

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Blessed Holy Presence (H. S. Livingston Jr.)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters**

Martha Bailkowski

**INTROIT** Wellspring of Wisdom (M.T. Winter)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

As people of the journey we gather,  
**supporting and uplifting one another.**

As people of the journey we travel,  
**unsure as to what lies around the next bend.**

As people of the journey we go in faith,  
**confident that God is with us.**

As people of the journey we follow the light,  
**the light that is in Jesus.**

As people of the journey we seek guidance,  
**the guidance of the Holy Spirit.**

Come, people of the journey,  
the Lenten path continues before us.

**Let us worship!**

**\*HYMN** Let Us Build a House (Haugen/Fines) MV 1  
Vss 1,2, 4,5

Let us build a house where all can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach, beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

**LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY**

Carolyn Yearwood, Wayne, Max and Sam Hwang

Where is the time and place to listen for the still, small voice of God? These Lenten days invite us to go within. In Lent we journey to the parts of ourselves known only to God.

*(One candle is extinguished.)*

*Let us pray...*

**Draw us together in your love, O God. May we know your presence among us as we mark these Lenten days together. May we know your wisdom in seeking centred, mindful lives, aware of the world around us and the relationships which enrich our lives. Amen.**

**SUNG RESPONSE** Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

*VU 121* **We remember truth once spoken,  
love passed on through act and word,  
every person lost and broken  
wears the body of our Lord,  
wears the body of our Lord.**

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** 1 Corinthians 1:18-25 p.166 Pew Bible NT  
(God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom.)  
Bob McRoberts

**ANTHEM** Sanctus (Sherri Porterfield)

**GOSPEL** John 2:13-22 p.93 Pew Bible NT  
(Jesus clears the temple.)

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

**SERMON** Memento Mori

**\*HYMN** Jesus Christ is Waiting *inset p 7*

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** 长安八景 by 杨洁明、李婉芬。  
Eight Scenes of Chang'an by Yang Jieming & Li Wanfen  
Rebecca Yin, guzheng

**\*DEDICATION** Christ Has No Body Now but Yours  
*MV 171* **Christ has no body now but yours,  
no hands but yours. Here on this earth,  
yours is the work, to serve with the  
joy of compassion.**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing**

**PRAYER PRELUDE** Let My Spirit Always Sing *MV 83*  
Let my spirit always sing, to your Spirit answering,  
through the silence, through the pain know my hope  
is not in vain, like a feather on your breath  
trust your love, through life and death.

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

**\*HYMN** To Show by Touch and Word *insert p 7*

**\*COMMISSIONING**

May the path that Christ walks  
to bring justice upon the earth,  
and light to those who sit in shadows;  
**the path which brings new things to all creation...**  
may this path run through our lives.  
**May we be the road Christ takes.**  
*(A.Palmer, St.Paul's U.C.,New Liskeard, Ont.adapted)*

**SUNG BLESSING** May the Love of the Lord *MV 218*  
**May the love of the Lord rest upon your soul.**  
**May God's love dwell in you, throughout every day.**  
**May God's countenance shine upon you and be**  
**gracious to you. May God's Spirit be upon you**  
**as you leave this place.**

**POSTLUDE** Middlebury *(Bernard Wayne Sanders)*



MISSION AND SERVICE



*For International Development Week 2024 (February 4-10) The United Church of Canada highlights Mission and Service Partners who are contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals.*

*Rev. Chali Mfuta, United Church of Zambia, a Mission and Service partner, serves as minister in Livingstone, Zambia. Rev. Chali witnessed first-hand the devastating impacts of Cyclone Ana and is a strong climate justice advocate. She attended the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP 28) virtually as part of [The United Church of Canada Young Adult delegation](#).*

The climate crisis has had negative impact on communities in the Global South without the financial capacity to deal with the effects. In January of 2023, Cyclone Ana hit Madagascar, Mozambique, Malawi, and Zambia. The storm caused death, destruction, and power outages due to heavy rains and floods. In the southern part of Zambia, Namwala and Monze districts were seriously affected.

Crops were severely damaged and submerged by flood water. Livestock and houses were swept away. This led to hunger in the communities which experienced these losses, making it hard for children, pregnant women, and the elderly to survive.

In the communities of Nanwala and Monze alone, 32,448 households were displaced. Everything was submerged in the water, so people had to be airlifted from the small islands where they had sought refuge.

The risk of not having shelter, access to clean water and health facilities for vulnerable groups such as the elderly, children and the physically challenged led to fear of violation, abuse, and neglect. Permanent structures for shelter and health and safety services were urgently needed, as was nutrition. Assistance came from different faith-based organizations, the Red Cross, the Zambian police force, the Ministry of Health, and the government's Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit. They provided items such as food, toiletries, clothes, tents and medicine, and even spiritual support.

When reaching out to the community, the priority must be affected households and families. The challenge is the repair and reconstruction of damaged or destroyed facilities, including houses, schools, shops, markets, health facilities, and police stations.

COP28 is an opportunity to increase funding for these kinds of disasters which affect the most vulnerable communities. The type of funding should be grants and not loans. The funds should be easily accessible in order to mitigate the disasters in good time to avoid losing lives. As we work towards attaining the climate justice the Earth needs, let us also put in place policies and funding that will effectively respond to the damage and loss caused by climate change.



*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



**LENT 3**  
**March 3, 2024**  
**11:00 AM**

*As swimmers dare to lie face to the sky and water bears them, as hawks rest upon air and air sustains them, so would I learn to attain free fall, and float into Creator Spirit's deep embrace, knowing no effort earns that all-surrounding grace.*  
*(Denise Levertov)*

### 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.

\* or 'Listen, my Jesus'

### To Show by Touch and Word

To show by touch and word devotion to the earth, to hold in full regard all life that comes to birth, we need, O God, the will to find the good you had of old in mind.

Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most, our hearts to long for truth till ride of self is lost. For every challenge that we face we need your guidance and your grace.

Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm, and let our lives portray your word in human form. Now come with us that we may have your wits about us where we live.

