

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



PRELUDE Teach Us, O Lord *(David Paxton)*

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Linda Longhurst

INTROIT Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks
(D.Fishel arr. D. Nixon, desc. B.Pulkingham)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Now is the time to sing—
to sing the good news of God;
**who awakens us with dawn’s embrace,
who surrounds us with joy and life.**

Now is the time to offer praise to God,
in every place, with every voice:
**to rejoice in the One who leads us
through each moment with a gentle hand
and a word of hope.**

Now is the time to join all creation in praising God,
from the depths of the seas to the farthest galaxies:
**we will sing the good news of Easter!
we will rejoice in the God who loves us.**

***HYMN** Come, Children, Join to Sing *p.7*

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

**Creator God, maker and shaper of our pathways,
you sent Jesus to live among us, entering and
experiencing the human journey—walking beside us
on the road. In your Spirit-midwife and nurturer of
our potential, we hear the call to venture out to new**

**lands and experiences. God in Three— Father, Son, and
Holy Spirit—shaper, sharer and stirrer of our journeys
—grace us with mission and adventure. Amen.**

(Pat Bennett, adapted; Iona Community)

WORDS OF GRACE

By grace, we are God’s people.
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

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 139 *p.8*
(God, you have searched me and known me.) Bob McRoberts

ANTHEM Family of Faith *(Valerie Mackenzie)*

GOSPEL Luke 24:36b-48 *p.91 Pew Bible NT*
(Jesus invites the disciples to touch his hands and feet.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Embodied

***HYMN** Love Is the Touch *(A.Robertson/J.Bell) MV 89*

Love is the touch of intangible joy;
love is the force that no fear can destroy;
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;
love is the will to be whole once again;
love is the trust of a friend on the road:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;
love is the kingdom their will has begun;
love is the path which the saints all have trod:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

SHARING GOD’S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY The Holy City *(M.Maybrick/F.Weatherly)*
Bob McRoberts, bass

***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)*

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 This Is God's Wondrous World 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 Christ the Victor! Christ the King!
(T.Birchwood)



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!



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.

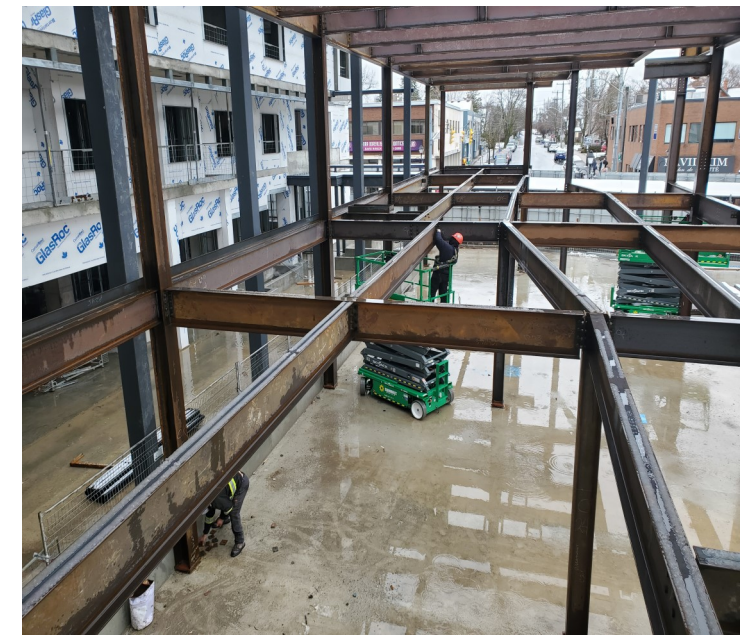


AURORA UNITED CHURCH

An Affirming Congregation

Church Office 905-727-1935
www.auroraunitedchurch.ca

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar
Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney



AUC steel taking shape, creating the north wall. (B.North, photo)

EASTER 3
April 14, 2024
11:00 AM

Our ancestors in faith bequeath to us experiences of their faithful living; upon their lives our lives are built. (UCC Statement of Faith)

Come, Children, Join to Sing

Come, children, join to sing: Hallelujah! Praise to our Servant King: Hallelujah! Let all with heart and voice, saved by God's gracious choice, now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!

Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah! Let praises fill the sky: Hallelujah! Christ calls his people friends, the helpless he defends, a love that never ends: Hallelujah!

Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah! Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah! The whole creation o'er let all God's love adore, singing for evermore: Hallelujah!

This is God's Wondrous World

This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is God's wondrous world; I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world: the birds their carols raise; the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise. This is God's wondrous world: God shines in all that's fair; in the rustling grass or mountain pass, God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world: O let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet. This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad? Let voices sing, let the heavens ring: God reigns, let earth be glad!



Psalm 139

R God, you have searched me, you know me through and through.

O God, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and rise up, you discern my thoughts from afar.

You discern my path and the places I rest; you are familiar with all my ways

Before a word is on my tongue, you know it O God, completely. You guard me from behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

It is beyond my knowledge; it is a mystery, I cannot fathom it R

Where can I escape from your spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I lie down in the grave, you are even there.

If I take wing with the dawn and alight at the sea's farthest limits,

There also your hand will be guiding me your powerful hand holding me fast.

If I say, "Let the darkness cover me and my day be turned to night,"

even darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is a light to you. R

It was you who formed my inward parts; you fashioned me in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully, wonderfully made.

Wondrous are your works; that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you when I was being fashioned in secret, intricately woven in the mystery of clay.

Your eyes saw my substance taking shape; in your book my every day was recorded; all my days were fashioned, even before they came to be. R

How deep your designs are to me, O God! How great their number!

I try to count them but they are more than the sand.

I come to the end – I am still with you.

Search me, O God, and know my heart;

test me and know my thoughts.

Watch closely, lest I follow a path of error

and guide me in the everlasting way. R