SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Meditation on Julion (Mark D. Himmelman)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
LIGHTING OF THE CHRIST CANDLE

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion Brian Walter

INTROIT Praise God for This Holy Ground (John L. Bell)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Holy and gracious God,
for this world of beauty and mystery,
that reveals your abundant love for all that you have made and provides for all your precious creatures,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS AND PRAISE.

For your Word of Life that guides and teaches us how to live according to your will and design,
that comforts us in grief,
and lifts our spirits to hope in you,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS AND PRAISE.

For your Living Word, Jesus the Christ,
who heals and restores us
when we have fallen by the way,
and who reveals to us your infinite grace and mercy,
WE GIVE YOU THANKS AND PRAISE. AMEN.

****HYMN*** Come, You Thankful People, Come **p. 7**

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL & LORD'S PRAYER

Gracious God, Your Holy Word bears witness that you are merciful, abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Your arms are always open to receive us back when we have wandered. Your heart is always open to offer us grace and forgiveness when we have fallen short.
You call your faithful to do the same for one another.

But we have often failed in this. We have been quick to judge and slow to forgive. Slow to mend quarrels, stubborn in opening our hearts. Forgive us we pray. Strengthen our faith that we may make room for your Holy Spirit. Open our eyes to see some goodness in those we judge. Soften our hearts to offer our neighbours the same grace we hope to receive from them.

And so we come to you, as your children, and as a community, saying**, Our Father,…Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

This is the Good News

God is more ready to answer our prayers with grace and forgiveness than we are to ask. Jesus Christ comes into this world not to judge, but to heal and make new. He comes not for those who are righteous, but for those who have fallen short - for people like you and me who are not perfect in our ways. Be assured, whatever you may have done or not done, God loves you, forgives you and calls you today to let go of the past and begin again, with God's help.
Praise be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE Sing, Sing Out! (MV 180)

Sing, sing out! Sing a new song.
Sing oh people as one voice! Sing, sing out!
Sing a new song. Sing of God. Each heart rejoice!
(Repeat)

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 103 **p. 8**
(*Come bless God, O my soul, and never forget all God's blessings.)*
Susan Sue-Ling

ANTHEM It is a Good Thing to Give Thanks
(Clifford McCormick)

GOSPEL READING Matthew 9: 9-13
(Jesus debates some Pharisees over who to have table fellowship with.)

SERMON Who Will Sit at Your Table?
Rev. Linda Levin

****HYMN*** There's a Wideness in God's Mercy **p. 9**

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD
OFFERTORY Give Thanks (Henry Smith arr. Mark Hayes)

****DEDICATION*** Take, O Take Me as I Am (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. *(Repeat)*

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

PRAYER PRELUDE Spirit of Life (C. McDade) (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

****HYMN*** Sing to the Lord of Harvest **p. 9**

****COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION***

****SUNG BLESSING*** Wherever You May Go (MV 216)

Wherever you may go, I will follow,
and your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go I will follow,
for I would be faithful, loyal and true.

POSTLUDE Now Thank We all Our God (Flor Peeters)

Welcome

The worship leader today is the **Rev. Linda Levin**.
Linda grew up in a Jewish home, in apartheid South Africa. Her first career was teaching Latin and Remedial English, first in South Africa and then in London (England). She met and married a Canadian and came to Canada in 1976, where she began studies for ministry at Emmanuel College in Toronto. Ordained in 1979, she served for two years in Northern Ontario, and then 29 years at Runnymede United, Toronto. Linda officially retired from ministry in June of 2011 to start on her third career - to head **Village of Love Canada**, an organization she founded to support a group of Kenyan women in the slum community of Kibera. Big-hearted women who, despite their extreme poverty, take in and raise AIDS-orphaned children along with their own families. See www.villageoflovecanada.org. When not supply preaching and volunteering for **Village of Love Canada**, Linda likes to read or listen to audiobooks (ranging from science fiction to historical novels). She lawn bowls, swims, walks and takes joy in watching the birds and bugs in her garden.

AUC Worship Schedule



Sunday, October 18th ~ AUCW

Sunday, October 25th - AUC Choir

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

Supervising Minister – Rev. Linda Wheler
(appt by Shining Waters Regional Council)

Music Coordinator -- Margaret Heney

Pentecost 20/Thanksgiving Sunday

October 11, 2026
11:00 AM

Come, You Thankful People, Come VU 516

Come, you thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home! All is safely gathered in, safe before the storms begin; God, our maker, does provide for our needs to be supplied: come to God's own temple, come, raise the song of harvest home!

All the world is God's own field, harvests for God's praise to yield; wheat and weeds together sown, here for joy or sorrow grown; first the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall appear: Harvest-giver, grant that we wholesome grain and pure may be.

For God, one day, shall come, and shall take this harvest home; from the field shall in that day all offences purge away; giving angels charge at last in the fire the weeds to cast; but the fruitful ears to store in the garner evermore.

Even so, God, quickly come to your final harvest home! Gather all your people in, free from sorrow, free from sin; there for ever purified, in your presence to abide; come, with all your angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.



Psalm 103 VU p. 825

Refrain: Come, bless God, O my soul, and never forget all God's blessings.

Bless God, my soul, and all my being, bless God's holy name.

Bless God, my soul, and forget not all God has done for you.

Bless God, who forgives all your sin, who heals you in all your infirmities,

who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with mercy and love,

who fills your life with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's,

who works righteousness and justice for all who are wronged. R

O God, you showed your ways to Moses, your deeds to the children of Israel.

You are compassionate and merciful, slow to anger and extravagant in love.

You will not always accuse nor do you keep your anger for ever.

You have not dealt with us according to our sins nor punished us according to our wickedness.

For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is your steadfast love toward those who fear you.

As far as the east is from the west, so far have you put away our sins from us.

As a father has compassion for his children, so you have compassion for those who fear you.

As a mother comforts her child, so you comfort us, O God.

For you know how we were made.

You remember that we are dust. Bless God, O my soul. R

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy VU 271

There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.

There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings have such gracious judgement given.

There is plentiful redemption in the blood that Christ has shed;
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.

Troubled souls, why will you scatter like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander from a love so true and deep?

For the love of God is broader than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.

Sing to the Lord of Harvest VU 519

Sing to the Lord of harvest, sing songs of love and praise, with joyful hearts and voices your hallelujahs raise; by whom the rolling seasons in fruitful order move; sing to the Lord of harvest a joyful song of love.

God makes the clouds drop fatness, the deserts bloom and spring, the hills leap up in gladness, the valleys laugh and sing. God fills them all with fullness, all things with large increase, and crowns the year with goodness, with plenty and with peace.

Bring to this sacred altar all things God's goodness gave, the golden sheaves of harvest, the souls Christ died to save: your hearts lay down before him when at his feet you fall, and with your lives adore him who gave his life for all.