

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



PRELUDE Just As I Am (*arr. Lani Smith*)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Heather Collins

INTROIT Behold, Behold, I Make All Things New
(*John L. Bell*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

God of all our journeys,
you call your people to gather.

**We come as we are;
you meet us here.**

Though we are slow to open
ourselves to you—

**you take what we offer
and give it back again.**

These Lenten days provide
a way for us—a path to journey on —

**and like living stones,
be built into a spiritual house.**

Come, then, people of God,
and worship—

**and so we worship,
in the fullness of God's love.**

***HYMN** God, We Praise You for the Morning
p 7 vss 1-5

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY

Mary Smith/Helen Roberts

When we arrived this morning, we entered into the
normal bustle of a church on a Sunday morning; each
of us arriving at our own pace and in our own way,
bringing us to this sanctuary—to this set-apart place
for worship.

**The season of Lent is a kind of sanctuary, extended in
time. And one of the things Lent teaches is that we too
are a sanctuary. There is inside us a place for sacred
things, a place where God is found.**

One purple candle is extinguished.

Let us pray...

**Loving God, we open our hearts to you. We invite you
into our innermost being, only to find you already
there. Strengthen us in our quiet places and then lead
us into the work of justice and peace. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery
VU 121 **Christ you lead and we shall follow,
stumbling though our steps may be,
One with you in joy and sorrow,
we the river, you the sea,
we the river, you the sea.**

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Isaiah 43:16-21 *p.672-673 Pew Bible NT*
(I am about to do a new thing.) Brandon Holmesshaw

ANTHEM Know My Heart (*Benjamin Harlan*)

GOSPEL John 12:1-8 *p.106 Pew Bible NT*
(Mary anoints Jesus' body with costly ointment.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Embracing the Now

***HYMN** Said Judas to Mary *p 7*

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Is There Anybody Here? (*Karen Roth*)
EmBellished Handbell Ensemble

***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** 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...*

***COMMISSIONING**

Let us go out in hope; greater than death
is the power of life;
stronger than violence is the grasp of love;
more shaping than a human curse
is the blessing of God.

***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 Blessed Assurance (arr. Karen Roth)
EmBellished Handbell Ensemble



MISSION AND SERVICE

Renewing Hope and Growing Love

For 100 years, the faithful generosity of compassionate people like you has helped The United Church of Canada answer Jesus' call to love and serve.

Easter is a time of renewal and reflection—a reminder of the boundless grace and love that flow through the world. It is also a time to celebrate the ways that you put love into action through Mission and Service.

For 100 years, the faithful generosity of compassionate people like you has helped The United Church of Canada answer Jesus' call to love and serve. Across Canada and around the world, this support has empowered, and continues to empower, life-changing work. In El Salvador, rural farmers are getting the resources to grow enough food for their families. In Zimbabwe, women are learning skills to build sustainable livelihoods. And these are just two of the countless stories of transformation made possible by Mission and Service partners.

As the church looks toward the next century, this legacy of compassion and justice continues. The impact of every gift, every prayer, and every act of service will echo far into the future, ensuring the church remains a source of love and hope for generations to come.

Thank you for the love you show through
[Mission and Service](#). With your help, we will move together
with compassion into the next 100 years.



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 5

**'Coming Back to Life'
April 6, 2025 —11:00 am**

*It may be that when we no longer know which way
to go that we have come to our real journey.
The mind that is not baffled is not employed.
The impeded stream is one that sings.
(Wendell Berry)*

God We Praise You for the Morning vss 1-5

God, we praise you for the morning; hope springs forth with each new day, new beginning, prayer, and promise, joy in work and in play.

God, we praise you for creation, mountains, seas, and prairie land. Waking souls find joy and healing in your bountiful hand.

God, we praise you for compassion, all the loving that you show; human touching, tears, and laughter, help your children to grow.

God, we praise you for your Spirit, Comforter and daily friend, restless searcher, gentle teacher, strength and courage you send.

God, we praise you for the Saviour, come that we may know your ways. In his loving, dying, rising, Christ is Lord of our days.

Said Judas to Mary

Said Judas to Mary, 'Now what will you do with your ointment so rich and so rare?' 'I'll pour it all over the feet of the Lord and I'll wipe it away with my hair,' she said, 'wipe it away with my hair.'

'Oh Mary, oh Mary, oh think of the poor - this ointment, it could have been sold, and think of the blankets and think of the bread you could buy with the silver and gold,' he said, 'buy with the silver and gold.'

'Tomorrow, tomorrow I'll think of the poor, tomorrow,' she said, 'not today; for dearer than all of the poor in the world is my love who is going away,' she said, 'my love who is going away.'

Said Jesus to Mary, 'Your love is so deep, today you may do as you will. Tomorrow you say I am going away, but my body I leave with you still,' he said, 'my body I leave with you still.'

'The poor of the world are my body,' he said, 'to the end of the world they shall be; the bread and the blankets you give to the poor you'll know, you have given to me,' he said, 'you'll know you have given to me.'

'My body will hang on the cross of the world, tomorrow,' he said, 'not today, and Martha and Mary will find me again and wash all my sorrow away,' he said, 'wash all my sorrow away.'

