

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



PRELUDE Adagio Cantabile
(Ludwig van Beethoven arr. Edward Broughton)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Josh Szakal

INTROIT We Can Be the Voice of Justice
(Chris Bowman/Valerie Kingsbury)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Never again will we be exactly in this place—
with these same hopes and these same prayers.
Never again will we be exactly in this place—
with these same hurts and these same dreams.
So as we gather together in this place,
may we bring our hopes and prayers and dreams;
may we bring our hurts and wants and needs.
To the God of this day, to the God of this place.
For surely God is here.
Let us worship God!

***HYMN** Morning Has Broken *pg 7*

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY
Lisa Kyriakides & Pat Innes

On this second Sunday of Lent, we remember that
God promised to bless the whole world through
Abraham and Sarah. We come in worship, seeking
the fullness of that blessing through Jesus.

(One purple candle is extinguished.)

Let us pray...

**God of our longing, we give thanks for stories that
encourage us to take the risks that life requires, so that
the blessings of joy and creativity might be nourished
and grow freely among us. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery
VU 121

**In our call to be a blessing,
may we be a blessing true;
may we live and die confessing
Christ as Lord of all we do,
Christ as Lord of all we do.**

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 27 *p.7-8*
(God is my light and my salvation.) Janice Nolan

ANTHEM Distant Land *(John Rutter)*

GOSPEL Luke 13:31-35 *p.77 Pew Bible NT*
(Jesus cries over Jerusalem as a hen over her chicks.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Of Foxes & Open Arms

***HYMN** Love Is the Touch *(A.M.Robertson/J.L.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 Reverie *(Noel Rawsthorne)*

***DEDICATION** Take, O Take Me as I Am *(Bell/Maule)*
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 Spirit God, Be Our Breath *MV 150*
 Loving God, be our voice, be our prayer.
 Reaching out, joining hands as we share,
 we seek your guidance through friendship
 and care. Loving God, be our prayer.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER
VU p. 910

***HYMN** O World of God *pg 8*

***COMMISSIONING**

And now, may the God whose heart is torn by love,
bless us and keep us.
 May the Christ whose heart is greater than death,
bless us and keep us.
 May the Spirit whose heart is filled with life,
Bless us and keep us—now and always.

***SUNG BLESSING** Go and Tell the World *(B.Wren)*
Go and tell the world how Jesus lived and died.
Go and show the love of Christ, the crucified.
Many have not heard the liberating word,
then go, and tell, and show how God is glorified.

POSTLUDE Reverie *(Noel Rawsthorne)*



MISSION AND SERVICE

Training helps farmers find stability and
 hope for the future.

In the rugged hills of India's Badabasko village, Jaiprakash Paharia, a determined 60-year-old farmer, and his wife, Rami Paharin, have battled against nature's odds. Their land, stony and dependent on increasingly unpredictable rains, yielded meagre crops of maize, cowpea, pigeon pea, and sorghum each year. Their family had literally hit rock bottom. Faced with declining harvests, they turned to goat rearing in search of a more sustainable livelihood. Left with no other choice, Jaiprakash invested all he had in what seemed to be a promising venture. However, these efforts were marred by heartbreaking losses. Year after year, diseases claimed up to 20 of their precious goats, threatening their hope for a steady future once again. It was as if they were back at the foot of the hill; they were desperate. As they were counting their losses, through Mission and Service partner Canadian Foodgrains Bank, member Tearfund Canada brought life-changing support to their village through The Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief (EFICOR). The project team provided thorough training on livestock management practices and taught about essential deworming and vaccinations to best sustain livestock. Jaiprakash was skeptical at first about giving these treatments to his goats. However, as he learned how they could safeguard his livestock's health, he took on these practices graciously and achieved transformative results. For the first time since they had started keeping livestock, their goats remained healthy throughout the season, with zero losses! This newfound stability secured their livelihood and revitalized their hope for the future. Jaiprakash and his family are endlessly thankful to Tearfund Canada and EFICOR for their radical support. Their training not only improved the health and well-being of their livestock but also equipped them with the tools and understanding to sustain themselves through future adversity.

Thank you for supporting our Mission and Service partners and people around the world.



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



LENT 2

'Coming Back to Life'

March 16, 2025—11:00 AM

If you have ever loved someone you could not protect, then you understand Jesus' lament. All you can do is open your arms. You cannot make someone walk into them. Meanwhile, this is the most vulnerable posture in the world—wings, spread, breast exposed—but if you mean what you say, this is how you stand. (Barbara Brown Taylor)

Morning Has Broken

Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning! Praise for them, springing fresh from
the Word!

Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven, like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden, sprung in completeness where God's feet
pass.

Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning, God's recreation of the new day!

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 27

R God is my light and saving health, I shall not be afraid

God is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear?

God is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked close in to devour me,

it is they, my enemies and my foes, who stumble and fall.

If any army should encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid;

if war should arise against me, even then I will not be dismayed R

One thing I have asked of God, for which I long: that I may dwell in God's house all
the days of my life,

to gaze on your beauty, O God, and to seek you in your temple.

For in the time of trouble you will give me shelter;

**you will hide me under the cover of your tent, you will set me high upon a
rock.**

And now you have raised my head above my enemies round about me.

Therefore I will offer in your dwelling a sacrifice with great gladness R

Hear my voice, O god, when I call; have mercy and answer me. Your face, O
God, I seek

**Do not hide your face from me; do not reject your servant in anger, you
who have been my helper.**

Do not cast me off, or forsake me, O God my saviour.

Though my father and mother forsake me, my God will take me up. R

Teach me your way, O God.

lead me on a level path, safe from those who lie in wait for me.

Do not give me up to the will of my enemies,

for liars and false witnesses arise against me.

I believe that I shall see God's goodness in the land of the living.

Wait for God; be strong, and take courage; yes, wait for God! R

O World of God

O world of God, so vast and strange, profound and wonderful and fair, beyond the
utmost each of thought but not beyond our Maker's care! We are not strangers on this
earth whirling amid the suns of space; we are God's children, this our home, with
those of every clime and race.

O world where human life is lived, so strangely mingling joy and pain, so full of evil
and of good, so needful that the good shall reign! It is this world that God has loved,
and goodness was its Maker's plan, the promise of God's triumph is a humble birth in
Bethlehem.

O world of time's far-stretching years! There was a day when time stood still, a
central moment when there rose a cross upon a cruel hill; in pain and death love's
power was seen, the mystery of time revealed, the wisdom of the ways of God, the
grace through which our hurt is healed.