SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE O Bread of Life from Heaven (Gerhard Krapf)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion Josh Szakal

INTROIT Be Still and Know (John L. Bell)

CALL TO WORSHIP (Liturgy from Sanctified Art)

God loves the whole of creation.
God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.
God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.
God loves the child who rocks and claps.
God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.
God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.
God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.
God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.
God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.
There is no bit of creation that God does not love.
So let us worship this good-news God!

****HYMN*** Creator God You Gave Us Life **p. 7**

Creator God you gave us life, your image formed within our souls, yet through the mist of time and space, we search for that which makes us whole.

Refrain: Through hands that paint majestic skies, and voices chanting melody, with words that reach beyond the page, we comprehend your mystery.

In ev'ry flow'r and ev'ry tree, we see your great diversity, yet greater still we see your love, expressed in our humanity. **R**

When with our hearts, our hands our minds, we share our gifts with all the world, our spirits soar beyond the veil, to touch the very face of God. **R**

CALL TO CONFESSION Leta Dayfoot

Family of Faith, every week we pray the Prayer of Confession, because every week we need to be reminded of God's abundant grace.
Every week we need to be reminded of God's love.
Every week we need to be reminded that we too can grow and change.
So join me in this moment of honesty as we seek transformation.
Friends, let us pray:

(The fourth Lenten candle is extinguished.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Gracious God, who walks with us through the desert and garden of Lent, be with us now as we turn to you in worship. Guide our hearts to be open to your spirit's presence. Guide our minds to be transformed by your word. We confess that we have come with baggage: things we couldn't leave behind, but wish we could; things we wish we could have brought, but couldn't. Free us from this baggage, O God. Let it fall away that we can come into your presence without the weight of care, guilt, reluctance and regret. Let us be open now to the power of your challenge and the grace of your care. Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Fortunately for all of us, God has said,
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine."
By God's grace, despite our sin and shortcomings,
we are redeemed, claimed, forgiven, and loved.
May this good news change our lives!
Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (VU 121)
Gentle Jesus, mighty Spirit, come inflame our hearts anew, we may all your joy inherit, if we bear the cross with you, if we bear the cross with you.

TIME FOR ALL AGES

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Samuel 16: 1-13
Joyce Hagarty

ANTHEM Agnus Dei *(from Requiem)*
(Gabriel Fauré arr. John Rutter)

GOSPEL READING John 9:1-41

REFLECTION Blindness in High Places
The Reverend Tim Dayfoot

****HYMN*** Open My Eyes, That I May See **p. 7**

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD
OFFERTORY Contemplation (Karen Buckwalter)
Faith-a-Peal 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** Be Thou My Vision **p. 8**

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

***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** An Ever Present Help (Richard A. Williamson)

An Affirmation of Faith
Written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed

We believe in a table-setting God
who always has a seat saved for you.
We believe in an inviting God
who leaves the porch light on and a hand extended.
We believe in a radically welcoming God
who eats with the overlooked and the outcast,
the hungry and the downtrodden.
We believe in the good news of the gospel, which
reminds us that all are welcomed, all are celebrated,
all are loved, and all are claimed.
Pull up a seat at God's table.
There is good news to be shared here. 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 4

March 15, 2026
11:00 AM

Creator God You Gave Us Life MV 27

Creator God you gave us life, your image formed within our souls, yet through the mist of time and space, we search for that which makes us whole.

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Open My Eyes, That I May See VU 371

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me; place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear; and while the wavenotes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere; open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Be Thou My Vision VU 642

Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart; naught be all else to me save that thou art, thou my best thought, by day or by night, waking or sleeping thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife; I ever with thee, and thou in my life; thou loving parent, thy child may I be, thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.

Be thou my battle shield, sword for the fight; be thou my dignity, thou my delight, thou my soul's shelter, thou my high tower; raise thou me heavenward, O power of my power.

Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise, thou mine inheritance, now and always; thou and thou only, the first in my heart, great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Great God of heaven, after victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun! Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O ruler of all.