

## SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



**PRELUDE** How Fair and Pleasant art Thou  
(Marcel Dupré)

### **WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

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

**INTROIT** And When You Call for Me  
(Lynn Bauman/Linnea Good)

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

In unity there is strength.

In understanding there is tolerance;

in acceptance, there is growth.

**Let us be open to God's people everywhere.**

We are part of a community

diverse in its being

yet connected by its concerns.

**May we see the ways in which  
others bless our lives.**

We worship together as followers of Jesus.

We are aware of his message;

we are guided by his example.

**Let us live with purpose and commitment,  
this day and always. Let us worship!**

**\*HYMN** O God beyond All Praising insert p 7

### **PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**

**As we gather as your community, Loving God, we  
acknowledge the breadth of our participation, from  
here in this sanctuary, from home and from the**

places we live and travel otherwise. From different paths,  
from different walks, we marvel at the many ways we  
encounter you. In places we might not expect, in people  
we might not imagine. Sometimes we see you very clearly  
and sometimes we pass by without seeing you at all and  
your call to us seems muted somehow. Open our eyes to  
see you here and now; to see you among your people  
across our congregation, and to hear your call in the  
world around us. As your presence is revealed in the  
ordinary and in the extraordinary, coax our mouths to  
speak and sing and shout the Good News that you are.  
**God in Community-Holy in One, we pray in Jesus'  
name. Amen.**

### **WORDS OF GRACE**

God calls us to new awareness—

to new life, again and again.

**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

**RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 139 insert p 8  
(God has searched me and known me.) Lisa Kyriakides

**ANTHEM** Know My Heart (Benjamin Harlan)

**GOSPEL** John 1:43-51 p.92-93 Pew Bible NT  
(Jesus calls Philip and Nathanael.)

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

## **SERMON** Seen

**\*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** 凉凉 (Liang Liang) Guzheng Cover  
(Liu Chang/Tan Xuan) Rebecca Yin, Guzheng

**\*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** I Heard the Voice of Jesus insert p 7

**\*COMMISSIONING**

And now, may the companionship of God,  
 shape us into community;  
**embracing each other and the world  
 with compassion.**

**\*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** Festive Toccata (*Matthew McConnell*)



**Mission and Service**

**There's this huge misconception that refugees  
 choose to be refugees,"**

Imagine being forced to leave your home. Set adrift, hoping to find a place to land, somewhere safe so you can rebuild your life. "There's this huge misconception that refugees choose to be refugees," says ChrisAnn Alvarez, Refugee Support at The United Church of Canada. "It's not a choice. It's something they're forced into."

It's a reality that is faced by millions of refugees, and it's a reality that is becoming more and more prominent. More people are displaced today than ever before: 117.2 million, says the UN Refugee Agency. That's the equivalent of three Canadas. There are many causes: human conflict, climate change, human rights violations, and more.

We can help. Your gifts provide food, water, sanitation, and social support to people forced to flee their homes.

Mission and Service creates educational and confidence-building programs in refugee camps. Mission and Service also helps refugees find new homes. "Congregations form sponsorship groups together to sponsor the refugee,"

Alvarez explains. "What Mission and Service allows is for them to sponsor through their own congregation." She tells one story of a sponsor who renovated their basement after it flooded and immediately planned to sponsor a refugee in the new space. "Who thinks like that?!" Alvarez exclaims with wonder and awe. "It's just so beautiful!"

The refugee stayed with his sponsors for years, and they became an adopted family to one another. "The sponsor told me, 'We have no kids, so this was an unexpected blessing,'" Alvarez recalls, tearing up. "That's one example of someone opening their home in their home, in their heart, and allowing themselves to be transformed."



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

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



**EPIPHANY 2**

**January 14, 2024**

**11:00 AM**

*We sing of a church seeking to continue the story of  
 Jesus by embodying Christ's presence in the world.  
 We are called together by Christ as a community of  
 broken but hopeful believers, loving what he loved,  
 living what he taught, striving to be faithful servants  
 of God in our time and space. (UCC Song of Faith))*

## O God beyond All Praising

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay; for we can only wonder at every gift you send, at blessings without number and mercies without end: we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word, we honour and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

The flower of earthly splendour in time must surely die, its fragile bloom surrender to you our God most high; but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown, though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown: for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free, and we through him are given the final victory.

Then, hear O gracious Saviour, this song of praise we sing. May we, who know your favour, our humble service bring; and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill, we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still: to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways, and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

## 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.

## Psalms 139

**R God, you have searched me, you know me through and through.**

O God, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and rise up; you discern my thought from afar.

**You discern my path and the places I rest;  
you are familiar with all my ways.**

Before a word is on my tongue, you know it, O God, completely.

You guard me from behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

**It is beyond my knowledge; it is a mystery; I cannot fathom it. R**

Where can I escape from your spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

**If I ascend to heaven, you are there;  
if I lie down in the grave, you are even there.**

If I take wing with the dawn, and alight at the sea's farthest limits,

**There also your hand will be guiding me  
your powerful hand holding me fast.**

If I say, "Let the darkness cover me and my day be turned to night,"

**even darkness is not dark to you: the night is as bright as the day,  
for darkness is a light to you R**

It was you who formed my inward parts;  
you fashioned me in my mother's womb.

**I praise you, for I am fearfully, wonderfully made.  
Wondrous are your works; that I know very well.**

My frame was not hidden from you when I was being fashioned in secret,  
intricately woven in the mystery of clay.

**Your eyes saw my substance taking shape; in your book my every day  
was recorded; all my days were fashioned, even before they came to be. R**

How deep your designs are to me, O God? How great their number!

**I try to count them but they are more than the sands.  
I come to the end — I am still with you.**

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

**Test me and know my thoughts.**

Watch closely, lest I follow a path of error

**And guide me in the everlasting way. R**