

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



PRELUDE Hail the Day That Sees Him Rise
(Richard A. Williamson)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Louise Procter Maio

INTROIT We Know that Christ is Raised
(J. Brownlow Geyer/C. Villiers Stanford)
Lisa Kyriakides/Pat Innes, handbells

CALL TO WORSHIP

Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed!
God has raised Jesus from the dead.
**God welcomes us into a new world
filled with grace.**
God gives new life and new hope.
Let us sing our alleluias with joy.
Let us worship!
(C. Jerret)

LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

The Gilpin Family: Doug, Sylvia, Peter & Emily

The Easter promise is grounded in the resurrection
of Jesus Christ, from death to life,
**a promise that we celebrate
during this Easter season, a promise
graciously extended to each of us by Jesus.**
This is a grace that through the Holy Spirit,
empowers our community life to new
and deeper experiences.
**We light this Christ Candle,
naming that gracious gift and promise.**
(The Christ candle is lit.)

***HYMN** Jesus Christ Is Risen Today (L. Davidica) VU 155
Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!
Our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!
Who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!
Suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!

Hymns of praise then let us sing, hallelujah!
Unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!
Who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!
Sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!

But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!
Our salvation have procured; hallelujah!
Now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!
Where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!

Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!
Praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!
Praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!
Praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!

PRAYER OF RENEWAL

**While we are looking for you in wounded hands, loving
God, you are sparkling an Easter sunrise in our world.
While we hold on to fear and sadness, you are taking
us by our hands and lifting us into a new day! Wake us
up, that we would search for you, not only in the past,
of what once was, but also in the renewal of our spirits
and our communities today. Shine your Easter through
us, God, that we would know new life in you. God in
Community—Holy in One, we pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

Jesus Christ is risen today! God's love is all around us.
Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE Halle, Halle, Halle (VU 958)
**Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah! Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah!
Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!**
(sing twice)

THEME CONVERSATION

***SONG** Christ Is Risen From the Dead VU 167
Christ is risen from the dead, glory, hallelujah! (repeat)
Jesus Christ is risen, glory, hallelujah! (repeat)

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Acts 10:34-43 p. 129-130 Pew Bible
(Peter preaches at the house of Cornelius.) Janice Nolan

ANTHEM Resurrection Alleluias (Mark Hayes)

GOSPEL John 20:1-18 p.114-115 Pew Bible NT
(Mary and the empty tomb.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON New Life's Dawning

***HYMN** In the Bulb There Is a Flower (N. Sleeth VU 703)
In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that
waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God
alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing Hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Glorious Celebration *(Cynthia Dobrinski)*
Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensemble

***DEDICATION** God, We Praise You *VU 415*
**God we praise you for the morning,
hope springs forth this Easter day.
Hearts and hands reveal your promise,
accept our gifts now we pray.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing**

PRAYER PRELUDE Dear Mother God *VU 270*
**Dear mother God, your wings are warm around us,
we are enfolded in your love and care;
safe in the dark your heartbeat's pulse surrounds us,
you call to us, for you are always there.**

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

***HYMN** The Day of Resurrection *(VU 164)*
The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad;
the passover of gladness, the passover of God!
From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky,
our Christ has brought us over, with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be free of evil, that we may see aright the Christ
In rays eternal of resurrection light, and listening to the
accents, may hear so calm and plain Christ's own 'All hail!'
and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin,
the round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein;
let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend,
for Christ indeed is risen, our Joy that has no end.

***COMMISSIONING**
The power of the Creator
who brings life out of death,
be in this place.
The Risen Christ be our constant companion.
The healing embrace of the Holy Spirit encircle us all—
let our joy ring out!

EASTER BELL PEAL Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensemble

POSTLUDE Hallelujah Chorus *(G.F. Handel)*
*(Members of the congregation are invited to come forward for
the singing of the chorus with the AUC Chancel Choir.)*



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



EASTER SUNDAY
March 31, 2024
11:00 AM

*'The very first Easter taught us this:
that life never ends and love never dies.'*
(Kate McGahan)