

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Aurore (*Gabriel Fauré*) Wesley Bells, violin

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters
Louise Proctor Maio

INTROIT When We Seek Language (*Daw/Schalk*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Creator God-Eternal One.

**We have come from many places,
from many different families.**

Redeemer of humanity, God-with-us.

**We have come with our differences,
seeking common ground.**

Spirit of unity, go-between God,

we have come on journeys of our own,

**on journeys shared with those we call family,
to a place where journeys meet.**

Let us gather in this place, let us take time together;
for when paths cross and pilgrims meet,
there is much to share and celebrate.

Let us worship!

Let us worship!

***HYMN** Would You Bless Our Homes & Families
Pg 7

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Loving God, you know how hard it is to live in relationships, and yet you call us to do so. At times it is hard to be fully present to the members of our family and within this Christian family. Our patience may be short, we sometimes don't really listen, we may be tired, or angry, or hungry, or lonely, or...whatever it is that keeps us from loving and caring for one another. Help us to know that you are always with us, loving us so that we may love others. God in Community— Holy in One, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

Through all the joys and all the struggles
of living in relationship, one truth if offered
to each and every one of us: God has loved us,
is loving us and will always love us.

Thanks be to God!

(The United Church of Canada. Creative Commons)

SUNG RESPONSE Celtic Alleluia (*C. Walker*)

Alleluia, alleluia,

Alleluia, alleluia! (*sing twice*)

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Acts 17:22-31 *p.137-138 Pew Bible NT*
(Paul names 'the unknown God' of the Athenians.)
Janice Nolan

ANTHEM A Place in the Choir (*B.Staines arr.E.Phare-Bergh*)
Wesley Bells, fiddle

GOSPEL John 14:15-21 *p.109 Pew Bible NT*
(The Advocate, the Spirit will be with you.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Wow!

***HYMN** Draw the Circle Wide (*G.Light/M.Bloss*) *MV 145*

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.*

God the stillpoint of the circle, 'round whom all
Creation turns; nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms. *Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still...*

Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass
great and small; let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call. *Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still...*

Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever
dreamed before; let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door. *Draw the circle wide.
Draw it wider still...*

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY I Want Jesus To Walk With Me
Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensemble (*arr. T.Waldrop*)

***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** You Shall Go Out With Joy pg 8
(Repeat 3x)

*** COMMISSIONING**

Living God, the source of all life,
prompt us to new beginnings.
Ever-present God, travelling alongside us,
guide us to walk in your way.
Ever-loving God, surrounding us with care,
help us to know your presence.

***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 How Bright is the Day
(S.B.Sawyer arr. K. Cothorn) Wesley Bells



How do you make the world a better place?

You can start by taking kids to school. Around the world, 57 million children cannot attend school. They may never learn to read, to add or subtract, or to write. These are the skills they need to succeed. Even more importantly, they never learn about their basic human rights. It's a complicated problem, says Patti Talbot, the United Church's Global Partnership Team Leader.

"The work we do isn't going to lead to immediate societal change," she says, "but it will make a big difference down the road."

When children can't go to school, society suffers. And that is why Mission & Service is in partnership with 85 organizations that work to increase access to education a cross the globe. Each partner has their own approach to education and skills training, each supported by your gifts to Mission & Service:

- Colombia's Center for Communication uses arts and media to teach children about their rights.
- Women for Change in Zambia creates educational groups where participants share agricultural knowledge and awareness of their rights.
- At Japan's Asian Rural Institute, local leaders gather to learn sustainable agriculture techniques they can take home and transform their communities.

"How can we make the world a better place?" asks Talbot
"We can't do that by ourselves; our partners know best what the challenges are."

"Partners say to us, 'It makes such a difference to us to know that the United Church is with us, walking with us in prayer, supporting us, remembering us in their lives.'"

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.

**AURORA UNITED
CHURCH**

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

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CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY

**May 14, 2023
11:00 AM**

You must remember, family is often born of blood, but it doesn't depend on blood. Nor is it exclusive of friendship. Family members can be your best friends, you know. And best friends, whether or not they are related to you, can be your family. (T.L.Stewart)

Would You Bless Our Home & Families

Would you bless our homes and families, Source of life who calls us here; in our world of stress and tension teach us love that conquers fear. Help us learn to love each other with a love that constant stays; teach us when we face our troubles, love's expressed in many ways.

When our way is undemanding, let us use the time that's ours to delight in simple pleasures, sharing joys in gentle hours. When our way is anxious walking and a heavy path we plod, teach us trust in one another and in you, our gracious God.

From the homes in which we're nurtured, with the love that shapes us there, teach us, God, to claim as family every one whose life we share. And through all that life may offer, may we in your love remain; may the love we share in families be alive to praise your name.

Let us reach beyond the boundaries of our daily thought and care till the family you have chosen spills its love out everywhere. Help us learn to love each other with a love that constant stays; teach us when we face our troubles love's expressed in many ways.



You Shall Go Out With Joy (*repeat 3x*)

You shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth before you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands!

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands, (*clap, clap*)
the trees of the field will clap their hands, (*clap, clap*)
the trees of the field will clap their hands (*clap, clap*)
while you go out with joy

