

## **SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** In the Sweet By and By (*Marianne Kim*)

### **WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

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

**INTROIT** It's a Song of Praise to the Maker  
(*R. Duck/R. Klusmeier*)

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Let us give thanks to our Creator  
for the Creator is always with us.

**Creator and creating God,  
you have given life to all around us.**

You call us to be with you whether we  
are inside the shelter of these walls  
or outside in the shelter of your trees.

**God is with us when we gather together  
and when we are alone.**

We are here to answer that call.

**And so we sing and pray, and listen together  
attentively for your voice—Creator God—**

**Father, Mother, Friend.**

**Let us worship!**

**\*HYMN** Come, Let Us Sing *p. 7*

### **PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**

Your liberating voice has called us here and we are  
counted among your holy people, Loving God. You  
have provided sanctuary for us and we worship and  
pray in your expanding love. You cradle us in the

palm of your open hands and we are raised up by  
you. Your Spirit quenches the desert of our souls  
and produces an abundance of gifts for us to share.  
You show us your light in your sun and your  
reflection in your moon, and we are called to bring  
your light into the depths of fear. You bless us with  
all of the colours of the world, and we believe in  
your rainbow covenant with us. Your gift of  
community is celebrated in our midst and we freely  
dance in the fire of your Spirit. You bless us with  
the power of your peace and we fall into your love.  
You call us all your people and we find our home  
in you. Amen.

(*The United Church of Canada. 2018. Adapted*)

### **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**

**RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 33 VU *p. 7*

(Shout to God for joy, you righteous!) Pat Innes

**ANTHEM** Hallelujah (*Leonard Cohen arr. R.Emerson*)

**GOSPEL** John 17:20-26 *p.111-112 Pew Bible* NT

(Jesus prays that they all may be one.)

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

## **SERMON In Oneness**

**\*HYMN** Spirit, Open My Heart (*R.Duck*) *MV 79*  
***Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.***

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that's kind  
and tender. All my coldness and fear to your grace  
I now surrender. ***Spirit, open my heart...***

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal,  
my story. In each thought, word and deed, may my  
living bring you glory. ***Spirit, open my heart...***

May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of  
sister, brother. In the welcome of Christ, may we  
welcome one another. ***Spirit, open my heart...***

## **SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

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

**OFFERTORY** O Sacred Head

(*P.Gerhardt trans. J.W.Alexander/H.L. Hassler harm J.S.Bach*)

Margaret Heney/Bob McRoberts/Rev. Andy/Rev.Lorraine

**\*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** Though Ancient Walls p. 8

**\*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 hearts wide open  
**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** The Rock of Salvation (Franklin Ritter)



The first Sunday of the month of June has officially been designated as **Pride Sunday** by the United Church of Canada. Today, we celebrate the lives and ministry of LGBTQIA+ and Two-Spirit people.

#UCCan #PRIDE



**MISSION AND SERVICE**

**Young 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals explore and reconcile their faith with their identity.**

Queer Kid Bible Camp is a unique and affirming space that has emerged to provide a supportive environment for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth within the framework of spirituality. Started by Mission and Service partner Silver Spire United Church in St. Catharines, Ontario, Queer Kid Bible Camp blends teachings of God's love with messages of inclusivity.

Queer individuals have often been marginalized or excluded in spiritual experiences, which can make them feel isolated and alienated. Queer Kid Bible Camp aims to challenge these negative experiences by fostering a sense of belonging and acceptance in a spiritual context. The camp offers a place for young 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals to explore and reconcile their faith with their identity. Through theological and spiritual discussions, youth can openly ask questions without feeling uncertain about their safety.

The benefits of Queer Kid Bible Camp extend beyond its immediate impact on individual campers. The camp experience sparks conversation with parents and guardians who want to connect and understand their children better. As young participants gain confidence and self-acceptance, they become advocates for change within their own communities. The Rev. Karen Orlandi of Silver Spire United Church has seen a wonderful ripple effect, noting that she's seen "healing for queer adults as they see queer kids openly embracing their identity."

Your support through [Mission and Service](#) provides the queer community with opportunities to thrive in safe environments as they learn about God's love. 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](http://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca)

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



**EASTER 7**  
**PRIDE MONTH**  
**June 1, 2025**  
**11:00 AM**

*The Tree of Life, found in many cultures, represents interconnectedness, life, and the cycle of life and death. It can symbolize the source of life, a force that connects all lives, or the cycle of life and death itself.*

## Come, Let Us Sing

Come, let us sing to the Lord our song, we have stood silently too long; surely the Lord deserves our praise, so joyfully thank God for our days.

O thirsty soul, come drink at the well; God's living waters will never fail. Surely the Lord will help you to stand, strengthened and comforted by God's hand.

You dwell among us and cause us to pray, and walk with each other following your way; our precious brothers and sisters will grow in the fulfilling love they know.

Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing to the desire of all living things. Come, all you creatures, high and low, let your praises endlessly flow.

## Psalm 33

**R A new song to our God proclaim, from age to age rejoice**

Shout to God for joy, you righteous! Praise is fitting from loyal hearts.

**Give thanks to God with the harp, sing praise to God with the ten-stringed lute.**

Sing a new song to God; play skillfully and with shouts of Joy.

**For the word of God is true; God's every deed is faithful. R**

You love what is right and just; the earth is full of your constant love.

**By your word the heavens were made, the countless stars by the breath of your mouth.**

You gathered the waters of the sea as in a goatskin,

**you stored the deep in cisterns.**

Let all the earth fear you, O God,

**let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe.**

For you spoke and it came to be; you commanded and it stood firm.

**You foil the plans of the nations, and frustrate the schemes of the peoples.**

You counsel, O God, shall stand forever, the purposed of your heart through all generations.

**Happy the nation who has you as God. Happy the people you choose as your own.**

Our heart rejoices in you, O God, because our hope is in your holy name.

**Let your steadfast love be upon us as we put our trust in you. R**

## Though Ancient Walls

Though ancient walls may still stand proud and racial strife be fact, though boundaries may be lines of hate, proclaim God's saving act!

**Walls that divide are broken down;**

**Christ is our unity!**

**Chains that enslave are thrown aside;**

**Christ is our liberty!**

When vested power stands firm entrenched and breaks another's back, when waste and want live side by side, it's Gospel that we lack. **R**

The truth we seek in varied scheme, the life that we pursue, unites us in a common quest for self and world made new. **R**

The church divided seeks that grace, that newness we proclaim; a unity of serving love that lives praise to God's name! **R**

This broken world seeks lasting health and vital unity. God's people by God's Word renewed, cast off all slavery! **R**