

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



PRELUDE I Love to Tell the Story (*Robert J. Powell*)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

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

INTROIT Like a River of Tears (*J.Oldham/R.Klusmeier*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Gather us, O God,
**that we will know your life
that makes us one.**

Gather us, O God,
**and we will celebrate
our variety and uniqueness.**

Gather us, O God,
**and we will give you
the pain of our brokenness.**

Gather us, O God,
and we will share the gifts of your Spirit.

Shepherd and Saviour, bind us as one—
**that our brokenness be healed by you;
that our fears be held by you;
that our gifts be used by you;
that our lives be shaped by you.**

People of God—let us worship.
Let us worship!

***HYMN** O God beyond All Praising **pg 7**

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Creator God, you offer us new life— healing from old wounds, renewed strength and a spirit that enables us to forgive others and ourselves, so that we might renew our way in the world. Too often we reject your invitation to be free, to release the emotional and spiritual burdens that weigh us down, and to start over again, because it is easier to remain in the misery we know than to embrace the new life that is unknown— a life to be entered into with the hope for faith and a willingness to embrace surprise. Help us, O God to see new opportunities for growth and healing as invitations from you and to accept those invitations, trusting your love for us—that you will meet us in our need. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

God is alive in us and in the world.
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 1 John 3:16-24 *p.240 Pew Bible NT*
(Let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.)
Joyce Hagarty

ANTHEM Psalm 23 (*Srul Irving Glick*)
The Aurora Choralis

GOSPEL John 10:11-18 *p.103-104 Pew Bible NT*
(Jesus is the good shepherd and the gate.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Leaping Greenly

***HYMN** Called by Earth and Sky (*Mayberry/Fines*) *MV 135*
Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life
sanctified, called by earth and sky.

Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean’s dream,
waters of healing, rivers of rain, the wash of love again.
Called by earth and sky...

Precious this gift, the air we breathe; wind born and
free. Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place, our
gathering and our grace. **Called by earth and sky...**

Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile
land. Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,
creation’s faithful song. **Called by earth and sky...**

Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning
day. Fire of passion, sorrows undone, our faith and
justice one...
Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life
sanctified, called by earth and sky. Called by earth
and sky.

SHARING GOD’S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY

Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing (*arr. Mark Beall*)
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)

***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 I Heard the Voice of Jesus **pg 7**

***COMMISSIONING**

And so, we journey on.

We journey on.

May the blessings of God—

Creator, Christ and Spirit,

go with us now,

and always.

***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 Postlude on 'Hyfrydol' *(Jason D. Payne)*



Mission and Service

Your Generosity is Refreshing
 Supporting people's dignity and well-being



Being able to take a shower can have a positive impact on a person's mental and emotional health. It provides a sense of dignity, self-worth, and normalcy that contributes to overall well-being, especially to people living on the streets.

In downtown St. Catharines, ON, Silver Spire United Church's shower and laundry program is changing lives. Three mornings a week, people are offered an opportunity to refresh and recharge. The two shower rooms

can be locked and each have a changing area, so patrons have space to secure their personal belongings. The laundry room next door means that after they shower people can dress in their own clean clothing. Cellphone chargers are another small but helpful detail.

This program goes beyond being a practical service. It embodies compassion, addresses fundamental needs, and provides comfort in a welcoming space. In the sweltering heat of summer, a cool shower can make a huge difference.

Your support through [Mission and Service](#) helps programs like Silver Spire's to support people's well-being.

Thank 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



EASTER 4
April 21, 2024
11:00 AM

I thank thee God for most this amazing day, for the leaping greenly spirits of trees and a blue true dream of sky and for everything which is natural which is infinite which is yes... (E.E. Cummings)

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.

I heard the Voice of Jesus

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Come unto me and rest; lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.' I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad; I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Behold, I freely give the living water; thirsty one, stoop down, and drink, and live.' I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream; my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'I am this dark world's light; look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright.' I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and in that light of life I'll walk till travelling days are done.

