

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE What a Friend We Have in Jesus
(arr. Tom Fettke)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters
Bill Newman

INTROIT Since We Are Surrounded (W.S. Kervin)

CALL TO WORSHIP

We have gathered to worship God.
We have come seeking comfort, inspiration, community, and insight.
We have come to open ourselves to the power of God’s presence, felt when we gather spiritually– in person and online.
We have come to offer up the seasons and the turnings in our lives, and to ask God’s help in our learning and in our growing.
God has gathered us into a community, far-flung, yet tied to one another still...
Let us worship God with love, thanksgiving and praise!

***HYMN** Come, Let Us Sing p 7

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Walk with us, O God, through sharp frosty days and bright crunchy leaves into winter now. Rest with us by warm firesides and tell us stories into the night. Take us out at night and show us the

stars and fill us with wonder. Bless us and our families- our friends and our neighbours, near to us and in the world... with love and courage. And never let us forget the stranger who needs to share our wealth, our shelter and our hope. Amen. (A Prayer for Late Autumn. Iona. Adpt)

WORDS OF GRACE

God inspires and renews us!
Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE Celtic Alleluia

Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (liturgy on insert)

We welcome, through the Sacrament of Baptism, **Austyn Elizabeth Hilliard** and **Declan Joseph Hilliard**, daughter and son of Celidah and Graham, and **Ethan Bruce Tustin**, son of Victoria and Michael.

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (p. 205 Pew Bible)
(The day God will come as a thief in the night.) Charles Truax

ANTHEM Many Gifts, One Spirit (Mary Lynn Lightfoot)

GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30 p. 28-29 Pew Bible NT
(The Parable of the Talents.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON As If

***HYMN** Spirit God, Be Our Breath (B. Harding) MV 150

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song. Blow through us, bringing strength to move on. Our world seems inward, defensive, withdrawn...Spirit God, be our song.

Patient God: soothe our pride, calm our fear. Comfort us. When we know you are near we grow more certain, our vision is clear. Patient God, calm our fear.

Loving God: be our voice, be our prayer. Reaching out, joining hands as we share, we seek, your guidance through friendship and care. Loving God, be our prayer.

Spirit God: be our breath, be our song. Blow through us, bringing strength to move on. Through change, through challenge, we’ll greet the new dawn...Spirit God, be our song.

SHARING GOD’S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Tomorrow (A Better You, Better Me)
David Pilkey/Steve Falk (Quincy Jones)

***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** I Heard the Voice of Jesus p 8

***COMMISSIONING**

And now, the blessing of God, whose love for us is
generous beyond the telling but not beyond the knowing;
**the blessing of Jesus whose stories
lead us on good pathways;**
and the blessing of the Spirit, who moves within us
and around us to turn the world upside down,
go with us as we leave this place of worship. *(B.Root)*

***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 Teach Your Children
(Crosby/Stills/Nash & Young) David Pilkey/Steve Falk



MISSION AND SERVICE
Kindergarten in a Refugee Camp

**Hundreds of children have graduated from JCC's
kindergarten program.**

Being a child in a refugee camp means facing lots of uncertainty
at a very young age. In addition to food and water being scarce,
education is generally not easily accessible. Some children were
born in the camps, while others fled with their families at a very
young age. Either way, living in a refugee camp means children
may not learn crucial cognitive and social skills.

Since 1950, the Joint Christian Committee for Social Service
(JCC) has provided skills training and services to refugees living
in a refugee camp in Lebanon. One of their incredible initiatives
is a kindergarten program where children can engage in learning
in a happy and secure place.

Hundreds of children have graduated from JCC's kindergarten
program with the skills they need to thrive. After graduating,
children continue in schools that welcome the basic knowledge
and values they have learned.

Your [generosity](#) through Mission and Service helps keep
children learning all around the world. Thank you.



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





PENTECOST 25
November 19, 2023
11:00 AM

*God of the seasons, you surround us with beauty and
wonder: you smile in the ripening fruit, you dance in
the tumbling leaves. Teach us to dance with you, to act
justly, and to share fairly, to love you in friend and
stranger, in all the moments of our nights and days.*
(Ruth Burgess, Iona)

Come, Let Us Sing

Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,
we have stood silently too long;
surely the Lord deserves our praise,
so joyfully thank God for our days.

O thirsty soul, come drink at the well;
God's living waters will never fail.
Surely the Lord will help you to stand,
strengthened and comforted by God's hand.

You dwell among us and cause us to pray,
and walk with each other following your way;
our precious brothers and sisters will grow
in the fulfilling love they know.

Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing
to the desire of all living things.
Come, all you creatures, high and low,
let your praises endlessly flow.

I heard the Voice of Jesus

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Come unto me and rest; lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.' I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad; I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Behold, I freely give the living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live.' I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream; my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'I am this dark world's light; look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright.' I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and in that light of life I'll walk till travelling days are done.

