

## SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

**PRELUDE** Concerto in e minor (2nd Movement)  
Mehraeen Safari, violin (Anatoli Komarowski)

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

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters**  
Elizabeth Ramsell

**INTROIT** Love Us into Fullness (Daniel C. Damon)

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

We can each climb the mountain,  
**alone or with friends.**  
The change of view will do us good.  
**We could use a new perspective.**  
But when we go up, we may be changed.  
**The mountaintop is a place of power.**  
Like Jesus, we could be filled with light;  
**our lives could be transformed.**  
Let us climb the mountain together,  
**ready to be enlightened.**

**\*HYMN** We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding  
p 9 -Tune 559

### **PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**

Ever-changing God, sometimes we plod on, head down, watching our feet, missing the glimpses of glory. Ever-changing God, breaking through into the mundane grayness of our lives to make all things new, lift up our eyes to see your glory: in the taken-for-granted intimacy of human loving, in the persistent courage of day-to day struggle, in the

renewal of lengthening days, in the insight that stretches our imagination. Lift up our eyes to see the wonder and mystery of your presence beckoning through the everyday glimpses of grace. God in Community, Holy in One, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen. (Iona Community. Adapted)

### **WORDS OF GRACE**

God transforms the everyday.  
We are never alone.  
**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 50 p.8  
(God summons the earth.) Jackie Catto

**ANTHEM** Stand By Me (arr. Larry Shackley)  
Bob McRoberts, Bass soloist

**GOSPEL** Mark 9:2-9 p.44 Pew Bible NT  
(The Transfiguration of Jesus.)

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

**SERMON** Open Hearts & Thin Places

**\*HYMN** We Are Pilgrims (The Servant Song) p 7

## SHARING GOD'S LOVE

**\*THE NEW CREED** p.8

**\*THE PEACE**

### **OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** As the Deer (arr.Patricia Sanders Cota)  
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**

**SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION** p. 5-6

**\*HYMN** Bless Now, O God, the Journey p 7-8

### **\*COMMISSIONING**

Jesus was transformed before his friends,  
**filled with the light of God.**  
Take courage, for all of life's uphill journeys;  
**God's light be ours.**

**\*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** Concerto in e minor (1st Movement)  
Mehraeen Safari, violin (Anatoli Komarowski)

## The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you,**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to God.

**It is right to give thanks and praise.**

O God, you spoke— a word, a yearning, a creation—  
‘Let there be light!’ In that light—your light—creation  
dawned through Love.

**Within the deep and abiding light of your Love,  
relationships evolved into ever greater complexity:  
light upon light, love within love.**

Gazing upon the countless twinkling lights of starry nights,  
Sarah and Abraham envisioned their descendants.

**Witnessing the awe-inspiring beauty of a rainbow’s light,  
Noah perceived your promise of hope and of communion.**

Led by a fiery pillar blazing in the wilderness night, Moses  
led a grumbling people into identity as a People of God.

**Following the glorious light of a persistent star, Wise Ones  
discovered your vulnerability in a baby boy.**

Hiking to a mountain top for prayer and for retreat, three  
disciples witnessed your revealed glory in Jesus: the Word  
made flesh, a light of humble self-giving for all people. Fear,  
intrigue, uncertainty and doubt overtook too many. Though  
Jesus brought liberation to the oppressed as the Light of the  
World, we were stopped by our fears,  
**choosing the familiar instead of the just.**

But you, O God, continued to bring forth light, raising the  
crucified one to life and to wholeness. Therefore, we join with  
all creation to sing:

*O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space. All earth  
and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace. Hosanna  
in the highest heav’n, creation sings your praise. And blessed  
is the One who comes and bears your name always. MV 203*

## Words of Institution...

Each time we break this bread and pour this cup, we, too, seek  
to do justice, to love kindness, and to walk humbly with God.

Each time we break this bread and pour this cup, we, too, seek  
to proclaim the reign of God and the mystery of faith:

*Sing Christ has died and Christ has risen, Christ will come  
again. Sing Christ has died and Christ has risen, Christ will  
come again. MV 204*

God of light and of Love revealed in Jesus,  
bathe us in your Spirited light, which brings wholeness.

**Within that light may we know Christ in the breaking  
of bread, that in word and in deed we may also become  
light and life.**

Into your loving heart, gracious God, we lift those among us  
in our community and in our world who yearn for wholeness  
in their living and for light in their loving...

*(Prayers for the community...)*

We turn to you now as a mother, praying the words that Jesus  
taught us to pray, saying: **Our Father...**

*Amen, Amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!*

*Amen, Amen, O Holy One! Hosanna, and Amen! MV 205*

## SHARING THE FEAST

*Communion elements of bread cubes and rice crackers are  
shared today with tongs; juice is served in separate glasses.  
Please make your way to one of the serving stations at the front  
of the sanctuary, by way of a centre aisle. Receive the elements,  
stay for as long as you wish and then return to your seat by an  
outside aisle.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Loving One, as our bodies take in the nourishment of your  
love expressed in Jesus, may we be transformed by it, filled,  
as we are, with gift and grace. Amen.**



## 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



## TRANSFIGURATION SUNDAY

*Honouring Black History Month*

**February 11, 2024**

**11:00 AM**

*It may be that when we no longer know what to do  
we have come to our real work, and that when we no  
longer know which way to go, we have come to our  
real journey. The mind that is not baffled is not  
employed. The impeded spring is the one that sings.*

*(Wendell Berry)*

## **We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding**

We have come at Christ's own bidding to this high and holy place, where we wait with hope and longing for some token of God's grace. Here we pray for new assurance that our faith is not in vain, searching like those first disciples for a sign both clear and plain.

Light breaks in upon our darkness; splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word; Moses and Elijah marvel as the heavenly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts behold with wonder how the Law and Prophets meet: Christ, with garments drenched in brightness, stands transfigured and complete.

Strengthened by this glimpse of glory, fearful lest our faith decline, we like Peter find it tempting to remain and build a shrine. But true worship gives us courage to proclaim what we profess, that our daily lives may prove us people of the God we bless.

## **We Are Pilgrims (The Servant Song)**

We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road; we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear; I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you; I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony, born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

## **Bless Now, O God, the Journey**

Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make, the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take. The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round, then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.

Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way, whose hope burns through the terrors, whose love sustains the day. We yearn for holy freedom while often we are bound. Together we are seeking the road where faith is found.

Divine Eternal Lover, you meet us on the road. We wait for lands of promise where milk and honey flow. But waiting not for places, you meet us all around. Our covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.

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## **RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 50**

**R The mighty one, God the Sovereign, speaks and summons the earth.**

God the Almighty, has spoken;

**and summoned the world from the rising of the sun to its setting**

God shines out from Zion, a city perfect in beauty.

**Our God appears, and will not keep silence. R**

Before you, God, runs a consuming fire, and a mighty tempest rages about you.

**You call on the heavens above, and on the earth below, to witness the judgment of your people:**

“Gather my people before me, the people who made covenant with me by sacrifice.”

**The heavens proclaim your justice, for you yourself are judge. R**

## **THE NEW CREED**

We are not alone, we live in God's world.

We Believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the spirit.

We Trust in God.

We are called to be the Church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.