

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**



**PRELUDE** Adagio from Sonata No.1, opus 65  
(Felix Mendelssohn)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE  
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters**  
Louise Proctor-Maio

**INTROIT** Bathe Me in Your Light (Oldham/Klusmeier)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Although the beckoning star  
heeded by wise travellers long ago  
no longer leads the way,  
**The manger-born Christ  
is still to be found and followed.**

We are no longer brought to our knees  
in surprise as were those journeyers of old,  
**yet our desire to worship  
can be as deep as theirs.**

And though we do not offer gifts of gold,  
frankincense and myrrh,  
**we offer ourselves and what we have.**

The story continues. The good news abounds.  
**May we worship and serve in the Spirit  
of the One born in Bethlehem and in our hearts.  
Let us worship!**

**\*HYMN** Arise, Your Light Is Come pg 7

**PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**

**Loving God: grace is the gift which flows to us from  
your heart; joy is the seed planted deep within our  
souls, that it might blossom into lives of service to**

**all. You emerge from baptism's water, to embrace  
us in your hopes; you take our fears from us and  
toss them aside as you lead us into your kindom;  
you shine the Light which brings us out of despair's  
shadows. Wind upon the water: you move among us,  
sweeping aside our petty pride, and offering us the gifts  
of humility and the impulse to serve. You whisper of  
your yearning for peace and reconciliation until it  
silences our angry voices and releases our reluctant  
hearts to love. God in Community, Holy in One,  
we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.** (Lectionary Liturgies, adapted)

**WORDS OF GRACE**

Touched by the waters of life and embraced in the  
warmth of God's love and hopes—this is good news!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**SUNG RESPONSE** A Light is Gleaming (L.Good) VU 82  
**A light is gleaming, spreading its arms  
throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love  
is burning bright, living in the light.**

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** Isaiah 60:1-6 p.690 Pew Bible OT  
(Arise, shine, for your light has come.) Janice Nolan

**ANTHEM** We Seek the Tiny King (Ruth Elaine Schram)

**GOSPEL** Mark 1:4-11 p.34 Pew Bible NT  
(Jesus is baptized by John.)

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

**SERMON** River Run Deep

**\*HYMN** Like a Healing Stream (Bruce Harding) MV 144  
Like a healing stream in a barren desert, Spirit water  
bringing life to dusty earth, God is trickling through our  
lives as in a dream unfolding, promising revival and  
rebirth...like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden, Spirit water come to  
nourish tiny seed, God is bubbling through the soil to coax  
a new creation, yearning for an end to want and need...  
like a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current, Spirit water  
rushing on to distant shore, God is carving out a channel  
in a new direction, calling for an end to hate and war...  
like a river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons, Spirit water with  
a love both deep and wide, God is working in our hearts to  
shape a new tomorrow: God will always challenge and  
provide! Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,  
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** Mary, Did You Know? (Lowry/Greene)  
George Collins, Tenor

**\*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** Light of Christ (*Mayberry/Kai*)  
Light of Christ shine in and through me.  
Light of Love be with me now.  
Take these hands, healing hands.  
Light of Christ flow through me now.

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

**\*HYMN** Will You Come and See the Light **pg 8**

**\*COMMISSIONING**

The journey may be filled with detours and yield signs.  
**The journey is often into the unknown  
and across uncharted waters.**  
May we each know God's presence and blessings  
on all parts of the journey of life.  
**Thanks be to the God who never leaves us.**

**\*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** The Heavens Rejoice! (*Todd Kendall*)

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**Thanks & Blessings...**

We are so grateful for the many contributions that led to  
such a meaningful journey through the seasons of  
Advent and Christmas.

Thank you to Margaret Heney, our most capable and  
talented Music Coordinator, and our wonderful  
AUC Chancel Choir; to Lisa Kyriakides and the Bellissimo,  
Faith-A-Peal, and EmBellished handbell ensembles;  
to everyone, who in multiple ways added to the 'sparkle'  
of the seasons: singers, instrumentalists, scripture readers,  
Pageant participants, ushers, greeters, candle-lighters,  
audio and live-stream volunteers; Welcome Table hosts,  
Nursery providers, and to Suzanne Whitehurst,  
for Office support.

Blessings to the AUC congregation  
for rising to the spirit of the seasons & for your  
ongoing faithful support!



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

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

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




**BAPTISM OF JESUS**  
**January 7, 2024**  
**11:00 AM**

*Baptism by water in the name of the Holy Trinity is  
the means by which we are received, at any age, into  
the covenanted community of the church. Baptism  
signifies the nurturing, sustaining, and transforming  
power of God's love and our grateful response to  
that grace. (UCC Statement of Faith. 2006)*

### Arise, Your Light Is Come

Arise, your light is come! The Spirit's call obey;  
show forth the glory of your God which shines on you today.

Arise, your light is come! Fling wide the prison door;  
proclaim the captive's liberty, good tidings to the poor.

Arise, your light is come! All you in sorrow born,  
bind up the broken-hearted ones and comfort those who mourn.

Arise, your light is come! The mountains burst in song!  
Rise up like eagles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.



### Will You Come and See the Light

Will you come and see the light from the stable door?  
It is shining newly bright, though it shone before.

It will be your guiding star,  
it will show you who you are;  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you step into the light that can free the slave?  
It will stand for what is right, it will heal and save.

By the pyramids of greed  
there's a longing to be freed;  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you tell about the light in the prison cell?  
Though it's shackled out of sight, it is shining well.

When the truth is cut and bruised,  
and the innocent abused,  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you join the hope, alight in the young girl's eyes,  
of the mighty put to flight by a baby's cries?

When the lowest and the least  
are the foremost at the feast,  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?

Will you travel by the light of the babe new born?  
In the candle lit at night there's a gleam of dawn,

and the darkness all about  
is too dim to put it out:  
will you hide, or decide to meet the light?