

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Secret O’ Life (James Taylor) *David Pilkey*

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**  
**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters**  
Louise Procter Maio

**INTROIT** Rise Up (Kim Williams)

**GATHERING INVITATION & CANDLE LIGHTING**  
(Adapted by Shawn Redden)

*In the words of the poet:*

Beloveds  
We are heirs of a theology that says LOVE is love.  
The soul is not gendered.  
Covenants live in hearts.  
Faith welcomes all.

**Created in the Divine image, we come.**  
We light the red candle. It symbolizes life – the blood that flows through all of us.

**Our shared lifeblood unites us as one people, one humanity, embracing every race, every belief, every identity and every love.**  
We light the orange candle – a flame of healing.  
**We remember that we are never alone, in either our joys or our struggles. Where there is hatred, be peace. Where there is hurt, give compassion. Where there is regret, offer grace. Where there is sorrow, bring healing.**

We light the yellow candle – a symbol of courage and openness.  
**Let your light shine brightly, a flame that can never be extinguished. May we nurture this light in others and live with authenticity and truth.**

We light the green candle – the greening power of Creator.  
**We proclaim compassion for all creatures and affirm**

**our place in God’s good creation.**  
We light the blue candle – the colour of imagination, wide open spaces, seas and sky.

**We affirm anything is possible with vision and enduring commitment.**  
We light the purple candle – for spirit, dignity, and strength in community.  
**We are created for relationship, cherished and celebrated in God's love. Together, we give thanks for the courage to boldly live our faith out loud.**  
We light the Christ candle.

**Jesus gathers us as community, and we celebrate that each one here reflects the infinite diversity of Love's divine presence. Created in the divine image, we come.**

**\*HYMN** There is Room for All **MV 62**  
There is room for all in the shadow of God’s wing; there is room for all sheltered in God’s love. And I rejoice and sing, “My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust.”  
There is room for all, there is room for all. (repeat)

**PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**  
**Imaginative and vibrant God, creator of all things, you made this planet and all its variety. Let us celebrate the diversity of the colors of the world. Imaginative and vibrant God, creator of each of us, you made us the way we are. Together, we are a diverse blend of all your colours. Help us love and celebrate one another, as part of your beloved creation. Amen.**  
*(Gill Le Fevere, Walton Memorial U.C., Oakville, ON)*

**WORDS OF GRACE**  
In God we are known and loved!  
**Thanks be to God!**

**SUNG RESPONSE** Halle, Halle, Halle (VU 958)  
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Halle, halle, hallelujah!  
Halle, halle, hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah! (repeat)

**TIME FOR ALL AGES**  
“The Boy with Flowers in His Hair” (Jarvis)

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE READING** John 15:12-17 Laurie Bentolila

**ANTHEM** O Love (Elaine Hagenberg)

**A PLACE AT THE TABLE** Introduction – Pat Innes

**AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**  
**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. (Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed)**

**\*HYMN** Love is the Touch **MV 89**

Love is the touch of intangible joy; love is the force that no fear can destroy; love is the goodness we gladly applaud: God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the lilt in a lingering voice; love is the hope that can make us rejoice; love is the cure for the frightened and flawed: God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the light in the tunnel of pain; love is the will to be whole once again; love is the trust of a friend on the road: God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son; love is the kingdom their will has begun; love is the path which the saints all have trod: God is where love is, for love is of God.

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** This Little Light of Mine

(arr. Valerie Stephenson) *EmBellished Handbell Quartet*

**\*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**

**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.

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER**

**\*HYMN** My Love Colours Outside the Lines **MV 138**

My love colours outside the lines, exploring paths that few could ever find; and takes me into places where I've never been before, and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

My Lord colours outside the lines, turns wounds to blessings, water into wine; and takes me into places where I've never been before and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

**We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown, body and soul need a soaking from time to time. And we'll never move the gravestones if we're not prepared to die, and realize there are worlds outside the lines.**

My soul longs to colour outside the lines, tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine; I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I've never been before, throw open doors to worlds outside the lines. **R**

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**\*COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION**

This morning we have lit candles: Red for life in all its forms, Orange for healing, Yellow for sunlight and all kinds of light, Green for nature in all her diversity, Blue for harmony, and Purple for the spirit which guides us all.

**We are called to practice this rainbow of colors in our lives - in the conversations and interactions in our lives at home, at work, and at play - as we go out into our community and the world to share the message that God's love is for everyone!**

**\*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** True Colours (Billy Steinberg & Tom Kelly)

*David Pilkey*



*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

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www.auroraunitedchurch.ca

Rev. Tim Dayfoot  
Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney





***Easter 5/Affirming Sunday***

**May 3, 2026  
11:00 AM**