

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Morning Has Broken (*arr. Brant Adams*)
Tim Birtch, trumpet

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Message from UCC Moderator: the Rt. Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne; Rev. Dr. Todd McDonald, Shining Waters Regional Council; Mayor Tom Mrakas, Town of Aurora; Rev. Dan Graves, Trinity Anglican

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters
Noah Comar

INTROIT Queerly Beloved (*A. Udis-Kessler*) TLUS sampler

INVOCATION & LIGHTING OF CANDLES

(*Members of the Affirming Ministry Committee*)

Source of Life and Love, you call us together to support one another.

**You bring light into our world,
light that darkness cannot defeat.**

(*Christ Candle is lit*)

The world you created, the world you love,
has such diversity -

**a variety of ages, abilities, birthplaces, genders,
sexual orientations and expressions, a multi-hued
picture, all beloved parts of your beloved family,
all part of the rainbow represented in the light.**

(*Rainbow candle is lit*)

As we gather here this morning, fill our hearts
with love for all our neighbours,

**remind us that all are welcome, that all belong
in the world you love.**

Help us to ensure that this love, this welcome, this
belonging, is part of how we all live together. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

All who are thirsty, all who are tired, all who wish to
be refreshed, **all of us, whoever we are, where ever
we find ourselves in life,**

we are welcome to come here to pray, to sing,
to be in God's presence.

**We have come to worship the God who created
and loves us all. Let us worship together!**

***HYMN** Let Us Build a House (*M. Haugen*) MV I

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can
safely live, a place where saints and children tell how
hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and
visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love
of Christ shall end division: All are welcome, all are
welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words
are strong and true, where all God's children dare to
seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall
stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as
one we claim the faith of Jesus: All are welcome, all are
welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the
wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the word they've known. Here the outcast and
the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring
an end to fear and danger: All are welcome, all are
welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs
and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and
claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and
cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: All are
welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this
place.

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Holy Mystery who is Wholly Love, you call us to build
a new community, one where all are welcome, one
where all are included. Sometimes we get it right,
sometimes we get it wrong. There are days when we
only see the differences between us and forget that
others are part of your beloved family. There are times
when the community of Christ has openly attacked
others because of their skin colour, or age, or gender,
or sexuality. Where we get community and inclusion
right, celebrate with us; where we miss the chance to
include all our neighbours, to welcome the diversity
of your family, through grace, challenge us. **God in
Community— Holy in One, we pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

We are all known and loved in God!

Thanks be to God!



ANTHEM Transitions of the Heart (*Matthew Compton*)
Bellissimo Handbell Ensemble (*scan QR code above for story*)

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Philippians 1:3-6, 9-11 *p. 196 Pew Bible*
(...that your love may overflow more and more.)
Rev. Dan Graves

ANTHEM This Is the Day (*Dan Forrest*)

GOSPEL John 13:12-15, 34-35 *p. 107-108 Pew Bible*
(I give you a new commandment, that you love one another.)

SERMON The Kindom of God
The Rev. George Moore

* **HYMN** For the Faithful Who Have Answered **insert p 7**

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Now Thank We All Our God/Let All
Things Now Living (*arr.B.Adams*) Tim Birtch, trumpet

***DEDICATION** Giver and Gift (*B.Wren*) Tune: VU 217
**Praise God the Giver and the Gift, hearts, minds and
voices now uplift: Alleluia! Alleluia!**
**Praise, praise the Breath of glad surprise, freeing,
uplifting, opening eyes, Three-in-Oneness, Love
Communing: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

OFFERTORY PRAYER/PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING
Prayer Shawl Presentation—Mary Munro

Presentation of Affirming Congregation Certificate
Rev. George Moore, Nancy Kerswill (Chair, AUC Council)

PRAYER PRELUDE We Call to You O God (*P.Mayberry*)
**We call to You O God, in faith and with open heart,
hear our prayer. We call to You O God, in faith and
with open heart, hear, hear our prayer.
Hear, hear our prayer.**

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

***HYMN** I Have Called You by Your Name
(*Damon/Fines*) *MV 161*

I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine. I will not
abandon you; all my promises are true. You are gifted,
called and chosen; you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go; read it written
in my people, help them grow. Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim, offer Jesus' body
given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go; feel it pulsing
in creation's ebb and flow. Like the woman reaching out,
choosing faith in spite of doubt, hold the hem of Jesus' robe,
then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine; I have given you my
Spirit as a sign. With my wonder in your soul, make my
wounded children whole; go and tell my precious people
they are mine.

***COMMISSIONING**
AUC Affirming Vision Statement (*on insert*)

***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 Over the Rainbow (*arr. Chris Peck*)
Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensemble



Affirming Congregation Committee
Victoria Kyriakides, Noah Comar, Brian Walter,
Debby Schieck, Mary Munro, Rev. Lorraine



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



Affirming Ministry Celebration
October 15, 2023
11:00 AM

*We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace,
for the flood of tears will finally cease to be, come
shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,
paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.*
(David Kai. *We Are a Rainbow*)

For the Faithful Who Have Answered

For the faithful who have answered when they heard your call to serve, for the many ways you led them testing will and stretching nerve, for their work and for their witness as they strove against the odds, for their courage and obedience we give thanks and praise, O God.

Many eyes have glimpsed the promise, many hearts have yearned to see. Many ears have heard you calling us to greater liberty. Some have fallen in the struggle, others still are fighting on. You are not ashamed to own us. We give thanks and praise, O God.

For this cloud of faithful witness, for the common life we share, for the work of peace and justice, for the gospel that we bear, for the vision that our homeland is your love - deep, high, and broad - for the different roads we travel we give thanks and praise, O God.

