

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



PRELUDE Plein Jeu (*Louis-Nicolas Clérambault*)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters
Brian Walter

INTROIT Dear God, Who Loves All Human Kind
(*J. Greenleaf Whittier/F. Charles Maker*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Come as people who are part of the complex
weave of cultures, of countries, of beliefs.

**We come in our diversity to celebrate
the risen Christ as our unity.**

Come as people who embrace God
who is holy mystery and wholly love.

**We come to worship the One who
showers us with grace abundant.**

Come as people who struggle at times
to know how to follow in faith.

**We come to open ourselves
to the Spirit's movement
within and without.**

Let us worship!
Let us worship!

***HYMN** Come Touch Our Hearts (*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

**Though we do not stand on lakeshores and cast our
nets into unknown waters, your call, O God, comes
to us in other ways. Through the din of the frantic
busyness which frames our lives, your call invites us
to slow down—to listen for your voice. May we know
your stillness, God—and in the stillness discern your
way of love for our lives so that we may be filled with it.
We look for your signs in the world, Revealing God,
that you are in the world—alive to it and us. May we
risk opening ourselves to you, that we may in turn risk
reaching out to others to share what we have come to
know in you. God in Community, Holy in One, we pray
in Jesus' name. Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

God seeks us out and meets us in our need.
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 63 Ref 2 *Insert p 7*
(My soul thirsts for you, O God.) *Colleen Abbott*

ANTHEM The Cosmos is Dancing in Bright Festival
(*A. Donaldson/J. Best*)

GOSPEL Mark 1:14-20 *p.35 Pew Bible NT*
(Jesus calls Simon, Andrew, James and John.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Epiphanies in the Everyday

***HYMN** Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore
Insert p 7

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Be Thou My Vision (*C. Moglebust*)
Bellissimo Handbell Ensemble

***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** Jesus Christ Is Waiting *Insert p 8*

***COMMISSIONING**

Whatever you have received in this time of worship:
forgiveness, encouragement, hope, support, love, joy
with the example of Christ before us
let us share it in the world.

***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 Caprice sur les Grands Jeux
(Louis-Nicolas Clérambault)



Mission and Service

Around the world,
millions of children cannot attend school.

How do you make the world a better place?
You can start by taking kids to school.

Around the world, 57 million children cannot attend school.* They may never learn to read, to add or subtract, or to write. These are the skills they need to succeed. Even more importantly, they never learn about their basic human rights.

It's a complicated problem, says Patti Talbot, the United Church's Global Partnership Team Leader. "The work we do isn't going to lead to immediate societal change," she says, "but it will make a big difference down the road."

When children can't go to school, society suffers. And that is why [Mission and Service](#) is in partnership with 85 organizations that work to increase access to education across the globe.

Each partner has their own approach to education and skills training, each supported by your gifts to [Mission and Service](#).

Colombia's Center for Communication uses arts and media to teach children about their rights. Women for Change in Zambia creates educational groups where participants share agricultural knowledge and awareness of their rights. At Japan's Asian Rural Institute, local leaders gather to learn sustainable agriculture techniques they can take home and transform their communities.

"How can we make the world a better place?" asks Talbot before responding, "We can't do that by ourselves; our partners know best what the challenges are."

Talbot, a child of missionaries who was raised in Japan and Korea, knows that educational partnerships are critical. "In our partnerships, we learn from and teach each other," she says. "The United Church's focus is more than just sharing resources, but really sharing life together."

It's an approach that Talbot knows works, even if results take time. "Our partners are very grateful that the United Church of Canada has demonstrated over and over again that we are there for the long term," Talbot says.

"Partners say to us 'It makes such a difference to us to know that the United Church is with us, walking with us in prayer, supporting us, remembering us in their lives.'"



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

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



EPIPHANY 3
January 21, 2024
11:00 AM

The Sea of Galilee Boat, also known as the Jesus Boat was an ancient fishing boat from the 1st century CE, discovered in 1986 on the north-west shore of the sea of Galilee in Israel. The remains of the boat appeared during a drought, when the waters of the sea receded.

Psalm 63

R2 My soul is thirsting for you, O God, my God.

You are my God, I long for you from early morning.
My whole being desires you like a dry, worn, waterless land.
My soul thirsts for you.

**In the sanctuary let me see
how mighty are your works;
your constant love is better than life itself,
and so I will praise you. R**

I will give thanks as long as I live;
I raise my hands in prayer

**My soul will feast and be filled,
and I will sing and praise you. R**

As I lie in bed, I remember you, O God;
I think of you all night long,
For you are my constant help.

**In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
I cling to you; your hand keeps me safe. R**



**Jesus, You Have Come
to the Lakeshore**

Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.

**O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.**

You know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
- you will find there my nets and labour. **R**

You need my hands, full of caring
through my labours to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving. **R**

You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me. **R**



Jesus Christ Is Waiting

Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets; no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
*Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too. Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets, where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
*Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too. In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets; curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
*Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too. Let my care be active, healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets, where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.
*Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too. On suspicion's graveyard let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets, 'Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.'
*Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few. Walk one step before me; I will follow you.