

## **SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**



**PRELUDE** Open the Eyes of My Heart (*P. Baloche*)

### **WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/  
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Alison Heffer

**INTROIT** Fearfully, Wonderfully Made  
(*Nathan Crabtree/Erik Whitehall*)

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

God's love has no exceptions, Alleluia!

**We are the body of Christ!**

Justice seeking, bread breaking, hymn singing,  
risk taking: **body of Christ!**

Baptized by one Spirit, we are members of one body:  
**many and varied in culture, sexuality, age, class and  
ability, we are members of Christ's beautiful body.**  
None of us can say to another, "I have no need of you."  
**For only together can we find wholeness.**

None of us can say to another, "I will not care for you."  
**For we are connected like muscle and bone. If one  
suffers, we all suffer. If one rejoices, we all rejoice!**  
Come into worship wherever you are! Come with your  
longings, your questions, and your fears.

**We come with our dreams of a better day,  
one with dignity and safety for all!**

Thanks be to God who in Christ has made us one!  
**Let us worship God! Alleluia!**

**\*HYMN** Draw the Circle Wide (*G.Light*) *MV 145*  
*Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still. Let this be our  
song, no one stands alone, standing side by side, draw  
the circle wide.*

God the still-point of the circle, 'round whom all  
Creation turns; nothing lost, but held forever, in God's  
gracious arms. *Draw the circle wide...*

Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great  
and small; let our loving know no borders, faithful to  
God's call. *Draw the circle wide...*

Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever  
dreamed before; let the dream of Christ be in us, open  
every door. *Draw the circle wide, draw it wider still.*  
*Let this be our song, no one stands alone, standing  
side by side, draw the circle wide.*

**Affirming is a Verb!** Lisa Kyriakides/Mary Munro

### **PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**

**Imaginative and Vibrant God, creator of all things, you  
made this planet and all its variety. Let us celebrate the  
diversity of the colours of the world. With red, yellow,  
and orange, we praise and give thanks: for the warmth  
of your love shared between all your children, for the  
energy of the Holy Spirit that powers us forward in  
service to you, and for the joy of being accepted by you,  
just as we are. With green, blue, and violet, we worship  
and honour you: for the softness of your caring and  
grace, for the stillness of prayer when we draw close to  
you, and for the peace of knowing you hold us in your  
loving embrace. Imaginative and Vibrant God, creator  
of each of us, you made us the way we are. Together,  
we are a diverse blend of all your colours. Help us love  
and celebrate one another, as part of your beloved  
creation. Amen.** (*Gill Le Fevere, Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville, On*)

### **WORDS OF GRACE**

In God we are known and loved!  
**Thanks be to God!**

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

## **FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** Ephesians 1:15-23 *p.192 Pew Bible NT*  
(Open the eyes of my heart.) *Rev. Linda Wheler*

**Affirming is a Verb!** Debby Schieck

**ANTHEM** We Are Not Alone (*Pepper Choplin*)  
Janice Nolan, Soprano

**SCRIPTURE** Acts 9:1-20 *p.127-128 Pew Bible NT*  
(Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus.)

**Affirming is a Verb!** Josh Szakal/Joyce Hagarty

**\*HYMN** Sing a New World into Being (*M.L Bringle.*) *VU 559*

Sing a new world into being. Sound a bold and hopeful  
theme. Find a tune for silent yearnings. Lend your voice  
and dare to dream: dream a church where all who worship  
find their lives and loves belong. Sing a new world into  
being. Sing as Christ inspires your song!

Sing a new world into being where each gender class and  
race brings its rainbow gifts and colours to God's limitless  
embrace: where the lines that once divided form instead  
the ties that bind. Sing a new world into being: risk  
transforming heart and mind!

Sing a new world into being where the homeless find a  
home; where no children ever hunger but are filled with  
God's shalom; where all people work for justice, where all  
hate and vengeance cease. Sing a new world into being:  
raise the harmonies of peace.

Sing a new world into being. Join the ancient prophets' cry for a time of health and plenty when all tears have been wiped dry; when compassion flows like waters, pouring balm for all who grieve. Sing a new world into being: live the promise you believe!

### **SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

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

**OFFERTORY** Love is a Verb (*John Mayer*)  
Steve Falk/Brian & Jules Pastoor

**\*DEDICATION** God We Praise You *VU 415*  
God, we praise you for the morning,  
hope is born with each new day.  
Hearts and hands reveal your promise,  
accept our gifts now we pray.

#### **\*OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing**

**Affirming is a Verb!** Noah Comar/Rev. Lorraine

#### **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** We Are Pilgrims *p 7*

#### **\*COMMISSIONING**

And now, touched by God's Spirit  
which makes us free,  
**held in God's love, which gives us strength,**  
befriended by God's Son, who breaks down walls,  
let us live with open hearts  
**to all the adventure, all the pain, all the joy,**  
**of being God's people—in every place life calls**  
**us to be.** (*Bob Root, Peterborough, Ont.*)

**\*SUNG BLESSING** Take Up His Song *MV 213*  
**Take up his song of love and go into the world.**  
**Take up his song of love in every moment.**  
**In every moment of the journey,**  
**we're laying down our lives;**  
**lay them down, in love, lay them down,**  
**and take up his song.**

**POSTLUDE** Star Wars (Main Theme) *John Williams*



#### **Affirming Ministry Committee** **Co-chairs:**

Lisa Kyriakides & Josh Szakal

#### **Committee Members:**

Debby Schieck, Mary Munro,  
Noah Comar, Victoria Kyriakides, Jay Madore,  
Joyce Hagarty, Rev. Lorraine



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**



### **PRIDE SUNDAY** **Affirming is a Verb!**

**May 4, 2025**  
**11:00 AM**

*Like light through a prism, the glory of God refracts  
through the multifaceted life of each and every human  
being, creating a picture of the divine that is as  
varied and beautiful as there are colours in existence.*  
(*Lauren Wright Pittman*)

**-We Are Pilgrims** (The Servant Song)

We are pilgrims on a journey, fellow travellers on the road;  
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.

Sister, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping, when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow, till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

