

## **SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**



**PRELUDE** Easter Joy (*Eugene Butler*)

### **WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

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

### **LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

Peter, Andrea, Nicholas & Veronica Drost

The Easter promise is grounded in the resurrection  
of Jesus Christ, from death to life,  
**a promise that we celebrate  
during this Easter season, a promise  
graciously extended to each of us by Jesus.**  
This is a grace that through the Holy Spirit,  
empowers our community life to new  
and deeper experiences.  
**We light this Christ Candle,  
naming that gracious gift and promise.**  
(*The Christ candle is lit.*)

**INTROIT** Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain  
(J. Mason Neale/J. Horn adapt. J. Leisentritt)

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

This is the Good News—  
the grave is empty, Christ is risen.  
**Hallelujah!**

This is the Good News—  
the light shines in the darkness,  
and the darkness can never put it out.  
**Hallelujah!**  
This is the Good News—

once we were no people,  
now we are God's people.

**Hallelujah!**

Christ is our peace—our insight, strength,  
compassion and wisdom.

**Hallelujah!**

**\*HYMN** Jesus Christ Is Risen Today *p 7*

### **PRAYER OF RENEWAL**

**Easter God, we sing your praise, for you have raised  
Jesus from the dead, and now all of life is permeated  
through and through with your resurrection power.  
We confess the times you startle us with your presence  
in the shut-down places of our lives—inviting us into  
hope where we thought nothing new could happen;  
pushing own the barriers we had put up to keep our  
lives safe and in control; connecting us with people we  
had labelled as strangers. What a strange, new world  
you are creating. Move us beyond our fears and our  
assumptions. Keep us awake and alert for signs that  
you are loose in the world. Then, give us the words to  
share in community that point to you and to your love.  
We pray in Jesus' name, who lived and died and was  
raised by you, surprising everyone and making all  
things new. Amen.**

### **WORDS OF GRACE**

Jesus Christ is risen today! God's love is all around us.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**SUNG RESPONSE** Celtic Alleluia (*C. Walker*)  
**Alleluia, alleluia,  
Alleluia, alleluia!** (*sing twice*)

## **THEME CONVERSATION**

**\*SONG** Christ Is Risen From the Dead **VU 167**  
Christ is risen from the dead, glory, hallelujah! (repeat)  
Jesus Christ is risen, glory, hallelujah! (repeat)

## **FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** Acts 10:34-43 *p. 129-130 Pew Bible*  
(Peter preaches at the house of Cornelius.) Joyce Hagarty

**ANTHEM** Christ is Risen, Alleluia! (*J. Althouse*)  
with Maggie Birtch, trumpet

**GOSPEL** John 20:1-18 *p. 114-115 Pew Bible NT*  
(Mary and the empty tomb.)

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

**SERMON** 'I Have Seen the Lord'

**\*HYMN** In the Bulb There Is a Flower *p 7*

## **SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

### **OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds  
(*Cathy Moglebust*) Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensemble

**\*DEDICATION** God, We Praise You *VU 415*  
**God we praise you for the morning,  
hope springs forth this Easter day.  
Hearts and hands reveal your promise,  
accept our gifts now we pray.**

**\*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** The Day of Resurrection p 7

**\*COMMISSIONING**

The power of the Creator  
who brings life out of death,  
be in this place.

**The Risen Christ be our constant companion.**

The healing embrace of the Holy Spirit encircle us all—  
**let our joy ring out!**

**EASTER BELL PEAL** Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensemble

**POSTLUDE** Hallelujah Chorus (G.F. Handel)

*(Members of the congregation are invited to come forward  
for the singing of the chorus with the AUC Chancel Choir.)*



**MISSION AND SERVICE**



**Thank you for empowering Mission and Service  
partners in all forms of education.**

Over the past few months, we have shared stories centred on traditional and non-traditional education. [Mission and Service](#) recognizes the profound connection between the Resurrection story and the transformative potential of education.

This Easter, we pause to think of great sacrifices and miracles. Just as Jesus emerged from the tomb, defeating death and showing us that we can be raised to new life, education opens the mind, dispels ignorance, and fosters a deeper understanding of Christ's teachings and compassion.

Mission and Service, in its commitment to education, seeks to empower each partner to be a beacon of knowledge and compassion in the world. With your support, we engage in mutual learning, seeking opportunities to grow our understanding of the world through the eyes of our partners.

**Thank you for Supporting [Mission and Service](#)**



*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**



**EASTER SUNDAY**

**April 20, 2025**

**11:00 AM**

*The long day stretched into night and time crept  
onward towards the new day. With the first gold  
dawn came a resurrection, a new hope that grew  
with the rising sun, and went out to a waiting  
world. (Jean Murdock)*

### **Jesus Christ Is Risen Today**

Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah! our triumphant holy day, hallelujah! who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah! suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!

Hymns of praise then let us sing hallelujah! unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah! who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah! sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!

But the pains which he endured, hallelujah! our salvation have procured; hallelujah! now above the sky he's King, hallelujah! where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!

Sing we to our God above, hallelujah! praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah! praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah! praise the Son and Holy Ghost. Hallelujah!

### **In the Bulb There is a Flower**

In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody; there's a dawn in every darkness, bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity; in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity. In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

### **The Day of Resurrection**

The day of resurrection! Earth, tell it out abroad; the passover of gladness, the passover of God! From death to life eternal, from earth unto the sky, our Christ has brought us over with hymns of victory.

Our hearts be free of evil, that we may see aright the Christ in rays eternal of resurrection light, and, listening to the accents, may hear so calm and plain Christ's own 'All hail!' and, hearing, may raise the victor strain.

Now let the heavens be joyful, let earth its song begin, the round world keep high triumph, and all that is therein; let all things seen and unseen their notes of gladness blend, for Christ indeed is risen, our Joy that has no end.

