

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Intermezzo from Cavalleria Rusticana
(P. Mascagni) Nocturne from Midsummer Night's Dream
(F.Mendelssohn) Tim Birtch & Margaret Wolf, trumpets

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Katie Armitage

CALL TO WORSHIP

In the seed that lies unseen,
resting, cold, and still, God is —
and hope grows.

In the possibilities that await us,
unknown, unimagined, God is —
and life grows.

In our hurt and emptiness,
masked, buried, overlooked, God is —
and healing grows.

In this time of worship, singing, praying,
and being, we come to know this God who is —
and we grow.

We gather to worship and remember that even in
the most barren of times, God is at work.

May the Spirit be our guide and strength.

(Wetaskiwin Writers, Grace Lutheran Church and First U.C., Wetaskiwin, Alta.)

***HYMN** Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet
p 7

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

**It was faith which made our ancestors in faith listen
to your words, trust in your promises, dare to
imagine a different country, risk undertaking new**

**adventures, setting aside their fears and doubts.
Give us such faith, God of our ancestors. It was
faith which helped you as you walked through the
world, telling stories of reversals, listening to the
ignored, touching those we did not love, pointing to
that Community being built all around us. Give us
such faith, O God, that we might follow. It is faith
which you give to us: so we can trust the hope
which the world cannot see; so we can journey into
places we have never been; so we can welcome
strangers as sisters and brothers. Continue to give
us such faith, Spirit who walks with us in faith,
every moment, every day. With the faith you give
us, with the faith you have in us, God in
Community, Holy in One, we pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.** *(Thom M. Shuman, Lectionary Liturgies)*

WORDS OF GRACE

In the shadow of God's wing we are held and loved.
Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE Sing, Sing Out! *(MV 180)*

Sing, sing out! Sing a new song.

Sing oh people as one voice! Sing, sing out!

Sing a new song. Sing of God. Each heart rejoice!

Repeat

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 91 *p 7*

(...under God's wings, your refuge.) Laurie Bentolila

GIFT OF MUSIC Come With Thanksgiving *(L.Larson)*

Tim Birtch & Margaret Wolf, trumpets

SCRIPTURE Luke 13:10-17 *p. 76 Pew Bible NT*
(Jesus heals the bent-over woman on the Sabbath.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Standing Up

***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 and 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 Gabriel's Oboe *(Ennio Morricone)*

***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**

PRAYER PRELUDE Spirit of Life *(C. McDade) VU 381*
 Spirit of Life, come unto me. Sing in my heart
 all the stirrings of compassion.
 Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;
 move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.
 Roots hold me close; wings set me free;
 Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE/LORD'S PRAYER
VU p.910

***HYMN** Though Ancient Walls *p 8*

***COMMISSIONING**

And now, may the Creator, within us and around us,
 above us and below us,
 bless us and keep us...now and always.

***SUNG BLESSING** Wherever You May Go *MV 216*
 Wherever you may go, I will follow,
 and your people shall be my people too.
 Wherever you may go I will follow,
 for I would be faithful, loyal and true.

POSTLUDE Trumpet Voluntary *(W.Boyce arr. C.Seipp)*
 Tim Birch & Margaret Wolf, trumpets



MISSION AND SERVICE

This kind of connection can change lives.

United Church camps create space for children and youth to grow in faith, friendship, and love for the earth. Among whispering trees and winding trails, young hearts open to wonder, discovery, and connection. At Cave Springs Camp in Beamsville, Ontario, that's exactly what happens. Nestled along the beautiful Niagara Escarpment, campers leave behind the noise of everyday life to discover something deeper: a sense of belonging in nature and with each other. Surrounded by birdsong, rustling leaves, and forest paths, the campgrounds come alive with joyful discovery. A camper excitedly shouts, "I found a salamander!" bringing others running in awe. Even something as simple as a uniquely shaped rock becomes a shared moment of intrigue and delight.



These moments matter. Whether singing around a campfire, engaging in outdoor activities, gathering for meals, or sharing quiet reflection during evening worship, children at Cave Springs form lasting bonds. They gain confidence, feel seen, and discover what it means to be part of a caring community, held by both people and creation. This kind of connection can change lives. It encourages gratitude, deepens compassion, and nurtures a love for the Earth that lasts long after camp ends.

Thanks to your support of **Mission and Service**, these life-giving experiences continue, not only at Cave Springs, but at all United Church camps. You are helping young people grow in spirit, courage, and care. Thank you.



Be sure to check out our AUC website, auroraunitedchurch.ca for summer and fall programming, ministers and staff holidays-news from around the Shining Waters Region and U.C.C. Rev's Lorraine & Andy will be checking email/voice messages throughout the summer.



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



PENTECOST 11
August 24, 2025
11:00 AM

I see trees of green, red roses too. I see them
 bloom for me and for you. And I think to myself,
 what a wonderful world.

Louis Armstrong

VU 245 Praise the Lord with the Sound of Trumpet

Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet, praise the Lord with the harp and lute, praise the Lord with the gentle-sounding flute. Praise the Lord in the field and forest, praise the Lord in the city square, praise the Lord anytime and anywhere. Praise the Lord in the wind and sunshine, praise the Lord in the dark of night, praise the Lord in the rain or snow or in the morning light. Praise the Lord in the deepest valley, praise the Lord on the highest hill, praise the Lord, never let your voice be still.

Praise the Lord with the crashing cymbal, praise the Lord with the pipe and string, praise the Lord with the joyful songs you sing. Praise the Lord on a weekday morning, praise the Lord on a Sunday noon, praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon. Praise the Lord in the time of sorrow, praise the Lord in the time of joy, praise the Lord every moment, nothing let your praise destroy. Praise the Lord in the peace and quiet, praise the Lord in your work or play, praise the Lord everywhere in every way!

Psalm 91

R And I will raise you up on eagles wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand.

You who dwell in the shelter of your God, who abide in God's shadow for life,
say to your God: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"
The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear;
under God's wings your refuge, God's faithfulness your shield. R

You need not fear the terror of the night, not the arrow that flies by day,
though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come.
For to the angels is given a command to guard you in all your ways;
upon their hand they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone R

"Because they have set their love upon me I will deliver them,
I will uphold them because they know my name.
When they call to me I will answer,
I will be with them in trouble;
I will rescue and bring them to honour.
With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my saving power." 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**

