

*Welcome
to Aurora United Church
...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.*



*Thanksgiving Sunday
October 10, 2021*

*God of the seasons, you surround us with beauty and wonder; you smile in the ripening fruit, you dance in the tumbling leaves. Teach us to dance with you, to act justly, and to share fairly, to love you in friend and stranger all the moments of our nights and days.
(Acorns and Archangels, Ruth Burgess)*

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE A Harvest of Thanksgiving (Atascadero United Methodist Church) YouTube

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *Lighting of the Christ Candle*

Acknowledgment of Territory/Candle of Remembrance-Every Child Matters

As we come into worship today, we acknowledge that we reside and worship on the traditional lands of the people of the Chippewas of Georgina Island First Nation... and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.



CALL TO WORSHIP The Stewart Family

We gather today to celebrate
Thanksgiving!

**We are surrounded in this season
of plenty, by the bounty of the earth.**

We gather with hearts filled with gratitude
as our senses take in all that we have received:
**the warm, virtual embrace of our church family;
the sight of produce fresh from garden,
orchard and field;
the aroma of Thanksgiving dinner and fresh
baked pumpkin and apple pie;
the sound of wild geese overhead,
the crunch of leaves beneath our feet;
and the love of friends and family.**

For bountiful blessings,
in praise and thanksgiving:

let us worship God!

(P.Hobbs. St. Andrew's U.C., Peterborough, Ont. Adapted)

HYMN Come, You Thankful People, Come *(H.Alford/G.J.Elvey) 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 our 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.

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

As harvest-time returns, Creator God, the varied ways in which you wrap life-giving seeds make for a colourful display of fruit and flowers of every kind-- beauty of pattern and design. This is a feast for all of us to share, filling our hearts with gratitude for your persistent love and care. So when we eat the fruit and sow the seeds in partnership with you, you feed us with delicious food, renewing body, mind and spirit, blessing us in many ways. As we enjoy the company of family and friends in this time of Thanksgiving, inspire us to expand the circle of our faith community in new and creative ways, expanding the boundaries we have known in the past. God in community, Holy in One, we pray in thanksgiving. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

God encourages our growth, in giving.
Thanks be to God!

THEME STORY Gratitude *(by Meir Kay)* *YouTube*

(Practicing gratitude/thanksgiving and implementing it in our lives through prayer, lists, sharing, is a major part in realizing the good we have already—right now, in our lives!)

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE 1 Timothy 2:1-7 (Offer prayers for everyone.) NRSV Bill Newman

²First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

GIFT OF MUSIC Thanksgiving Song (*Mary Chapin Carpenter*) David Pilkey/Steve Falk

GOSPEL Matthew 6:25-33 (Do not worry about what you will eat or drink.) NRSV

²⁵“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³²For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. ³³But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Harvesting Hope in a Time of Thanksgiving

HYMN Creator God You Gave Us Life (*J.Snowdon*) 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.

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

In every flower and every tree, we see your great
diversity, yet greater still we see your love,
expressed in our humanity.

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

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

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

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

A Statement about the gifts we bring in worship for the life of the church....

OFFERTORY PRAYER

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN For the Fruit of All Creation (*F.P.Green/Welsh Folk Melody*) VU 227

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our world-wide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

The God of seed and harvest blesses us—
and we bless each other;
that the beauty of this world
and the love that created it
might be expressed through our lives
now and always.

And now, may the blessing of God, giver of every good and perfect gift;
the blessing of Christ, the Redeemer of the lost and broken;
the blessing of the Holy Spirit, God's presence in our lives,
be with each one of us and all whom we love and serve. Amen.

POSTLUDE Harvest Moon (*Neil Young*) Steve Falk/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.



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Participating in Worship today...

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar, Bill Newman,
Chris, Dorie, Abby, Graham, Sophie Stewart and Sherlock, Steve Falk, David Pilkey

With thanks to... Noah Comar, videographer, and to Bob Kyriakides, video editor...and to all who are filming at home in order to participate in worship in some way! ☺

The hymn recordings today are from...

Sing Hallelujah! Volume 1 (produced by Ralph Milton, The United Church of Canada, 2015), and *More Voices: Audio CD* (The United Church of Canada, 2007)

