

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Susan Guido, trumpet

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

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

**INTROIT** I Am a Child of God (Cheryl & Bruce Harding)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

**\*HYMN** The Lord's My Shepherd p. 7

**PRAYER FOR RENEWAL & LORD'S PRAYER**

**WORDS OF GRACE**

**The good news of our faith is that no matter who you are, what you have done or where you are coming from, if we turn back to Jesus our Shepherd with our whole heart, God is waiting to welcome us home with the gift of new life. That is the promise of joy and of peace.**

**SUNG RESPONSE** Halle, Halle, Halle (VU 958)

Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (repeat)

**HYMN** I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry p. 7

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** (liturgy on insert)

*We welcome through the Sacrament of Baptism,  
Landon Brian King Whitelaw, son of Kendall and  
Nicolos Whitelaw.*

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE READING** Psalm 23 p.8 Jackie Catto

**ANTHEM** The Lord is My Shepherd (Howard Goodall)  
*Janice Nolan, Soprano Soloist*

**GOSPEL READING** John 10:1-10

**SERMON** Reverend Linda Wheler

**\*HYMN** I Have Called You by Your Name (MV 161)

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 people, 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.

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** 10,000 Reasons (Bless the Lord)  
(Jonas Myrin & Matt Redman) *Lisa Kyriakides*

**\*DEDICATION** Grateful (MV 182)

Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy  
Son, joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of  
Love. Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for  
your Holy Word, joyful in your mercy flowing,  
we will praise you.

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing**

**LEAVING LITURGY**

Our church, like any community, changes. Babies are  
born. Children grow up. Loved ones and friends grow  
old. People move into our community and church. Others  
leave us, moving on to new places, new experiences, and  
new opportunities. When a minister comes into our  
church, we covenant with one another; we promise to  
walk together as God's People, deepening our  
commitment to Jesus Christ and growing closer to God.  
God's covenant with us never changes, but our covenants  
with one another do change. We gather now to mark the  
ending of the six month covenant between Linda Wheler,  
and Aurora United Church. We ask God's blessing to be  
with her in her retirement.

**Prayer**

**O God, we give you thanks for the time and the faith  
shared in this community. We give you thanks for the  
faithful ministry of Linda in our midst. We thank you  
for the worship, the learning, and the service that  
have been ours together. Be with us now as we mark  
the end of this relationship, and guide us by your  
Spirit into the next stage of our life with you. Amen.**

**Marking the End of the Covenanted Ministry**

**Linda Wheler**

I thank, my partner in ministry Rev. Tim Dayfoot as well as friends and members of Aurora United, for the love and support you have shown me while I have ministered among and with you. I am grateful for the ways my leadership has been accepted. I ask forgiveness for any mistakes I have made. As I leave, I carry with me all that I have learned here.

**Congregation**

**We receive your thankfulness, offer our forgiveness, and accept that you are now leaving us. We are grateful for your time among us. Your influence on our faith and faithfulness will not leave us with your departure. We 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.**

**Linda Wheler**

I accept your thanksgiving and your forgiveness of me. May our time together and our parting now be pleasing and acceptable to God. I encourage your continuing ministry here and will pray for you as you move into your new building and start a new chapter in ministry.

**Congregation**

**Creator God, Holy One, God of Covenant, we give thanks for remembered times when we together have shared the life of faith. We pray that Linda will be aware of your faithful presence in her 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 as we move forward in our ministry. Amen.**

**PRAYER PRELUDE Spirit of Life (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.

**THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**\*HYMN Be Thou My Vision p. 8**

**\*COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING**

May God bless you and keep you; May the light of God's presence shine upon you. May God's grace be with you, and give you peace. Amen.

**Go forth from here. Take with you all we have shared. May our memories be springs of water when we are thirsty; rays of light when we are in darkness; and reason for rejoicing always. May God bless and keep us all. Amen.**


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

Go now in peace. Never be afraid. God will go with you each hour of every day. God 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.

**POSTLUDE Susan Guido, trumpet**



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](http://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca)

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





**Easter 4/Baptism**

**April 26, 2026  
11:00 AM**

### **The Lord's My Shepherd** VU 747

The Lord's my Shepherd, I'll not want; he makes me down to lie in pastures green; he leadeth me, the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again; and me to walk doth make within the paths of righteousness, even for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill; for thou art with me; and thy rod and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnished in presence of my foes; me head thou dost with oil anoint, and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life shall surely follow me, and in God's house for evermore my dwelling place shall be.

### **I Was There to Hear Your Borning Cry** VU 644

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well; in a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.

When you heard the wonder of the word, I was there to cheer you on; you were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.

If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one, I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun.

In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young. I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.

When the evening gently closes in and you shut your weary eyes, I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.

I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old. I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.

### **Psalm 23** VU 749 (Refrain 2)

**R The God of love my shepherd is; what can I want or need.**

God is my shepherd,

**there is nothing I shall lack.**

You, God, make me lie down in green pastures,

**you lead me beside peaceful waters,**

you revive my spirit,

**you guide me in right pathways for your name's sake. R**

Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, you are with me,

**your rod and your staff are my comfort.**

You spread a table for me in the sight of my enemies.

**you anoint my head with oil; my cup is overflowing.**

Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,

**And I will dwell in God's house my whole life long. R**

### **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.