

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Amazing Grace (arr. Victor Labenske)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE  
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters**  
Paula Hanna

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Just a taste of something wonderful.

**Only a glimpse of something magnificent.**

Just a glimmer of something holy  
in something so ordinary.

**Yet, enough to know**

**we are in the presence of God.**

Enough to cause us to stop and stare in awe,

**enough to stir our hearts in wonder,**

enough to set our feet to dancing

**and to prompt our voices**

**to worship and praise.**

**\*HYMN** Sing Your Praise to God Eternal VU 244

**PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**

**God of Creation, you speak, and when we listen we are moved to act and to be the people you have made us to be. You put a song of freedom and love and life deep within us. Sometimes we sing that song with confidence and honesty and courage, and at other times it is as though we have forgotten the words and the timing. Sing to us again, O God, in ways that move us and inspire us. Help us to discern the rhythms and cadences of your way in the world so that we might, with all our hearts, sing along. Amen.**

**WORDS OF GRACE**

We come to know God's love in all things.

**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 139 VU p.861  
(God you have searched me and known me.) Bob McRoberts

**GIFT OF MUSIC** Le Cyne (C.Saint-Saens)  
Mehraeen Safari, violin

**GOSPEL** Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43 p.14-15 Pew Bible NT  
(The Parable of the wheat and the weeds.)

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

**SERMON** Growing Together

**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** Concertino in the Style of W.A. Mozart  
(Hans Mollenhauer Millies) Mehraeen Safari, violin

**\*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** I Heard the Voice of Jesus **VU 626**

**\*COMMISSIONING**

And now, may the light and power of God—  
**lead and hold us;**  
the joy and grace of God—  
**heal and bless us.**  
So may the love of God—  
**enfold us and infuse our living-**  
**today and always.**

**\*SUNG BLESSING** Wherever You May Go (*D.Kai*)  
*MV 216*

**Wherever you may go, I will follow,  
and your people shall be my people too.  
Wherever you may go, I will follow,  
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.**

**POSTLUDE** For the Beauty of the Earth (*arr. V.Labenske*)



**Our Musician for Worship today...**

**Lisa Kyriakides** is an experienced soloist, educator, musical director, conductor and adjudicator. Lisa holds a Bachelor of Music (Music Education) and a Bachelor of Education from the University of Western Ontario as well as certificates in Voice, Piano, Theory, Counterpoint and History from the Royal Conservatory of Music. She is the director of the handbell program at Aurora United Church, is a member of the EmBellished handbell quartet, and has been a ringer in *The Bronze Foundation ensemble*, an auditioned handbell ensemble, since 2015. She was a guest conductor at the 2019 and 2023 Ontario Guild of English Handbell Ringers (OGEHR) Festivals. Lisa was chosen to be the Canadian Conductor at the 2022 International Handbell Symposium in Nashville. Lisa is the President of OGEHR and is on the Board of the Handbell Musicians of Canada.

Lisa has conducted the Ballantrae Adult Choir since 2008 and was also the conductor of the Encore Choir in 2023. Lisa has musical conducted many shows including, most recently, *Fun Home*, for Theatre Aurora. Lisa and her family are longtime members of Aurora United Church.

Lisa will be filling in for Margaret again next week and also August 20th.

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*\*Be sure to check out our AUC website, [auroraunitedchurch.ca](http://auroraunitedchurch.ca) for summer and fall programming, ministers and staff holidays-news from around the Shining Waters Region and U.C.C. Rev's Lorraine & Andy will be checking email/voice messages throughout the summer.*



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](http://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca)





**PENTECOST 8**  
**July 23, 2023**  
**11:00 AM**

*This we can all bear witness to, living as we do plagued by unremitting anxiety, it becomes more and more imperative that the life of the spirit be avowed as the only firm basis upon which to establish happiness and peace. (The Dalai Lama)*