchen, to visiting a lonely neighbour, to financially supporting those in need in our local communities and around the world, the people of the United Church are committed to turning compassion into action.

We share our resources with three goals in mind:

- to help transform lives
- to inspire meaning and purpose
- to build a better world

Locally, we help people in need by supporting homeless shelters, food banks, soup kitchens, and refugee programs. We reach out to young people through camping and campus ministries. We care for people who are sick or at the end of life by supporting addiction, mental health, and counselling services as well as hospice care. Globally, we help people access clean water, food, and medical care. We support skills training and economic development. We help with peace-making and sustainable agriculture efforts. We provide disaster relief and advocate for the rights of those who all too often don't get a say, like children and migrant workers.

**How does Mission & Service help inspire people to live with
meaning and purpose?**

We give opportunities for people to grow spiritually in all kinds of amazing ways.

Locally, we support theological schools, education/retreat centres, and events that promote spiritual development and personal reflection.

We help create and sustain new and innovative ministries and help communities of faith that are remote or in need. Globally, we support theological schools and church organizations that change lives by offering practical training in vital areas of need like agriculture and health.

When we help transform and save lives and inspire people to live with meaning and purpose, we build a better world.

Thank You for your Generosity

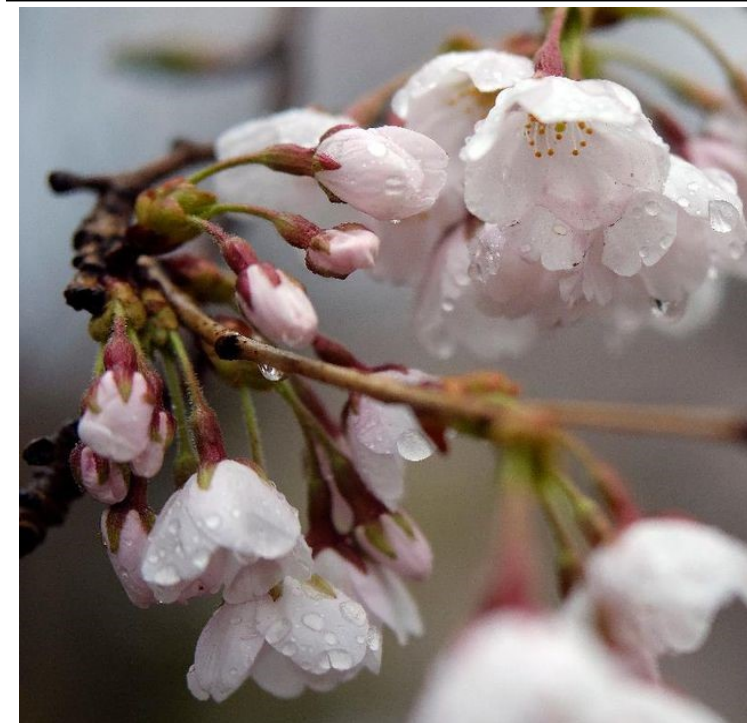


The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.

**AURORA UNITED
CHURCH**

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

Church Office 905-727-1935
www.auroraunitedchurch.ca
Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9am-Noon



EASTER 5
May 7, 2023
11:00 AM

*My heart leaps for joy
and with my song, I praise Him.*

Psalms 28:7

Responsive Reading Psalm 31 PT 1&3

Part One (1-5)

R - I Trust in you, you are my God.

In you, O God, I have taken refuge;
let me never be put to shame.

**Deliver me in your righteousness;
incline your ear; come quickly to my rescue. R**

Be my rock of refuge, a stronghold to keep me safe.

**You are indeed my rock and fortress;
lead me and guide me for your own name's sake.**

Release me from the net that they hid for me,
for you are my protector.

**Into your hands I commend my spirit,
for you have redeemed me, O God of truth. R**

Part Three (15-16)

My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands
of my enemies, from those who pursue me.

**Let your face shine on your servant,
and save me, for your mercy's sake. R**



Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

Sing praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation; with healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled: to God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power hath made, God's gracious mercy keepeth: by morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth; within the shelter of God's might, lo! all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glory!

Our God is never far away, but through all grief distressing, an ever-present help and stay, our peace, and joy, and blessing; as with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band: to God all praise and glory!

Thus all my gladsome way along, I sing aloud thy praises that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises. Be joyful in your God, my heart! Both soul and body take your part: to God all praise and glory!

God, as We Rise to Leave

God, as we rise to leave this shell of worship, called to the risk of unprotected living, willing to be at one with all your people, we ask for courage.

For all the strain with living interwoven, for the demands each day will make upon us, and for the love we owe the modern city, God, make us cheerful.

Give us an eye for openings to serve you; make us alert when calm is interrupted, ready and wise to use the unexpected; sharpen our insight.

Lift from our life the blanket of convention; give us the nerve to lose our life to others; be with your church in death and resurrection, God of all ages.

