

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Elegiac Melody (E.Grieg arr. H.Oxley)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters
Nancy Kerswill

INTROIT Bless the Lord (Brennan/Cavallero/Roth/Canedo)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Once we were not a people.

But now we are people of God!

Who else but God would call all of us together?

And now, we are one in Christ.

Once we had not received mercy.

But now mercy is ours.

Once we thought we had to earn God's love.

'Am I good enough?' we'd ask.

Now we know we are included.

God's love never waits for us

to be 'good' enough!

Once we had no purpose.

But now we are purpose-full.

The Spirit of God empowers us,

and Jesus' calling has become our own.

Let us worship! **Let us worship!**

HYMN Sing Praises to God VU 228

Sing praises to God! Sing praise in the height; rejoice in God's word, blest angels of light; high heavens, recalling by whom you were made, come, offer your worship in brightness arrayed.

Sing praises to God! Sing praise upon earth, in tuneful accord, you saints of new birth; praise God, who has brought you rich grace from above, and showered your life with abundance of love.

Sing praises to God, all things that give sound; each jubilant chord re-echo around; loud organs, your glory tell out in deep tone, and trumpets, the story of what God has done.

Sing praises to God! Thanksgiving and song be ever out-poured, all ages along: for love in creation, for hope spread abroad, for grace of salvation, sing praises to God.

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

In the stillness of this sacred space we are held in this moment together—with eyes to see beauty, ears to hear distant sounds, feet to touch the ground beneath us. In this time of the year when creation is bursting all around us we delight in the tastes of the season—when this year's asparagus is today's big news; when the thought of the first strawberries has us giddy with anticipation. Gentle God of gentle earth, you invite us to behold your wonders and to live with respect within them. As our gifts to us in creation fill us with wonder, we pray that your good earth might know our care and preservation so that all your people will come to know its generosity and its beauty. God in Community—Holy in One, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

God calls us to be partners in Creation.

Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE Celtic Alleluia (C. Walker)

Alleluia, alleluia,

Alleluia, alleluia! (sing twice)

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE 1 Peter 4:12-14;5:6-11 p.235 Pew Bible NT
(Cast your cares on God. Be alert.) Paula Hanna

ANTHEM I Will Sing Your Glory and Praise (Price/Besig)

GOSPEL John 17:1-11 p.111 Pew Bible NT
(Jesus prays that his disciples 'all may be one.')

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON That All May Be One

HYMN Spirit Dancing (W.Farquharson/L.Erhardt) VU 388

Spirit dancing on the waters, sun reflecting song of grace calling life to all the creatures, giving life to human race.

Spirit dancing on the waters, naming moment they Should part, giving freedom to the peoples, signed for all in dancer's art.

Spirit dancing on the waters, paradox of womb and grave, welcome now the Word child's coming, no one prisoner, no one slave.

Spirit dancing on the waters, can the dance by cross be stilled? Earth be shaken! Dead awaken! What was emptied shall be filled.

Spirit dancing on the waters, give your people their new birth, healing, loving one another in community with earth.

Spirit dancing on the waters, we would come and dance with you 'til our world is filled with music and in Christ all things are new.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Oh, What a Beautiful Morning (Rogers/Hammerstein) *David Pilkey*

***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 Called by Earth and Sky (P. Mayberry) *MV 135*

***Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life
sanctified, called by earth and sky.***

Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean's dream, waters of healing, rivers of rain, the wash of love again. ***Called by earth and sky...***

Precious this gift, the air we breathe; wind born and free. Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place, our gathering and our grace. ***Called by earth and sky...***

Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile land. seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong, Creation's faithful song. ***Called by earth and sky...***

Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day. Fire of passion, sorrows undone, our faith and justice one.

***Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life
sanctified, called by earth and sky, called by earth
and sky.***

*** COMMISSIONING**
On this day's journey—
life-blessing moments.
On this day's journey—
a peaceful spirit.
On this day's journey—
God's healing love

***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 laying down
In ev'ry moment of the journey, lay them down,
and take up his song.

POSTLUDE Easy (Like Sunday Morning) (L. Ritchie)
David Pilkey



***Be sure to wear something red for next Sunday's
celebration of Pentecost!***



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**

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EASTER 7
May 21, 2023
11:00 AM

Light dances on tender green leaves. From the uncertainty of April, May's high-flyers sound their triumphant call. Fragrant blossoms awaken our senses, beckon us outdoors to step with joy and breathe thanksgiving. (S.Mowbray)