

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Snowman (Sia Furler/Greg Kurstin)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come to this place — each of us on our own path.
**The path is winding, and the path is not always
clear, and the path changes, but we are here.**
God is walking us home.
What a gift it is to not walk alone.
Let us worship our Holy God.

***HYMN SING**

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL & THE LORD'S PRAYER

God of changed plans, The Magi heard in a dream that
they were to take a new way home—a different path,
an untraveled road.

And to our amazement, they did just that.
The Magi packed their bags and went home
by another way.

We wish that change could be easy for us,
but more often than not,
when whispers of change come,
we tend to clench our fists and hold on tighter.
Help us to see that there is more than one road home.
Open our hearts to hear your invitation
and your guidance.

We pray in Jesus name who encouraged us to
pray together.... **Our Father who art in Heaven.**
Hallowed be thy name. Thy Kingdom come,

**Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us
this day our daily bread; and forgive us our
trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the
glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

No matter which roads we take in this one wild
and precious life,
God walks with us. God never leaves our side.
When the road changes and we find ourselves
on a new path home,
God is always there.
So hear and believe this good news:
No matter where we go, no matter what we do,
we are claimed, loved, and held by God.
Thanks be to God.

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

GOSPEL READING Matthew 2:1-12 *p. 2 Pew Bible NT*
Martha Bailkowski

GIFT OF MUSIC The Holy Boy (John Ireland)
Bob McRoberts

SERMON *Home by Another Way, A Christmas Story*
(a book by Barbara Brown Taylor)
Rev. Linda Wheler

***HYMN** What Child is This **p. 7**

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY The Christmas Song
(Robert Wells/Mel Tormé) Bob McRoberts

***DEDICATION** In the Bleak Midwinter *(Tune: VU 55)*

**What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him — give my heart.**

***OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing**

PRAYER PRELUDE We Call to You, O God *(Mayberry/Kai)*
**We call to You, O God, in faith and with open
heart, hear our prayer. We call to You, O God, in
faith and with open heart, hear, hear our prayer.**
Hear, hear our prayer.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

BLESSING WITH OIL

***HYMN** Joy to the World **p. 7**

***COMMISSIONING**

***SUNG BLESSING** Hope Shines as the Solitary Star
Love shines as the solitary star. MV 220
Faith is the inner light.
You and I together mirror the Light of Lights,
and illumine the pathway home.

POSTLUDE Noël Étranger (Louis-Claude Daquin)

Christmas Services
AUC @ Trinity Anglican Church



Epiphany (Communion) - January 4, 2026 - 11 am



Carols by Candlelight was a beautiful celebration of music, enjoyed by all. We are grateful for the musical talent here at Aurora United Church. We give thanks for the musical talent and the faithful leadership of Margaret Heney. As well as the incredible gift of music offered by the AUC Chancel Choir. We give thanks for the enthusiastic leadership of Lisa Kyriakides and all the talented bell ringers from Faith-a-Peal, Bellissimo and EmBellished Handbell Ensembles. We recognize the time and the dedication it took from each participant to prepare for the concert, and we are grateful for your commitment and generosity of spirit. We give thanks for your ministry of hospitality provided in the lovely receptions. Thank you to the ushers, greeters, readers, and the AV Team for your contribution to Carols by Candlelight. We are also grateful for the guest musicians Wesley Bells and the Aldbury Gardens Brass Quintet. The concerts were a wonderful way to welcome the community and to give a glimpse of who Aurora United Church is. On behalf of all who attended I would like to sincerely thank you all for all you did to create two extraordinary concerts.

Blessings
Rev. Linda

Mission and Service
Rooted in Hope as a New Year Begins



As we turn toward a new year, we pause to reflect on all that 2025 has held—the challenges that tested us, the resilience that sustained us, and the moments of compassion and connection that reminded us who we are called to be.

A new year invites reflection, but it also invites imagination. It offers space to dream, to reset, and to open ourselves once again to the transforming power of Christ's love.

Even in a world where uncertainty remains, one truth continues to shine through: acts of kindness and solidarity matter. They shape communities, restore hope, and remind us that we are never alone. Through Mission and Service, these small and steady acts grow into something larger: a network of care that stretches across neighbourhoods, regions, and the world.

As 2026 approaches, we carry forward the lessons and light of the year behind us. Let the coming year be one in which we deepen our commitment to caring for one another and for creation. Let it be a year where we walk alongside Mission and Service partners, drawing strength from shared purpose and shared hope. Together, we can nurture a future rooted in justice, compassion, and peace.

Thank you for the impact made throughout 2025. Your generosity through Mission and Service lights the way, sparking hope, bringing healing, and transforming lives.

May the year ahead be one of courage, renewal, and steadfast love as we step into 2026.



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. Tim Dayfoot & Rev. Linda Wheler
Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney



CHRISTMAS 1

December 28, 2025
11:00 AM

What Child is This **VU 74**

What child is this, who laid to rest, on Mary's lap is sleeping?
Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?
***Refrain: This, this is Christ the King, whom shepherds guard and angels sing,
Haste, haste to bring him laud, the Babe, the Son of Mary!***

Why lies he in such mean estate, where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading. **R**

So bring him incense, gold and myrrh, come one and all, to own him.
The King of Kings salvation brings, let loving hearts enthrone him. **R**

Joy to the World **VU 59**

Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth receive her King! Let every heart prepare
him room, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing, and heaven, and
heaven and nature sing.

Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns: let all their songs employ, while fields and floods,
rocks, hills and plains repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy, repeat, repeat
the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground: he comes to make
his blessings flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found, far as, far as the
curse is found.

He rules the earth with truth and grace, and makes the nations prove the glories of his
righteousness and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love, and wonders,
wonders of his love.