

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



PRELUDE Caprice (*James Southbridge*)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Paula Hanna

INTROIT You Tell Me That the Lord is Risen
(*Rob Johns/English trad. melody arr. Arthur Seymour Sullivan*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

All of life is a circle.

Sunrise to sunset.

Today and tomorrow.

Birth to death.

But there is One who, in one timeless moment,
was made to break that pattern. One who conquered
death, not only for himself, but for us all.

Jesus, whom we call the Christ.

As people of God, as followers of the Christ,
we are invited into this timeless moment.

So we come and we gather...

and we worship our God...Alleluia!

Alleluia.

***HYMN** Christ Is Alive *p 7*

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

**God of the empty tomb, the crowded room, the
hushed darkness; so often you have made yourself
known to us but we have not seen you. We have
failed to recognize you in the neighbour who
shares our worry, in the stranger who knows our
pain, in the outcast who puts a voice and a name to**

**our doubts—in the young child who invites us to see
through their eyes—in the stories of our elders who
keep the truth before us. Clear our eyes, O God, that
we might see the Christ among us. Heal our fear and
make us ready to change ourselves in order to change
the world. God in Community—Holy in One, we pray
in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

The stone has been rolled away;
new life is before us.

**We celebrate God’s gift to us—
new life in Christ.**

Thanks be to God! **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)

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Acts 4:32-35 *p.122 Pew Bible*
(The believers shared everything in common.) Pat Innes

ANTHEM Look at the World (*John Rutter*)

GOSPEL John 20:19-31 *p.115 Pew Bible NT*
(Jesus appears to the disciples; Thomas struggles to believe.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON

Eastering

***HYMN** Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah! (*L.Good MV 121*)

*Hey now! Singing hallelujah! Hey now! The morning has
come. Hey now! Singing hallelujah! The tomb was empty
at the rising sun.*

Jesus loved people and he made them friends. Hey now,
the tomb was empty. He called to the children and the
women and men. Hey now, the tomb was empty.
Hey now...

Jesus loved people and he helped them be well. Hey now,
the tomb was empty. He taught about God in the stories
he’d tell. Hey now, the tomb was empty. *Hey now...*

Jesus loves people and he lives again! Hey now, the tomb
was empty. Calls us disciples and he calls us his friends.
Hey now, the tomb was empty. *Hey now...*

SHARING GOD’S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Ring Thy Grace (*arr. Sandra Eithun*)
EmBellished Handbell Ensemble

***DEDICATION** Take, O Take Me as I Am (*J.L.Bell*)
**Take, O take me as I am;
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart
and live in me.** (sing twice)

**Transfer of Membership/Reaffirmation of Membership/
Confirmation-Baptism**

Let us pledge to Janet Thacker, Jennifer Schafer, Jay Madore and, Mahsa Mahboob Navaz our continued support and care.

We will continue to support you, walk with you, and grow with you. With God’s help, we will live out our Baptism as a loving community in Jesus Christ: nurturing one another in faith, upholding one another in prayer, encouraging one another in God’s work.

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 Now the Green Blade Rises p 7

***COMMISSIONING**

And now—may Christ who died bless your every day.
May Christ who was raised inspire us in every way.
May Christ who lives, live with you today and always.
We go in the peace of the Risen One!

***SUNG BLESSING** Go and Tell the World (Brian Wren)

**Go and tell the world how Jesus lived and died.
Go and tell the love of Christ, the Crucified.
Many have not heard the liberating word,
then, go and tell, and show how God is glorified.**

POSTLUDE God of Glory (David Paxton)



Easter Thanks & Blessings...

The seasons of Lent and Easter are made more meaningful in every year by a great number of people representing our AUC congregation in worship and also out and about in our local communities.

Deep thanks is extended to members of our Worship Committee who oversee seasonal worship and who provided Easter treats once again; Margaret Heney and the AUC Chancel Choir; to Lisa Kyriakides and Handbell Ensembles—thank you all for your beautiful efforts to spread the message of love and new life in instrument and song.

Thanks also to Paula Hanna and the members of the Pastoral Care Team who, along with Rev. Andy provided Lent/Easter worship for our local Retirement homes. To all who volunteered to oversee the Welcome Table, who made sure that we were seen and heard in worship...to worship participants throughout the season of Lent to Easter...and to those who always manage to see where there is a need and step in to help...

Thank You—Bless You!



We welcome into membership today: Janet Thacker, Jennifer Schafer, Jay Madore, Mahsa Maboob Navaz.



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 2
Membership Sunday
April 7, 2024
11:00 AM

Come! Dancing out of winter’s gloom. Enliven us with your radiant hope. Lure us through the closed doors of our doubt. Celebrate with us the wonder of risen life. O Come! (Joyce Rupp. The Circle of Life)

Christ Is Alive

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky. Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine, but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift, and war, where colour, scorn, or wealth divide, Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call, and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age, till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love and praise.

Now the Green Blade Rise

Now the green blade rises from the buried grain, wheat that in dark earth many days has lain; love lives again, that with the dead has been: love is come again, like wheat arising green.

In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain, thinking that he would never wake again, laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen; love is come again, like wheat arising green.

Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain, he that for three days in the grave had lain; raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen; love is come again, like wheat arising green.

When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain, your touch can call us back to life again, fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been; love is come again, like wheat arising green.



Christ is Alive