

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



PRELUDE Chorale Prelude on ‘Down Ampney’
(Douglas E. Wagner)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters
Brandon Holmshaw

INTROIT Love Knocks and Waits (Daniel C. Damon)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Jesus enters our village today,
to the laughter of our children;
the graciousness of our elders;
the excitement of our friends;
the songs of the choir.
He has come to us,
to the burdens that we carry,
bringing the peace that we seek,
and the hope that we cling to.
Jesus enters our village today,
and we receive him gladly.
Let us worship!

*(Jesus in the Village, 2024) Rev. Charmain Bailey: first Black person to be
commissioned in the history of the United Church of Canada.*

***HYMN** God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness *p. 7*

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

**Gracious God, today in worship we recognize people
of African descent and lament as a community
anti-Black racism and violence. We pray that your
Spirit will reorient us: challenging us to live by
grace rather than entitlement; expecting us to be a**

blessing to the earth. We pray that by acknowledging
our brokenness we will be closer to becoming a church
where the Good News is lived out: **faith nurtured and
hearts comforted, gifts shared for the good of all,
resistance to the forces that exploit and marginalize,
fierce love in the face of violence, human dignity
defended, members of a community held and inspired
by God. May we witness to your love and grace. God
in community, Holy in One, in Jesus’ name we pray.
Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

God is our refuge and home—
our strength—our centre.
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 40:21-31 *p.668 Pew Bible OT*
(Those who wait upon God will renew their strength.)
Kathie Blackman

ANTHEM You Will Be Found *from Dear Evan Hanson*
David Pilkey & Janice Nolan, soloists (Benj Pasek/Justin Paul)

GOSPEL Mark 1:29-39 *p. 35 Pew Bible NT*
(Simon’s mother-in-law, and many others are healed.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Unity and Legacy

***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 What the World Needs Now (B. Bacharach)
David Pilkey & Margaret Heney

***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** Creator God You Gave Us Life (*J.Snowdon*) *MV 27*

Creator God you gave us life, your image formed within our souls, yet through the mist of time and space, we search for that which makes us whole. *Through hands that paint majestic skies, and voices chanting melody, with words that reach beyond the page, we comprehend your mystery.*

In every flower and every tree, we see your great diversity, yet greater still we see your love, expressed in our humanity. *Through hands that paint majestic skies, and voices chanting melody, with words that reach beyond the page, we comprehend your mystery.*

When with our hearts, our hands our minds, we share our gifts with all the world, our spirits soar beyond the veil, to touch the very face of God. *Through hands that paint majestic skies, and voices chanting melody, with words that reach beyond the page, we comprehend your mystery.*

***COMMISSIONING**

And now, may God's blessing be ours:
a blessing of loving kindness,
a blessing of hope and courage,
A blessing of listening and love.
God's blessing be ours—
always.

***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 Another Day in Paradise (*Phil Collins*)
David Pilkey & Steve Falk



Lincoln MacCauley Alexander, CC, OOnt, QC, lieutenant-governor of Ontario 1985-91, member of Parliament 1968-80, lawyer, public servant (born 21 January 1922 in Toronto, ON; died 19 October 2012 in Hamilton, ON).
Alexander was the first **Black Canadian** member of Parliament, (1968), **Cabinet** minister (1979) and lieutenant-governor (Ontario, 1985). In recognition of his many important accomplishments, 21 January has been celebrated as Lincoln Alexander Day across Canada since 2015.



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



EPIPHANY 5
Honouring Black History Month
February 4, 2024
11:00 AM

*The theme for Black History Month 2024 is **Black Excellence: A Heritage to Celebrate; a Future to Build.** Every February, people across Canada participate in Black History Month events and festivities that honour the legacy of Black people in Canada and their communities.*

God Who Gives to Life its Goodness

God who gives to life its goodness,
 God creator of all joy,
God who gives to us our freedom,
 God who blesses tool and toy:
teach us now to laugh and praise you,
 deep within your praises sing,
till the whole creation dances
 for the goodness of its King.

God who fills the earth with beauty,
 God who binds each friend to friend,
God who names us co-creators
 God who wills that chaos end:
grant us now creative spirits,
 minds responsive to your mind,
hearts and wills your rule extending
 all our acts by Love refined.

