

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Prelude on ‘Servant Song’ (M.D.Himmelman)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/  
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Mary Munro

**INTROIT** Orbis Factor (Maker of the World)  
*(trans. and arr. Peter Zsebik)* Masculum Vocalis

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

People of God, look about and see the faces  
of those we know and love—

**neighbours and friends, sisters and brothers—  
a community of kindred hearts.**

People of God, look about and see the faces  
of those we hardly know—

**strangers, sojourners, forgotten friends,  
the ones who need an outstretched hand.**

People of God, look about and see  
all the images of God assembled here.

**In me, in you, in each of us,  
God’s Spirit shines for all to see.**

People of God, come...  
**and let us worship!**

**\*HYMN** Would You Bless Our Homes and Families  
p. 7

**PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**

**Loving God, you parent us all our days. Even before  
we acknowledged you, you loved us; you laboured to  
bring us to birth—new birth, and how joyful for you  
was that birthing. In the inner places of our lives**

**you nourish us, offering us the feeding that we need to  
grow as people. No matter how often we desert you,  
you never turn your face away from us, and your  
abiding concern is always for our good. You weep for  
us, you laugh with us—you rejoice in our successes and  
are in anguish at our pain. We rest in the shadow of  
your wing, knowing that you love us. Loving,  
mothering God, strong and tender, we are yours. Amen.**

**WORDS OF GRACE**

God’s love embraces each of 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)*

**BAPTISM HYMN** God, We Pray at This Beginning  
p. 7

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** (on insert)

We welcome **Milton Scott Wheeler**, son of Scott and  
Madelyn.

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 36 p. 8  
(Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens.)  
Debra Hilliard

**ANTHEM** Make a Joyful Noise (Larry Nickel)  
Tim Birtch, trumpet

**GOSPEL** John 17:6-19 p.111 Pew Bible NT  
(May my joy be made complete in them.)

*Come to the quiet...a time for reflection*

**SERMON** Held

**\*HYMN** Creator God You Gave Us Life (J.Snowdon) MV 27

Creator God you gave us life, your image formed within  
our souls, yet through the mist of time and space, we  
search for that which makes us whole. *Through hands  
that paint majestic skies, and voices chanting melody,  
with words that reach beyond the page, we comprehend  
your mystery.*

In every flower and every tree, we see your great  
diversity, yet greater still we see your love, expressed in  
our humanity. *Through hands that paint majestic skies,  
and voices chanting melody, with words that reach beyond  
the page, we comprehend your mystery.*

When with our hearts, our hands our minds, we share  
our gifts with all the world, our spirits soar beyond the  
veil, to touch the very face of God. *Through hands that  
paint majestic skies, and voices chanting melody, with  
words that reach beyond the page, we comprehend  
your mystery.*

**SHARING GOD’S LOVE**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** Amazing Grace  
*(American Folk Melody arr. Philip Sparke)*  
Tim Birtch, trumpet

**\*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

**HYMN** To Show by Touch and Word p. 8

**\*COMMISSIONING**

Let us go now—  
 engaging and growing into God's love;  
**for ourselves, for our communities  
 and for the world.**

**\*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** Love Divine  
*(Rowland Pritchard arr. Philip Sparke)*  
 Tim Birtch, trumpet



### Mission and Service

Educating Future Leaders:  
 Giving to Mission and Service is an opportunity to support  
 future and current leaders.

Mission and Service does a surprising amount of development in your local church, recruiting new ministers and funding theological schools. It even shapes the hymn books you sing from every service.

Another important way Mission and Service supports local ministry: by providing academic bursaries for students studying to become ministers and theological leaders.

“The church has a lot to offer in terms of witness to the community and supporting people who are struggling,” explains the Rev. Dr. Jennifer Janzen-Ball, the United Church’s Executive Minister for Theological Leadership.

“The money is really helpful,” she says, “but the other thing that is so important to students is realizing that people throughout the church cared enough to donate to Mission and Service.”

The Rev. Alexa Gilmour received one of these bursaries when she was still a ministry candidate. “I was a single parent, and I knew I couldn’t get through without support,” Gilmour says. “I felt blessed by God through people who donated and who, by giving, encouraged me on my journey. I have tremendous gratitude for that important role the church played in my life at that time.”

Janzen-Ball wants you to know that your gifts do matter. “They matter both tangibly in peoples’ lives in a real way but also in intangible ways because they signal the support of the wider community,” she says. “The care of people who are strangers to one another—the importance and impact of that can’t be overstated.

“Giving to [Mission and Service](#) is an opportunity to support future and current leaders. Those gifts make a significant difference.” A more detailed video, [A Deeper Look: Educating the Ministers of Tomorrow](#), is available on YouTube.

Thank You for your support



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](http://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca)

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



**CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY**  
**May 12, 2024**  
**11:00 AM**

*Call it a clan, call it a network, call it a tribe,  
 call it a family: whatever you call it,  
 whoever you are, you need one.*  
*(Jane Howard)*

### Would You Bless Our Homes & Families

Would you bless our homes and families, Source of life who calls us here; in our world of stress and tension teach us love that conquers fear. Help us learn to love each other with a love that constant stays; teach us when we face our troubles, love's expressed in many ways.

When our way is undemanding, let us use the time that's ours to delight in simple pleasures, sharing joys in gentle hours. When our way is anxious walking and a heavy path we plod, teach us trust in one another and in you, our gracious God.

From the homes in which we're nurtured, with the love that shapes us there, teach us, God, to claim as family every one whose life we share. And through all that life may offer, may we in your love remain; may the love we share in families be alive to praise your name.

Let us reach beyond the boundaries of our daily thought and care till the family you have chosen spills its love out everywhere. Help us learn to love each other with a love that constant stays; teach us when we face our troubles love's expressed in many ways.

### 443 God, We Pray at This Beginning

God, we pray at this beginning of an infant's lifelong search: bless the children of our families, members of your changing church. Make our sons as wise as Deborah, give our daughters Daniel's grace, for new challenges are coming which will take new strengths to face.

Help our daughters face all dangers with the courage shown by Paul. Help our sons, like mother Mary, love although disaster fall. Help us too, with older vision, as your changing children grow: help us see that changing people your unchanging blessing show.



### RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 36

**R Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens**

Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens, your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

**Your righteousness is like the mountains, O God, your judgements are like the great deep; all living things you save. R**

How precious is your steadfast love, O God! All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.

**They feast on the abundance of our house, and you give them drink from the river of your delights R**

For with you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

**Continue your steadfast love to those who know you, and your salvation to the upright in heart. R**

### To Show by Touch and Word

To show by touch and word devotion to the earth, to hold in full regard all life that comes to birth, we need, O God, the will to find the good you had of old in mind.

Renew our minds to choose the things that matter most, our hearts to long for truth till ride of self is lost. For every challenge that we face we need your guidance and your grace.

Let love from day to day be yardstick, rule, and norm, and let our lives portray your word in human form. Now come with us that we may have your wits about us where we live.