

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Resignation (Irwinton) (Variations)  
(arr. James Boeringer)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE  
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters**  
Martha Bailkowski

**INTROIT** Jukkeseo wangwiye (The God of Glory/  
Le Dieu de gloire) (Ryu Hyung Sun Trans.Donaldson/  
Fines/Eckert/Oberman) ‘Then Let Us Sing’ sampler

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come to this time of worship  
with your stories and your songs,  
to share in the Spirit.

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

Let your thoughts and concerns  
come to life, like a symphony of sound.

**We join together  
in one chorus of celebration  
and joy for what God has done  
and continues to do among us.**

**\*HYMN** Come Touch Our Hearts (G.Light) MV 12

Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,  
from failing embers build a blazing fire; love strong  
enough to overturn injustice, to seek a world more  
gracious, come touch and bless our hearts.

Come touch our souls that we may know and love you, your  
quiet presence all our fears dispel; create a space for spirit to  
grow in us, let life and beauty fill us, come touch and bless  
our souls.

Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,  
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;  
help us to open doors of understanding, to welcome  
truth and wisdom, come touch and bless our minds.

Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,  
and in our weakness your great strength reveal;  
that we may rise to follow and to serve, steady now  
our nerve, come touch and bless our wills.

**PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**

**By joining in this time of worship, Creator God,  
we are making a choice, a choice to be part of your  
transforming love in this world. We are offering  
ourselves in body, mind and spirit—to the mending and  
tending of your world. We are opening ourselves to be  
changed by your compassion working in and through us,  
so that all may experience the love you sent in Jesus.  
We commit to you, Loving God, that we will share your  
love unconditionally, without judgment, freely, without  
price. God in Community; Holy in One, we pray in  
Jesus’ name. Amen.** (S.Lukey, High River U.C.,High River, Alta. adapted)

**WORDS OF GRACE**

God’s love embraces us; body, mind and spirit.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**SUNG RESPONSE** Celtic Alleluia

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 p.203 Pew Bible NT  
(We always give thanks to God for you.) Nancy Kerswill

**ANTHEM** Come Unto Me (Larry Nickel)  
Peter Zsebik, recorder

**GOSPEL** Matthew 22:15-22 p. 24-25 Pew Bible NT  
( Give to God the things that are God’s.)

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

**SERMON** Old Wounds

**\*HYMN** Love Is the Touch (A.Robertson/J.Bell) MV 89

Love is the touch of intangible joy; love is the force  
that no fear can destroy; love is the goodness we gladly  
applaud: God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the lilt in a lingering voice; love is the hope that  
can make us rejoice; love is the cure for the frightened  
and flawed: God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the light in the tunnel of pain; love is the will to  
be whole once again; love is the trust of a friend on the  
road: God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son; love is the kingdom  
their will has begun; love is the path which the saints all  
have trod: God is where love is, for love is of God.

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** Notre Père, Notre Mère (*Lambert*)  
(TLUS Sampler) The Aurora Choralis

**\*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 PRELUDE** We Call to You O God (*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** Come, O Fount of Every Blessing p 7

**\*COMMISSIONING**

God of the changing earth, **root us deep.**  
God of the ripened fields, **harvest our compassion.**  
God of us all, **let love and justice be known in us  
as we travel on.**

**\*SUNG BLESSING**

May the Peace of God Be Your Peace (*N.McLaren*) MV222

**May the peace of God be your peace.  
May the love of God be the love you show.  
May the joy of God be the joy you know,  
and may the world that God would see  
be found in you.**

**POSTLUDE** Gothic Minuet on 'Kingsfold'  
(*Matthew F. Walicke*)

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**Thanks & Blessings**

*It is true to say that it takes a community to make things  
happen, and it was certainly the case for our Affirming  
Congregation Celebration on Sunday, October 15th.*

*We thank the Affirming Congregation Committee for their  
work to bring us to this historic moment in the life of our  
congregation, and for creating a beautiful, creative backdrop  
for worship, reflective of the symbol of the rainbow  
that speaks to diversity and inclusivity.*

*Many thanks to Margaret Heney, AUC Music Coordinator  
and to Lisa Kyriakides, Handbell Ensembles Director, for  
their sensitivity in music choices for the day and for the beauty  
of voice and instrument so wonderfully expressed by  
Tim Birtch, trumpet; the AUC Chancel Choir, and the  
Bellissimo & Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensembles.*

*For those who brought greetings from near and far; for all the  
helpers...Welcome Table greeters/ushers; Coffee coordinators  
and those who set the tables for our celebration lunch and  
cleaned up afterwards...who took photos to mark the day  
and to those who 'liked' us on Facebook! Thanks & Blessings!*



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

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**PENTECOST 21**  
**October 22, 2023**  
**11:00 AM**

*'The United Church joins with all those praying for a  
just peace in the Holy Land and urges global leaders  
to work urgently for an end to the current violence,  
an end to the ongoing occupation of Palestinian  
territories, and a just and lasting peace for  
Palestinians and Israelis.'*  
(*Rev. Michael Blair, General Secretary, UCC*)

### **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.

