

## Marking the End of the Covenanted Ministry Nancy Kerswill...Introduction

We thank you, friends and members of Aurora United Church, for the love and support you have shown us while we have ministered among and with you. Let us not forget that the ministry in this place is Christ's ministry entrusted to us as part of his body. Our ministry together always belongs to Jesus and is always ongoing.

We are grateful for the ways our individual leadership has been accepted. We ask forgiveness for the mistakes we have made. As we leave, we carry with us, all that we have learned alongside you.

**We receive your thankfulness, offer our forgiveness, and accept that you are now leaving us to retire. We are grateful for your time among us. We ask your forgiveness for our mistakes. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us with your departure. We will release you from your duties of ministry here in our midst, no longer turning to you as we have when you were in ministry among us.**

We accept your thanksgiving and your forgiveness. We forgive you. May our time together and our parting now be pleasing and acceptable to God. Further, we now release you from turning to us and depending on us. We encourage your continuing ministry here, and at home on Yonge Street, and will pray for you and for your continued ministry here in this community of Aurora.

*Let us pray...* Joyce Hagarty  
**Creator God, Holy One, God of Covenant, we give thanks for remembered times when we together have shared the life of faith. We thank you for the moments we have shared with Andy and Lorraine in worship, in learning, in play, in laughter, in tears, in prayer, and in service. We pray that they will know your guidance as they move into retirement. Bless the insights we have received by your grace during this mutual covenant now ending. We pray for wisdom, healing, and abundant new life. May we move forward confidently with renewed energy and vision. In Christ we pray. Amen.**

## \*THE NEW CREED (VU p.918)

We are not alone,  
We live in God's world.

We believe in God:  
who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus,  
the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others  
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.  
We are called to be the Church:  
to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in Creation,  
to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death,  
God is with us.

We are not alone.  
Thanks be to God.

## \*THE PEACE

## SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION *Liturgy on Insert*

\* **HYMN** I Have Called You By Your Name  
(D.C.Damon) **p 9**

## \*COMMISSIONING

Go now, to follow the way of Christ.  
As you have been a blessing to us in our ministry,  
go be a blessing for others.  
**As you have been a blessing to us,  
so also may you be a blessing to others.**  
May God, the Source of Love, bless you in your  
ministry in the days ahead.  
**May God—Creator, Christ and Spirit  
guide us forward.**

***Let the bells ring out in celebration!***

## \*SUNG BLESSING Go Now In Peace (Price/Besig)

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know God will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there surrounding us with love.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen.**

**POSTLUDE** The Road Home (S.Paulus)  
Margaret Heney, Lisa Kyriakides, Lorraine Newton-  
Comar & Janice Nolan, Sopranos  
*Music chosen and dedicated to the music-makers and  
singers of Aurora United Church; in special  
recognition of the music ministries of Margaret Heney  
and Lisa Kyriakides...by Rev's Lorraine & Andy.*



## Thank You...

Margaret Heney & the AUC Chancel Choir/Lisa  
Kyriakides & the EmBellished Handbell  
Ensemble/Wesley Bells, violin/  
David Pilkey, Steve Falk, Brian & Jules Pastoor  
(Ensemble)...for the beauty and blessing of your  
music!

Our clergy friends who have walked with us  
in these years of ministry. Rev. Dan Graves  
(Trinity) Rev. George Moore, Rev. Warren  
MacDougall, Rev. Linda Wheler.

To Nancy Kerswill (Chair), Joyce Hagarty (Vice)  
and the members of the AUC Council for their  
love, dedication and support.

To all who are providing welcome today: ushers  
and greeters, offering stewards and Communion  
preparers and servers; and those who are ensuring  
great sound and live streaming...to the symbol-  
bearers, representing our ministry together.

To those who are providing celebration food today,  
and to those who have been planning for, and  
working on today's service and celebration—bless  
you!

To Rev. Dan Graves and the congregation of  
Trinity Anglican Church; we bless you for the love  
and support you have given to us and to the AUC  
congregation.



*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*

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

Church Office 905-727-1935  
www.auroraunitedchurch.ca



## RETURNING SYMBOLS OF MINISTRY

**June 22, 2025  
11:00 am**

*We sing of a church seeking to continue the story  
of Jesus by embodying Christ's presence.  
in the world. (A Song of Faith. UCC, 2006)*

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

***PRELUDE***

Seasons of Love (*J.Larson*) Steve Falk/David Pilkey &  
the AUC Chancel Choir  
Easy (*L. Ritchie*)  
David Pilkey, Steve Falk, Brian & Jules Pastoor

***\*PROCESSION OF PARTICIPANTS & SYMBOLS***

Christ Is Made the Sure Foundation VU 325

Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and  
cornerstone, chosen of the Lord, and precious, binding  
all the church in one, holy Zion’s help forever, and its  
confidence alone.

To this temple where we call you, come, O Lord,  
of hosts, today; with your faithful loving kindness hear  
your servants as they pray, and your fullest benediction  
shed within its walls always.

Here bestow on all your servants what they ask of you  
to gain, what they gain from you forever with the  
blessed to retain, and hereafter in your glory evermore  
with you to reign.

Laud and honour to the Father, laud and honour to the  
Son, laud and honour to the Spirit, ever three and ever  
one, one in might and one in glory, while unending  
ages run. (*Latin 7th century; trans. J.M.Neale 1851*)

***WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE***

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

***Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/  
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion*** Paula Hanna

***CALL TO WORSHIP***

There is time to give thanks,  
for the times of challenge and hardship  
for the times of tiredness and distress  
for the times of solidarity and justice with peace.

**We give thanks.**

For the times of unfinished business and uncertainty,  
for the times of failure and disappointment,  
for the times of heartbreak and loss,

**We give thanks.**

For the times of joy and elation,  
for the times of connection and wonder,  
for the times of community and healing.

**We give thanks.**

This is a time to remember,  
a time to invite Spirit,  
a time to celebrate,  
a time to shed tears,  
a time to notice your heart,  
a time to move on,  
a time to let go,  
a time to breathe deeply,  
a time to trust,  
a time to retire.  
**We come in worship!**

***INTROIT*** When In Our Music God is Glorified  
(*Fred Pratt Green/Charles Villiers Stanford*)

***OPENING PRAYER*** Nancy Kerswill (AUC Council)  
**Loving God, our church community is ever  
changing. Loved ones are welcomed into community  
and loved ones come to the end of their lives.  
People come and go in our church lives. Today we  
celebrate Lorraine and Andy’s time with us. Help us  
to treasure our memories, as we open ourselves to  
the moving of God’s Spirit among us in new ways.  
Amen.**

***IN RECOGNITION OF CHILDREN & YOUTH***  
**\*SONG** Like a Rock (*MV 92*) (*K.Wehlender/L.Good*)  
**Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.  
Like the starry night sky God is over our head.  
Like the sun on the horizon God is ever before.  
Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God  
evermore.** (Sing 3x)

***FINDING GOD TOGETHER***

***SCRIPTURE*** Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 *p. 616 Pew Bible OT*  
(For everything, there is a season.) Bill Newman

***ANTHEM*** The Time for Turning (*Craig Courtney*)  
The Aurora Chorealis with Wesley Bells, violin

***SCRIPTURE*** 1 Corinthians 12:12-27 *p.174 Pew Bible*  
(One body, many parts—many members.)

*Come to the quiet...*

***REFLECTION*** Hearts & Hands

**\*HYMN** We Praise You, O God *p 9*

***SHARING GOD’S LOVE***

***\*OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD***

***OFFERTORY*** In Celebration (*Jason Krug*)  
EmBellished Handbell Ensemble

***\*DEDICATION*** We Are An Offering (*D. Liles*)  
**We lift our voices, we lift our hands,  
we lift our lives up to you; we are an offering.  
Lord, use our voices, Lord use our hands,  
Lord, use our lives, they are yours;  
we are an offering. We are an offering.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER***  
***PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING***

***COMPLETION OF COVENANT***

***Statement of Purpose*** Nancy Kerswill

***Return of Ministerial Symbols*** Lorraine & Andy  
When we came among you, to serve with you in the  
ministry of *Word, Sacrament, Pastoral Care, Education  
and Service...*you gifted us with symbols of ministry  
that we now return to you.

***Bible (Bible is placed on the pulpit.)*** Carolyn Stafford  
The Bible is a symbol of the ministry of the Word  
among us. May God’s Word continue to challenge,  
nurture, and inspire you.  
**We will continue to place scripture at the centre  
of our life. The Word of God lives among us.  
Thanks be to God.**

***Baptism basin & pitcher (Water is poured into font.)***  
Emma & Nancy Kerswill

The font is a symbol of our baptism, the place of our  
birth into the body of Christ. May you continue to  
welcome new members through the living waters of  
our faith.

**We will continue to celebrate new life in baptism:  
the font of blessing welcomes all. Thanks be to God.**

***Bread and Cup (Bread and cup placed on table.)***  
Debra Hilliard

The table is the symbol of our communion in Christ,  
the source of nourishment and strength. May you  
continue to welcome all who come to this table,  
seeking relationship with Christ and with this church  
community.

**We will continue to break the bread and share the  
cup. The table invites us to taste and see that God is  
good. Thanks be to God.**

**Towel and Basin** Paula Hanna

The towel and basin are symbols of our calling to  
justice and service, following the example of Jesus,  
who washed the feet of his friends. May you continue  
in the way of Christ.

**We will continue to serve others and to work for  
justice, following in the way of Jesus, Friend and  
Servant of all. Thanks be to God.**

***Empowering Symbols***

**Hymn Books** Bob McRoberts

During our years of ministry we were often fed by  
singing in the choir. Hold these hymnbooks, and those  
that will follow — our theology in song, in trust that  
they may continue to nurture your spirits.

**We will continue to sing and cherish our hymns,  
our choir, and music-makers. Thanks be to God.**

**Historic Roll** Suzanne Whitehurst

Over the many years we have been among you,  
we have come to love this community. We have seen  
people come and go. Hold this, the people of this  
community of faith, in love that you may continue  
to care for one another.

**We will continue to care for one another,  
bearing both our joys and sorrows together.  
Thanks be to God.**

**Walking Stick** Matthew Lyon

During our time together we have sought to travel the  
way of Jesus in this community. As you go forward in  
this time of transition and discernment, may you seek  
always to follow in the way of Jesus as you are being  
called in this community of Aurora.

**We will continue to follow in the way of Jesus,  
travelling as companions on the journey, discerning  
God’s call to service within our community.  
Thanks be to God.**

**Affirming Ministry Certificate** Josh Szakal

As you move forward into your new church building,  
may you always fly the rainbow flag of Affirming,  
welcoming all in the name of Jesus Christ.

**We will continue to live the welcome that offers  
love and acceptance to all. Thanks be to God.**

## **We Praise You, O God**

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator; in grateful devotion our tribute we bring. We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you; we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers, through trial and tempest, companion and guide. When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us, but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

With voices united our praises we offer and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise. Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing, to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

## **I Have Called You by Your Name**

I have called you by your name, you are mine; I have gifted you and ask you now to shine. I will not abandon you; all my promises are true. You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go; read it written in my peoples, help them grow. Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim, offer Jesus; body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go; feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow. Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt, hold the hem of Jesus robe, then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine; I have given you my Spirit as a sign. With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole; go and tell my precious people they are mine.