

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
(arr. Brant Adams) *Tim Birtch, trumpet*

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE**

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Nancy Kerswill

INTROIT To the High and Kindly Hills
(Song-suk Im/Song-chon Lee)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Liturgy from Sanctified Art)

Tell me something good!
God loves you more than you could imagine.
Tell me something good!
**God loves all of creation more than you
could imagine.**
Tell me something good!
God's love meets us in this service of worship.
We are not alone.
This is good news indeed!
Let us worship our compassionate God.

***HYMN** Jesus Christ Is Waiting p. 7

CALL TO CONFESSION Carol Lever

Family of faith,
we long to love others as God loves us,
but that work is easier said than done.
We lose our way.
We become distracted.
We grow fearful.
We need God's grace.
Fortunately for us, God's grace is freely and
abundantly given.
So join me in the Prayer of Confession.
Join me in being transformed.

(The second Lenten candle is extinguished.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Merciful God, did we see you hungry and give you
something to eat?
Did we see you thirsty and give you something
to drink?
Did we see you alone and offer you compassion?
Or did we cross the street?
Did we avert our eyes?
Did we come up with every excuse in the book?
God, we long to be people who love our neighbors
with the same overwhelming love that you have
for them.
But we must admit, we have a long way to go.
God, we long to be people who love our neighbors
with the same overwhelming love that you have
for them.
But we must admit, we have a long way to go.
Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or
fear get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us
the courage to try again.
With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

**Faith family, even when we act with judgment,
even when we are guided by fear,
even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need,
God does not turn God's back on us.
So join me in this good-news declaration:
We are seen.
We are forgiven.
We are invited to try again.
Thanks be to God for this unending love.**

SUNG RESPONSE Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery
(VU 121)
**Seed that dies to rise in glory, may we see ourselves in
you, if we learn to live your story we may die to rise
anew, we may die to rise anew.**

TIME FOR ALL AGES

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 121 p. 7
Martha Bailkowski

ANTHEM Kyrie (Sherri Porterfield)

GOSPEL READING John 3: 1-17

REFLECTION Rev. Linda Wheler

***HYMN** I Feel the Winds of God p. 8

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY How Can I Keep from Singing
(Arnold Sherman) *Bellissimo Handbell Ensemble*

***DEDICATION** Take, O Take Me as I Am (Bell/Maule)
 (MV 85) **Take, O take me as I am;**
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.
(sing twice)

***OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing**

PRAYER PRELUDE Lord, Listen to Your Children
 (Ken Medema) VU 400

Lord, listen to your children, praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace!

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD'S PRAYER

***HYMN** Bless Now, O God, the Journey p.8

***COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

As you leave this place,
 when you meet anger, speak with love.
 When you meet fear, speak with hope.
 When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.
 But no matter what, speak this good news.
 For the good news of the gospel is love and justice
 for all.
 It is joy that surprises,
 and nonviolence that transforms.
 The good news of the gospel is alive in the world,
 so go forth speaking.
 For if you won't, then who will?
 Thanks be to God for this good, *good* news.

***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 Praise to the Lord! (arr. Brant Adams)
Tim Birtch, trumpet

An affirmation of faith

Written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

**I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
 It sounds like welcome and feels like home.
 It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.
 It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table,
 so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
 I have seen it alive in the world.
 And even when my heart aches, even when wars rage,
 even when mercy feels out of reach,
 I remember the one who welcomed the children
 and led with nonviolence.
 I remember the one who cared for the vulnerable
 and inspired those around him.
 I remember that the good news really is good news,
 for I have seen it alive in the world.
 Thanks be to God! Amen.
 (SANCTIFIED ART)**



*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





Lent 2

**March 1, 2026
 11:00 AM**

Jesus Christ Is Waiting VU 117

Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets; no one is his neighbour,
all alone he eats. Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.
Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets, where injustice spirals and real hope
retreats. Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.
In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets; curing those who suffer, touching those
he greets. Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.
Let my care be active, healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets, where each sign of hatred he, with
love, defeats. Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets, "Who will join my journey? I will guide
their feet." Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.
Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

Psalm 121 VU 844

R Our help is in the name of our God who made heaven and earth.

I lift up my eyes to the hills. From where will I look for help?

My help comes from God, who has made heaven and earth.

God will not let your foot stumble; the One who protects Israel will not slumber.

The One who protects you will neither slumber nor sleep. R

It is God who protects you, your defence at your right hand.

The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.

God will protect you from all evil, God will protect your life.

God will protect your going and coming, now and forever. R

I Feel the Winds of God VU 625

I feel the winds of God today; today my sail I lift, though heavy oft with drenching
spray and torn with many a rift; if hope but light the water's crest, and Christ my bark
will use, I'll seek the seas at his behest, and brave another cruise.

It is the wind of God that dries my vain regretful tears, until with braver thoughts
shall rise the purer, brighter years; if cast on shores of selfish ease or pleasure I should
be, O let me feel your freshening breeze, and I'll put back to sea.

If ever I forget your love and how that love was shown, lift high the blood-red flag
above; it bears your name alone. Great pilot of my onward way, you will not let me
drift. I feel the winds of God today; today my sail I lift.

Bless Now, O God, the Journey VU 633

Bless now, O God, the journey that all your people make, the path through noise and
silence, the way of give and take. The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain
round, then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.

Bless sojourners and pilgrims who share this winding way, whose hope burns through
the terrors, whose love sustains the day. We yearn for holy freedom while often we
are bound. Together we are seeking the road where faith is found.

Divine Eternal Lover, you meet us on the road. We wait for lands of promise where
milk and honey flow. But waiting not for places, you meet us all around. Our
covenant is written on roads, as faith is found.