

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



PRELUDE Im wunderschönen Monat Mai,
Aus meinen Tränen sprießen & Am leuchtenden
Sommermorgen (*Robert Schumann*) Wesley Bells, violin

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

***Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion*** Brian Walter

INTROIT Sing a New Song (*D.L.Schutte*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is Holy Mystery,
beyond complete knowledge,
above perfect description.
**Yet, in love, the one eternal God
seeks relationship.**

So God creates the universe
and with it the possibility of being and relating.
**God tends the universe, mending the broken
and reconciling the estranged.**

God enlivens the universe,
guiding all things toward harmony
with their Source.

**Grateful for God’s loving action,
we cannot keep from singing.**

UCC, A Song of Faith. (A Statement of Faith, 2006)

***HYMN** We Praise You, O God **pg 7**

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

**Creator God, you are the heart of peace in an often
conflicted world. You are the hands of healing among
those who live in pain. You are the voice of courage for
those who would surrender their hope. You are home
for those who wonder if there’s nothing else but exile.
Remind us today that your will for us is wellness,
spiritual wholeness and belonging, regardless of what
we so often see and experience in the world. We pray
that we might open our lives—our selves to your Way.
God in Community—Holy in One, we pray Jesus’
name. Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

In all things—God is.
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 98 Ref 2 **pg 8**
(Sing to God a new song.) Lisa Kyriakides

ANTHEM O Love (*Elaine Hagenberg*)

*‘I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not
vain, that morn shall tearless be.’*

(In memory of our dear friend and chorister, Linda Hodgins.)
Wesley Bells, violin

GOSPEL John 15:9-17 *p. 109-110 Pew Bible NT*
(Love one another as I have loved you.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Love is a Verb

***HYMN** Spirit, Open My Heart (*R.Duck*) *MV 79*
**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that’s kind and
tender. All my coldness and fear to your grace I now
surrender. **Spirit, open my heart...**

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal, my
story. In each thought, word, and deed, may my living
bring you glory. **Spirit, open my heart...**

May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister,
brother. In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome one
another.

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,
Spirit, open my heart.**

SHARING GOD’S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Joy and Elation (*C.Dobrinski*)
Bellissimo Handbell Ensemble, with
Mackenzie Malarczyk, flute

***DEDICATION** Take, O Take Me as I Am (J.L.Bell)
 MV 85 **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

A Blessing for the Pilgrims Way...

Louise Procter Maio & Martha Bailkowski

HYMN One More Step Along the World I Go pg 7

***COMMISSIONING**

In this day's journey—**life-blessing moments.**
 In this day's journey—**a peaceful spirit.**
 In this day's journey—**God's healing love.**

***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 Panis Angelicus (Camille Saint-Saëns)
 Wesley Bells, violin



A History of the Camino Santiago

The Camino de Santiago, the Way of St. James, is a network of pilgrims' ways leading to the shrine of the Apostle James in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in northwest Spain, where tradition holds that the remains of the Apostle are buried. Created and established after the discovery of the relics of Saint James the Great, at the beginning of the 9th century, the Way of St. James became a major pilgrimage route of medieval Christianity from the 10th century onwards.

It was only in 1492 that Pope Alexander VI officially declared the Camino de Santiago to be one of the "three greatest pilgrimages of Christendom", along with Jerusalem and the Via Francigena to Rome. The French Way, in addition to several other routes, were inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List in 1998, because of their historical significance for Christianity as a major pilgrimage route, and their testimony to the exchange of ideas and cultures across the routes. (Wikipedia)

The Camino Frances is the best known and busiest Way of all the Caminos De Santiago. It has great historical relevance and is followed by most pilgrims compared to the other Caminos. The complete Frances Way is 800km and starts at the border of France and Spain. Today many people walk the route for religious, or spiritual, or recreational reasons.

Our journey – Martha and Louise

We are walking the Camino Frances to Santiago de Compostela, Spain. Starting in Leon, Spain we are walking 300km to Santiago over the course of 16 days with an average walk of 20-25km/day. We are registered with the Canadian Company of Pilgrims and have received our *Credencial*, a pilgrim passport, that we must have stamped along the way. This provides proof that we have walked the route. We have been thinking about the Camino for years and committed to our walk 6 months ago. Since then, we have been preparing, and in these last few months, training ourselves to walk 10-20km per day, multiple times per week.

It is said that the Camino does not give you what you want but it gives you what you need. We walk together with open hearts and minds to meet the challenges ahead. We thank you for this Blessing and will carry it with us as a reminder of your love and support as we cross northeastern Spain, especially on the more difficult days.



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

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





Daffodils, Aurora Arboretum, 2022. Photo: Pat Innes

EASTER 6
May 5, 2024
11:00 AM

*I wandered lonely as a cloud that floats on high
 o'er vales and hills, when all at once I saw a
 crowd, a host of golden daffodils; beside the lake,
 beneath the trees, fluttering and dancing in the
 breeze. (William Wordsworth)*

We Praise You, O God

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; in grateful devotion our tribute we bring. We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers, through trial and tempest, companion and guide. When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us, but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

With voices united our praises we offer and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise. Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing, to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

One More Step Along the World I Go

One more step along the world I go, one more step along the world I go, from the old things to the new, keep me travelling along with you: **R**

R And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me travelling along with you.

Round the corner of the world I turn, more and more about the world I learn; all the new things that I see you'll be looking at along with me: **R**

As I travel through the bad and good, keep me travelling the way I should; where I see no way to go you'll be telling me the way, I know: **R**

Give me courage when the world is rough, keep me loving though the world is tough, leap and sing in all I do, keep me travelling along with you: **R**

You are older than the world can be, you are younger than the life in me, ever old and ever new, keep me travelling along with you: And it's from the old I travel to the new; keep me travelling along with you. **R**

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 98 (Ref 2)

R All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of God

Sing to God a new song,

for God has done marvellous things.

Your right hand and your holy arm have brought victory.

You have made known your salvation, and revealed before the nations your saving power.

You have remembered your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;

all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God. R

Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

break into joyous praise, sing psalms.

Sing psalms to God with the harp,

with the harp and melodious voice.

With trumpets, and the sound of the horn

make a joyful noise before our sovereign God. R

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,

the world, and its inhabitants.

Let the rivers clap their hands,

the hills sing together for joy before God.

You come to judge the earth, O God,

to judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity. R