

# *Welcome to Aurora United Church*

*...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.*



## *Epiphany 3*

*Week of Prayer for Christian Unity*

*January 23, 2022*

*We sing of a church seeking to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ's presence in the world. We are called together by Christ as a community of broken but hopeful believers, loving what he loved, living what he taught, striving to be faithful servants of God in our time and space. (A Song of Faith. U.C.C. 2006)*

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Watch the Clouds (*Mychael Danna*) Margaret Heney

**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** Frank Pulumbarit & Lara deWaal

God's people have gathered for worship-  
virtually, yet connected still,

**and God is with us.**

Strangers and friends,  
familiar and new,  
yet one in God's love,

**and God is with us.**

Feeling lost and hopeless,  
feeling found and thankful,

**and God is with us.**

No matter where we've been  
or where we're bound,

**God is with us.**

**We come in gratitude and hope.**

**Let us worship!**

(B.Root, adapted, Peterborough)

**HYMN** O God beyond All Praising (*M.Perry/G.T.Holst*) VU 256

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,  
at blessings without number and mercies without end:  
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,  
we honour and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

The flower of earthly splendour in time must surely die,  
its fragile bloom surrender to you our God most high;  
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown,  
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:  
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,  
and we through him are given the final victory.

Then, hear O gracious Saviour, this song of praise we sing.  
May we, who know your favour, our humble service bring;  
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,  
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:  
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,  
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

#### ***PRAYER FOR RENEWAL***

**In these opening weeks of a new year, and in honouring of another Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we admit to you, O God, the limited ways in which we understand our faith, yet we are aware of the mission of your church and we are free to articulate what we believe. We often are uncertain as to how to speak about what is important. When others are ready to hear a message of hope, faith, and love, we may find ourselves remaining silent. Help us to voice our beliefs, each in our own way, and provide us with courage to do what needs to be done in a world where wars never cease, hope is often lost, and pain is evident everywhere. When we fail to be all that we can be, Loving God, give us reason to begin anew. God in community-Holy in One, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

#### ***WORDS OF GRACE***

God seeks us out and finds us in our need.  
**Thanks be to God!**

***THEME STORY***      The Church: One Body with Many Parts (LifeKids) YouTube

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a (Now you are the body of Christ.) Pat Innes

<sup>12</sup>For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup>For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. <sup>14</sup>Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup>If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup>And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup>If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup>But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup>If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup>As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup>The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” <sup>22</sup>On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup>and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup>whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup>that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup>If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup>Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup>And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup>Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup>But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

**GIFT OF MUSIC** The People Who Walked in Darkness (*G.F. Handel*) Bob McRoberts

**GOSPEL** Luke 4:14-21 ('The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.')

<sup>14</sup>Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup>He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. <sup>16</sup>When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup>and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: <sup>18</sup>"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, <sup>19</sup>to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." <sup>20</sup>And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup>Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

*Come to the quiet...a time for reflection*

**SERMON** Today

**HYMN** I Am a Child of God (*Cheryl & Bruce Harding*) MV 157

I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God's new creation.  
I am a child of God, I am a child of God.

I am an endless prayer, I am a yearning for contemplation,  
I am an endless prayer, I am an endless prayer.

I am an angry voice, I am compassion and consternation,  
I am an angry voice, I am an angry voice.

I am a cry for peace, I am commitment and dedication,  
I am a cry for peace, I am a cry for peace.

I am a song of joy, I am the moment of jubilation,  
I am a song of joy, I am a song of joy.

**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** Though Ancient Walls (*W.Farquharson/R.Klusmeier*) VU 691

Though ancient walls may still stand proud and racial strife be fact,  
though boundaries may be lines of hate, proclaim God's saving act!  
*Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!*  
*Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!*

When vested power stands firm entrenched and breaks another's back,  
when waste and want live side by side, it's Gospel that we lack.  
*Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!*  
*Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!*

The truth we seek in varied scheme, the life that we pursue,  
unites us in a common quest for self and world made new.  
*Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!*  
*Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!*

The church divided seeks that grace, that newness we proclaim;  
a unity of serving love that lives praise to God's name!  
*Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!*  
*Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!*

This broken world seeks lasting health and vital unity.  
God's people by God's Word renewed, cast off all slavery!  
*Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!*  
*Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!*

**COMMISSIONING & BLESSING**

May the companionship of God  
shape us into community;  
**embracing each other and the world  
with compassion.**

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**     Returning Home a Different Way (*Bruce Harding*) Margaret Heney



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are on traditional Territories of Indigenous Peoples.



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***Participating in Worship today...***Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar,  
Margaret Heney, Frank Pulumbarit, Lara deWaal, Pat Innes, Bob McRoberts

***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! ☺

***Images used in worship video...***

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*More Voices: Audio CD* (The United Church of Canada, 2007), *Sing Hallelujah! Volume 5* (produced by Ralph Milton, The United Church of Canada, 2015) and Youtube.

*O God, Beyond All Praising* - Peninsula United Church, Surrey BC. December 31, 2020. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A-718074 and CCLI Licenses #20425240 and #20425257.

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*The Church: One Body with Many Parts*. LifeKids. November 30, 2020.