

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**



**PRELUDE** Berceuse (Louis Vierne arr. Noel Rawsthorne)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE  
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters**  
Ken & Mary Smith

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

People of God, come to this time of worship  
to share in the Spirit.

**We come, as faithful people have come  
for many generations.**

In word, thought, prayer and song,  
**we open ourselves to the moving  
of God's Spirit among us.**

So let us worship.

**So let us express our worship together,  
in the embrace of this sanctuary!**

**\*HYMN** This is God's Wondrous World (insert pg 8)

**PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**

We would sing glad songs to you, Commissioning  
God, as we enter your heart with thanksgiving on  
our lips, for you are that love which never ends; that  
joy which overflows; that faith which is always full.  
We would proclaim our praise to you, Voice of  
compassion, as you would send us into the world in  
which we live, for you are the Word we can speak to  
power; the healing we can offer to the broken; the  
justice which can replace oppression. We would offer  
our hands and hearts to you, Imaginative Spirit, as

you teach us new steps in this dance we call life, for you  
are the healer of our hurting hearts, the breath of hope  
for shallow lungs, the password for access to grace.  
With our hearts, voices, bodies, souls, we offer all that  
we are; we pray in Jesus' name -God in Community,  
Holy in One. Amen.

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

God works in us and among us to transform the world.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**SUNG RESPONSE** Dance With the Spirit (Strathdee)  
MV 156

**Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',  
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.  
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',  
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.**

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 86 (insert pg 7)  
(Turn your ear to me, O God.) Laurie Bentolila

**GIFT OF MUSIC** If You Could Read My Mind  
David Pilkey/Steve Falk (Gordon Lightfoot)

**GOSPEL** Matthew 10:24-39 p.10-11 Pew Bible NT  
(Discipleship; lose your life to find it.)

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

**SERMON** Let Your Life Speak

**\*HYMN** I, the Lord of Sea and Sky (insert pg 8)

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** Beautiful (Gordon Lightfoot)  
David Pilkey/Steve Falk

**\*DEDICATION** We Are An Offering (D. Liles)  
**We lift our voices, we lift our hands,  
we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering.  
Lord, use our voices, Lord use our hands,  
Lord, use our lives, they are yours;  
we are an offering, we are an offering.**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER  
PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING**

**PRAYER PRELUDE** Spirit of Life (C. McDade) VU 381

**Spirit of Life, come unto me. Sing in my heart  
all the stirrings of compassion.  
Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;  
move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.  
Roots hold me close; wings set me free;  
Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER**  
VU p.910

**HYMN** Come, O Fount of Every Blessing (insert pg 9)

**\*COMMISSIONING**

So let us go in peace into all that this day brings.  
**We embrace the day in faith and hope.**

**\*SUNG BLESSING VU 962 (M.T. Winter)**

**May the blessing of God go before you. May God's  
grace and peace abound. May God's Spirit live  
within you. May God's love wrap you 'round.  
May God's blessing remain with you always.  
May you walk on holy ground.**

**POSTLUDE Alleluia Toccata (Fenton Groden)**



**Mission and Service Fund**  
Saidath's goal is to develop more cooperatives in  
the community.

Each year, the Asian Rural Institute (ARI), supported through your **Mission & Service gifts**, invites 25–30 grassroots rural leaders from Asia, Africa, and Latin America to learn sustainable agriculture techniques at their Rural Leaders Training Centre in Tochigi, Japan.

Saidath Murorunkwere is one of ARI's most recent graduates.

Like many other Rwandans, the genocide of 1994 left scars in her life. In just 100 days between April and July, an estimated 800,000 to 1,000,000 Rwandans were killed, the majority of whom were Tutsis.

"Of Saidath's extended family of nearly 200, only two aunts and a few of her siblings survived. When the Rwanda Patriotic Front forces finally stopped the genocide, Saidath, her mother, and her remaining siblings had to start over with absolutely nothing. Everything was either burned or stolen, including their 42 cows and other livestock," ARI reports.

To make ends meet through the following years, her mother sold charcoal and Saidath worked as a bus driver's assistant, opening doors for passengers and collecting fees. Many days they went without eating. Still, Saidath was determined to finish secondary school. She became a secretary and eventually studied at the University of Rwanda, where she graduated with a degree in journalism.

Despite her education, the pay was low so she began to work as a farmer and a social worker with Dufatanye, a non-governmental organization that works to fight HIV/AIDS, malnutrition, and poverty while promoting organic agricultural practices. In that role, Saidath worked with 60 farming families to build kitchen gardens.

Inspired to make an even bigger difference, she applied to ARI. "Nearly 40 percent of the population in my area lives in poverty. Small-scale farming is the major occupation, and I wanted to learn techniques and skills from ARI that I could share."

Whether it be environmental conservation, providing education, initiating microfinance programs, attaining rights for women and children, or organizing aid for refugees, each student of ARI graduates with the intention to make a positive difference.

Saidath's goal is to develop more cooperatives in the community where she can pass on the skills she has learned. "With better nutrition, health will improve and children can go to school," she says.

**Thank you for supporting the Mission Service Fund**



*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**



*An Affirming Congregation*

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

**Church Office 905-727-1935**  
**www.auroraunitedchurch.ca**



**PRIDE MONTH  
INDIGENOUS HISTORY MONTH**

**June 25, 2023**  
**11:00 AM**

*Give yourself— be a disciple— create hope, make peace,  
do love; that's where the welcoming gets serious.*

*(G. Bannon)*

**RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 86

**R In the day of my trouble I call unto you for you will answer me.**

Turn you ear to me, O God, and answer me, for I am poor and in misery.

**Preserve my life for I am faithful; save your servant for I trust in you.**

Be merciful to me, my lord, for I call to you all day long.

**Gladden the heart of your servant, for to you I lift up my soul.**

For you, my lord, are good and forgiving, and great in mercy to all who call on you.

**Give heed, O God, to my prayer, and listen to my cry of supplication. R**

Among the gods there is none like you, my lord, nor can the deed of any be compared to yours.

**All the nations you have made shall come and bow before you.**

They shall glorify your name, my lord,

**for you are great and do marvellous things; you alone are God. R**

Turn to me then, and have mercy; give your strength to your servant.

**Save your handmaiden's child; give me a sign of your favour!**

Then those who hate me will see and be ashamed,

**for you, God, have helped and comforted me. R**

**This is God's Wondrous World**

This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is God's wondrous world; I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world: the birds their carols raise; the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise. This is God's wondrous world: God shines in all that's fair; in the rustling grass or mountain pass, God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world: O let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet. This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad? Let voices sing, let the heavens ring: God reigns, let earth be glad!

**I, the Lord of Sea and Sky**

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in deepest sin my hand will save. I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

**Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.**

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain, I have wept for love of them; they turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send? **R**

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame, I will set a feast for them; my hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send? **R**

**Come, O Fount of Every Blessing**

Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of endless praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come, come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God, came to rescue me from danger, precious presence, precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debt or daily I am drawn anew! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you. Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known: here's my heart, O, take and seal it, seal it for your very own.

