

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



PRELUDE Romanze

(D. Shostakovich arr.K.Fortunatow) Wesley Bells, violin

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters

Martha Bailkowski

INTROIT Never Ending Joy (Daniel Charles Damon)

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather,
seeking the presence of God.

Our hearts are searching.

We open our lives to God.

Our hearts are open.

We find the love of God.

Our hearts are full.

We come in worship -
**seeking, opening, finding,
in worship!**

***HYMN** O God beyond All Praising **VU 256**

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY

Margaret & Myles Heney

When we arrived this morning, we entered into the usual bustle of a church on a Sunday morning; each of us arriving at our own pace and in our own way, bringing us to this sanctuary—to this set-apart place for worship.

The season of Lent is a kind of sanctuary, extended in time. And one of the things Lent teaches is that we too are a sanctuary. There is inside us a place for sacred things, a place where God is found.

One purple candle is extinguished.

Let us pray...

Loving God, we open our hearts to you. We invite you into our innermost being, only to find you already there. Strengthen us in our quiet places and then lead us into the work of justice and peace. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

**VU 121 Christ, you lead and we shall follow,
Stumbling though our steps may be,
one with you in joy and sorrow,
we the river, you the sea,
we the river, you the sea.**

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Hebrews 5:5-10 p. 220 *Pew Bible NT*
(Christ did not glorify himself; rather, he suffered.)
Nancy Kerswill

ANTHEM Give Me a Grateful Heart (Boersma/Martin)

GOSPEL John 12:20-33 p. 94 *Pew Bible NT*
(Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Sacred Ground

***HYMN** Soil of God, You and I (Hannah/Melhorn-Boe)
MV 174

Soil of God, you and I, stand ready to bear seeds of faith nourished by God's tender care. Growing in everyone for here God is found. All stand together, we are...Holy ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now ready to be part of God's promise, for others to see. Open to everyone for here God is found. All stand together, we are...Holy Ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now called to rebirth, joining as partners with all of the earth. Living in harmony for here God is found. All stand together, this is...Holy ground.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY On Golden Pond (D.Grusin as perf. J.Galway)
Wesley Bells, violin

***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** Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song **VU 641**

***COMMISSIONING**

God be in your head, and in your understanding.
God be in our eyes, and in our looking.
God be in your mouth, and in your speaking.
God be in our hearts, and in our loving.
God be at your end,
and at our departing.
(attrib. St. Patrick 13th century)

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 A Celtic Blessing *(J.Rutter)*



MISSION AND SERVICE

Supporting a Right-Based Approach
to Growing Food



Community members show their pride in a successful bean harvest at the Dora Alicia Sorto School Farm, a project led by the Association of Economic and Social Development Santa Marta (ADES).

The Association of Economic and Social Development Santa Marta (ADES), a Mission and Service partner, is located in an area of Central America that is very vulnerable to climate change. This hot, dry region regularly experiences drought. Mining projects have also negatively affected the environment and the people in the region. ADES and other community organizations decided to act to protect the community's right to a healthy environment. An example of how ADES has responded is a three-year agroecology project co-funded by the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation and The United Church of Canada Foundation, along with Mission and Service. Agroecology benefits the land and water because it recycles nutrients back into the soil. It also reduces production costs, lessening the financial burden on rural farmers.

In this project, ADES works closely with the community to grow food in a rural region of El Salvador, promoting sustainable agriculture that protects biodiversity, maintains the integrity of the land, and upholds rural culture.

At the centre of the project is the Dora Alicia Sorto School Farm, where rural families, mainly led by women, learn about agroecology. The school provides training, technical expertise, and seeds indigenous to the region. It focuses on preserving the surrounding environment and on upholding gender and human rights as part of its approach to food security.

Your gifts to [Mission and Service](#) help support ADES' agroecology project. Thank you for your generosity!



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





LENT 5
March 17, 2024
11:00 AM

*Though I do not expect that a plant will spring up
where no seed has been, I have great faith in
seed...convince me that you have a seed there,
and I am prepared to expect wonders.*
(Henry David Thoreau)

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.

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song

Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey, I'll tell everybody about you wherever I go: for our life and our peace and our love is yourself. Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.

Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey. May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you. May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song. Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant to carry your cross and to share all your burdens
and tears,
for you saved me by giving your body and blood. As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey, but courage will come with the sound of your steps
by my side;
and with all of my brothers you saved by your love, we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.

