

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Chorale Prelude on ‘Down Ampney’
(Douglas E. Wagner)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Debra Hilliard

INTROIT I See a New Heaven
(C.McDade harm. J. McGaughey)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Awesome, wondrous God—
dark, deep and holy One,
we come to feel the mystery of your name.
Green, growing God—
Christ of many stories and disciples,
we come to hear the parable of your love.
Bright, flashing God—
blowing wind and Holy Spirit.
Distant yet intimate God—
woven, puzzled, grained by time,
we come to find the fullness of your
grace in worship.

***HYMN** Sing Praises to God *p. 7*

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Loving God, down the passing days of spring into
summer, as days lengthen and warmth increases—
thoughts of life and living press on our thoughts and
we look back in time. The value of our days are
highlighted and we bring to mind other days, other

years. Thoughts of family and friends, colleagues
and those who have passed through our lives, even
for a short time, flicker in and out again. We are
thankful for the love we have received and given.
Although we regret missed opportunities for love
and change and growth, we are mindful now that
no matter where we are on our life’s journey, the
potential for love and change and growth is always
present. Bless to us, God in Community... the grace
to grow into you, though our days be many or few.
Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

God offers to us, abundant living.
Thanks be to God!

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

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 148 *p. 7*
(Let the whole creation praise God.) Laurie Torno

ANTHEM A Celtic Prayer (Barry Peters)

GOSPEL John 13:31-35 *p. 108 Pew Bible NT*
(A new commandment: love one another.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON New Commandment Love

***HYMN** Called by Earth and Sky (Mayberry/Fines) *MV 135*
Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life
sanctified, called by earth and sky.

Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean’s dream,
waters of healing, rivers of rain, the wash of love again.
Called by earth and sky...

Precious this gift, the air we breathe; wind born and
free. Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place, our
gathering and our grace. ***Called by earth and sky...***

Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile
land. Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,
creation’s faithful song. ***Called by earth and sky...***

Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning
day. Fire of passion, sorrows undone, our faith and
justice one.
Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky. Called by earth and sky.

SHARING GOD’S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Olde Irish Blessing (L.Fletcher)
Lisa Kyriakides

***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** This Is God's Wondrous World p. 8

***COMMISSIONING**

And now, we venture on—

**to all the places
that give our lives meaning.**

Back into the world—

**bringing with us, all we have experienced
and expressed in this place.**

***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 Pasticcio (Jean Langlais)



MISSION AND SERVICE

Advocating for Sexual and Gender Minorities in
Other Countries



We are blessed to live in Canada, a country that recognizes the right to love whoever you want, regardless of their gender or sex. And while we haven't always done what is right, The United Church of Canada now recognizes that all love—including Two Spirit or LGBTQIA+ relationships—is holy and blessed by God. But those rights do not exist in many parts of the world today. "One of our partners in Kenya has advocated strongly for the human rights of sexual minorities, and that has caused him to be in jail, caused him to risk his life to be able to do that," says the Rev. Michael Blair. The church's first openly gay General Secretary is now helping to advocate for sexual and gender minorities in foreign countries.

"When we hear these stories, we can see that this is a life and death matter."

Your gifts for Mission and Service help shelter refugees as they escape repressive governments. As of May 2024, 64 jurisdictions criminalize private, consensual, same-sex sexual activity, and 12 countries have jurisdictions in which the death penalty is imposed or at least a possibility for private, consensual, same-sex sexual activity.

Mission and Service also holds consultations in other countries to discover how we can best work with our partners to protect sexual and gender minorities. "A few years ago, we hosted a consultation here in Canada with several partners and asked how we can be supportive of their work," Blair says. "They told us we needed to come and help in their context."

To date, Mission and Service has supported consultations in Latin America and the Philippines.

"We are bringing together leaders to explore how the church can be a place of liberation and life for sexual and gender minorities in those communities. That is happening because of the folks who contribute to **Mission and Service**," says Blair.

Thank you



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



EASTER 5

May 18, 2025

11:00 AM

Light dances on tender green leaves. From the uncertainty of April, May's highflyers sound their triumphant call. Fragrant blossoms awaken our senses, beckon us outdoors—to step with joy and breathe thanksgiving. (S.Mowbry)

Sing Praises to God

Sing praises to God! Sing praise in the height; rejoice in God's word, blest angels of light; high heavens, recalling by whom you were made, come, offer your worship in brightness arrayed.

Sing praises to God! Sing praise upon earth, in tuneful accord, you saints of new birth; praise God, who has brought you rich grace from above, and showered your life with abundance of love.

Sing praises to God, all things that give sound; each jubilant chord re-echo around; loud organs, your glory tell out in deep tone, and trumpets, the story of what God has done.

Sing praises to God! Thanksgiving and song be ever outpoured, all ages along: for love in creation, for hope spread abroad, for grace of salvation, sing praises to God.

Psalm 148

**R Let the whole creation cry,
Glory be to God on high**

Praise God from the heavens, give praise in the heights! Give praise, all you angels, praise God, all you hosts!

Praise God, sun and moon; give praise, stars and lights!

Praise God, farthest heavens, and all waters beyond heaven! R

Let all things praise the Holy One at whose command they were created, who established them for all time, setting bounds which cannot be passed.

Praise God from the earth, great sea creatures and ocean depths, lightning and hail,

snow and frost, gales that obey God's decree,

all mountains and hills, all fruit trees and cedars, wild animals and cattle, creatures winged and earth-bound,

sovereigns who rule earth and its people, all who govern and judge this world, young men and women alike, old people and children together! R

Let all things praise the name of God, the name above every other, whose splendour covers heaven and earth.

You give strength to your people, songs of praise to your faithful, to Israel, the people dear to your heart.

This is God's Wondrous World

This is God's wondrous world, and to my listening ears all nature sings, and round me rings the music of the spheres. This is God's wondrous world; I rest me in the thought of rocks and trees, of skies and seas, God's hand the wonders wrought.

This is God's wondrous world: the birds their carols raise; the morning light, the lily white, declare their Maker's praise. This is God's wondrous world: God shines in all that's fair; in the rustling grass or mountain pass, God's voice speaks everywhere.

This is God's wondrous world: O let me ne'er forget that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet. This is God's wondrous world: why should my heart be sad? Let voices sing, let the heavens ring: God reigns, let earth be glad!

