

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE A Simple Song (*Michael Shea*)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Lighting of the Christ Candle

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

INTROIT I Can Feel You Near Me God
(*Pat Mayberry arr. Margaret Stubington*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

God is Holy Mystery,
beyond complete knowledge,
above perfect description.

**Yet, in love, the one eternal God
seeks relationship.**

So God creates the universe
and with it the possibility of being and relating.
**God tends the universe, mending the broken
and reconciling the estranged.**

God enlivens the universe,
guiding all things toward harmony
with their Source.

**Grateful for God's loving action,
we cannot keep from singing.**

UCC, A Song of Faith. (A Statement of Faith, 2006)

***HYMN** God, We Praise You for the Morning **VU 415**

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

**Creator God, you are the heart of peace in an often
conflicted world. You are the hands of healing
among those who live in pain. You are the voice of
courage for those who would surrender their hope.
You are home for those who wonder if there's
nothing else but exile. Remind us today that your
will for us is wellness, spiritual wholeness and be-
longing, regardless of what we so often see and
experience in the world. We pray that we might
open our lives—our selves to your Way. God in
Community—Holy in One, we pray In Jesus' name.
Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

In all things—God is.
Thanks be to God!

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

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 139 VU p.861
(God, you have searched me and known me.)
Martha Bailkowski

ANTHEM Down to the River to Pray (*arr. S. Curry*)

GOSPEL John 5:1-9 p.96 Pew Bible NT
(A sick man cured at the pool of Bethesda.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Come to the Waters

***HYMN** Like a Healing Stream (*B.Harding*) *MV 144*

Like a healing stream in a barren desert, Spirit water
bringing life to dusty earth, God is trickling through our
lives as in a dream unfolding, promising revival and
rebirth...like a healing stream.

Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden, Spirit water come to
nourish tiny seed, God is bubbling through the soil to coax
a new creation, yearning for an end to want and need...like
a gentle rain.

Like a river strong with a restless current, Spirit water
rushing on to distant shore, God is carving out a channel
in a new direction, calling for an end to hate war...like a
river strong.

Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons, Spirit water with
a love both deep and wide, God is working in our hearts
to shape a new tomorrow: God will always challenge and
provide! Like a mighty sea, like a river strong, like a
gentle rain, like a healing stream.

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Karen's Theme (*Richard Carpenter*)

***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** Come, O Fount of Every Blessing VU 559

***COMMISSIONING**

In this day's journey—**life-blessing moments.**
In this day's journey—a **peaceful spirit.**
In this day's journey—**God's healing love.**

***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 Gothic Minuet on 'Kingsfold'
(Matthew F. Walicke)



MISSION AND SERVICE

Systems of injustice can only be resolved with
community and partnership”

*Sophie Fitzgerald was one of two United Church young adults
selected to attend the Minority Youth Forum in Japan, hosted by
the Center for Minority Issues and Mission.*

Sophie writes about her experience:

“As a young woman in my 20s who has lived and grown up in the
United Church, I have always felt God’s call to spread God’s love
and peace in any way that I can. Being involved with many
organizations and missions with the church, I’ve had the privilege
to do this many times in many provinces across Canada but never
internationally, until this past March where God called me to
travel to Miyakojima island.

“On a tour of the island, we saw exactly what the Japanese
military is doing to Miyakojima. We saw how they are taking the
beautiful beaches and using them as training camps, putting up
missile bunkers in the middle of town next to peoples’ homes and
so much more. We sat and talked about how our generation can
help the people of Miyakojima have peace once again, and how
peace cannot be created with military and military weapons.
Throughout these conversations and visits to these sites you could
feel an overwhelming presence of our Creator, and was saddened
when coming to the terms that everything beautiful that God
created was being destroyed and will be destroyed if war does
occur.

“We all need to come together to be a community, a community of
God’s children striving to seek peace in the world. All people of
compassion, wisdom, and belief need to come together in order to
take care of one another, and to take care of our beautiful world
that the Creator made. Systems of injustice can only be resolved
with community and partnership with one another. I am blessed
that I get to bring the partnership and stories of the people of
Miyakojima island back to my island of Newfoundland.”

Thank you for your support



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 6
May 25, 2025
11:00 AM

*Faces and words and glimpses of souls...
one by one we come. We are many, and then one.
Precious faces, tender words, sweet glimpses into
souls. Just being here among you is a joy!*

Ann Weems

God, We Praise You for the Morning

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.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah! Hallelujah, hallelujah! Christ is Lord of our days!

Psalm 139

R God, you have searched me, you know me through and through.

O God, you have searched me and known me.

You know when I sit down and rise up, you discern my thoughts from afar.

You discern my path and the places I rest; you are familiar with all my ways

Before a word is on my tongue, you know it O God, completely. You guard me from behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.

It is beyond my knowledge; it is a mystery, I cannot fathom it R

Where can I escape from your spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I lie down in the grave, you are even there.

If I take wing with the dawn and alight at the sea's farthest limits,

There also your hand will be guiding me your powerful hand holding me fast.

If I say, "Let the darkness cover me and my day be turned to night,"

even darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day, for darkness is

a light to you. R

It was you who formed my inward parts; you fashioned me in my mother's womb.

I praise you, for I am fearfully, wonderfully made.

Wondrous are your works; that I know very well.

My frame was not hidden from you when I was being fashioned in secret, intricately woven in the mystery of clay.

Your eyes saw my substance taking shape; in your book my every day was recorded;

all my days were fashioned, even before they came to be. R

How deep your designs are to me, O God! How great their number!

I try to count them but they are more than the sand.

I come to the end – I am still with you.

Search me, O god, and know my heart;

test me and know my thoughts.

Watch closely, lest I follow a path of error

and guide me in the everlasting way. R

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

Come, O Fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing your grace; streams of mercy, never ceasing call for songs of endless praise. Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above. Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it, mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning, giving thanks for having come, come to trust, at every turning, God will guide me safely home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God, came to rescue me from danger, precious presence, precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debt or daily I am drawn anew! Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to you. Prone to wander, I can feel it, wander from the love I've known: here's my heart, O, take and seal it, seal it for your very own

