

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Aria (*Flor Peeters*)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Lighting of the Christ Candle

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

INTROIT You Satisfy the Hungry Heart
(*Omar Westendorf/Robert E. Kreutz*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Creator God—Eternal One.

**We have come from many places,
from many different families.**

Redeemer of humanity, God-with-us.

**We have come with our differences,
seeking common ground.**

Spirit of unity, go-between God,

**we have come on journeys of our own,
on journeys shared with those we call family,
to a place where journeys meet.**

Let us gather in this place, let us take time together;
for when paths cross and pilgrims meet,

there is much to share and celebrate.

Let us worship! **Let us worship!**

***HYMN** Let Us Build a House (*M. Haugen*) *MV 1*

Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace; let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Deepen our understanding of family, O God; that we might come to appreciate the hidden hurt of those who cannot bring their needs to language. Challenge our neglect of unsung talents among us so that your song may be known by many, by and for those of all ages and abilities. Help us to widen our understanding of family so that we may support the stranger, recognize our struggling neighbour, and identify the lonely newcomer. Make holy our understanding of family, Loving God; that your light will be known in the darkness; Christ's acceptance mark our relationships, and the Spirit renew our faith community. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

Through all the joys and all the struggles of living in relationship, one truth is offered to each and every one of us: God has loved us, is loving us and will always love us.

Thanks be to God!

(*The United Church of Canada. Creative Commons*)

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

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM (*liturgy on insert*)
*We welcome, through the Sacrament of Baptism,
Hudson Cooper Tustin, son of Victoria and Mike Tustin.*

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 23 Ref.2 p 7
(God is my shepherd.) Mary Smith

ANTHEM Canticle of Praise (*Reginal Wright*)

GOSPEL John 10:22-30 p.104 *Pew Bible NT*
(My sheep listen to my voice.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Many Voices

***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 Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know (*J.Krug*)
EmBellished Handbell Ensemble with Joanne Banfill, piano

***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**

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**

Living God, the source of all life,
prompt us to new beginnings.
Ever-present God, travelling alongside us,
guide us to walk in your way.
Ever-loving God, surrounding us with care,
help us to know your presence.

***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 Sortie on 'The Strife is O'er' (*Noel Rawsthorne*)



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

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



EASTER 4
CHRISTIAN FAMILY SUNDAY
May 11, 2025
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)*

Psalm 23

Refrain 2

R The God of love my shepherd is; what can I want or need.

God is my shepherd,
there is nothing I shall lack.

You, God, make me lie down in green pastures,
you lead me beside peaceful waters,
you revive my spirit,

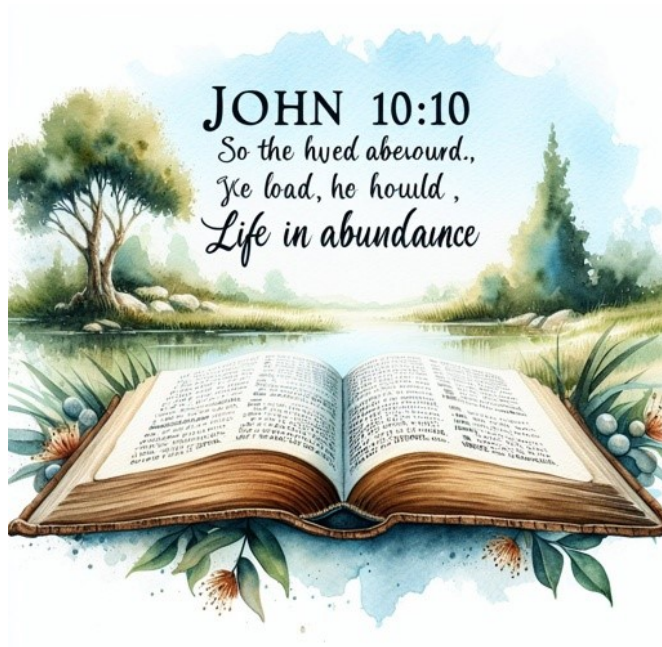
you guide me in right pathways for your name's sake. R

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me,
your rod and your staff are my comfort.

You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies.

you anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing.

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
And I will dwell in God's house my whole life long. 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.