

Welcome to Aurora United Church

...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.



Epiphany 4

January 30, 2022

To point to the presence of the holy in the world, the church receives, consecrates and shares visible signs of the grace of God. In company with the churches of the Reformed and Methodist traditions, we celebrate two sacraments as gifts of Christ: baptism and holy communion. In these sacraments the ordinary things of life—water, bread, wine—point beyond themselves to God and God's love, teaching us to be alert to the sacred in the midst of life.

(The Song of Faith. UCC 2006)

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Prelude in B Minor, Op 28, No.6 (*F.Chopin*) 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 Steve Falk/Jane Taylor

Gather us in, O God,
the lost and the lonely,
the broken and the breaking,
the tired and the aching
who long for nourishment
found at your feast.
Gather us in,
the done and the doubting,
the wishing and the wondering,
the puzzled and pondering
who long for the unity found
at your feast.
Gather us in
to meet, to eat,
be given a seat,
be joined at the vine,
be offered new wine,
become like the least,
be found at the feast.
Gather us in!

HYMN Come, Let Us Sing (*J.Strathdee*) VU 222

Come, let us sing to the Lord our song,
we have stood silently too long;
surely the Lord deserves our praise,
so joyfully thank God for our days.

O thirsty soul, come drink at the well;
God's living waters will never fail.
Surely the Lord will help you to stand,
strengthened and comforted by God's hand.

You dwell among us and cause us to pray,
and walk with each other following your way;
our precious brothers and sisters will grow
in the fulfilling love they know.

Desserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing
to the desire of all living things.
Come, all you creatures, high and low,
let your praises endlessly flow.

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

**God of mystery, we confess we love easy answers more than deep questions.
We attempt to explain away miracles, disarm the Good News and domesticate
your wild ways. Teach us to love the questions, O God. Teach us to struggle in
creative ways to discover the way of faith for each of us. Help us to discern how
our gifts may be shared and used to realize your kingdom in our midst. Teach
us to live with your holy mysteries as companions on the Way. God in community,
Holy in One, we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

God works with and within us,
Renewing our world and our relationships.
Thanks be to God!

THEME STORY Gratitude (*Brother David Steindl-Rast*) YouTube

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Love is patient and kind.) Joyce Hagarty

¹If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. ⁴Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant ⁵or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; ⁶it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. ⁷It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. ⁸Love never ends. But as for prophecies, they will come to an end; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will come to an end. ⁹For we know only in part, and we prophesy only in part; ¹⁰but when the complete comes, the partial will come to an end. ¹¹When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became an adult, I put an end to childish ways. ¹²For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. ¹³And now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love.

GIFT OF MUSIC Know My Heart (*B.Harlin*) AUC Chancel Choir, Feb 11/18

GOSPEL Luke 4:21-30 (Jesus is driven out of Nazareth.) NRSV

²¹Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²²All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, "Is not this Joseph's son?" ²³He said to them, "Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, 'Doctor, cure yourself!' And you will say, 'Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.'" ²⁴And he said, "Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's hometown. ²⁵But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land; ²⁶yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon. ²⁷There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸When they heard this, all in the synagogue were filled with rage. ²⁹They got up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town was built, so that they might hurl him off the cliff. ³⁰But he passed through the midst of them and went on his way.

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Love as a Verb

HYMN Bread of Life, Feed My Soul (*S.Spencer*) MV 194

Bread of life, feed my soul,
as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart
with the grace and mercy you impart.
I have heard your voice calling,
'Come, my friend, and share
in the feast that is laid out for you
to show how much I care.'

Bread of life, help me live
a life as pure and true as Jesus did.
Bread of life, help me see
the boundless love of Christ for you and me.
I have heard your voice calling,
'Come, my friend, and share
in the feast that is laid out for you
to show how much I care.'

Bread of life, feed my soul,
as the presence of the Spirit makes me whole.
Bread of life, fill my heart
with the grace and mercy you impart

SHARING GOD'S LOVE

THE NEW CREED VU p. 918 (*The United Church of Canada, General Council 1968,alt.*)

Ringers: Joanne Banfill, Nancy Birtch, Joyce Hagarty, Pat Innes, Lisa Kyriakides, Carol Lever, Sue Linley, John Malarczyk, Mackenzie Malarczyk, Laura Wells

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you!

And also with you!

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

OFFERTORY PRAYER

THE SACRAMENT OF COMMUNION

The Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

God is the heart of life.

And we are the heartbeat.

May your hearts be filled with thanks and praise,
and songs of joy.

**We rejoice in the miracle of life
and delight in our participation.**

We give thanks and praise for all that is good in the world: for the love we experience in God, Creator of heaven and earth and all that is; for the love we have found in Jesus—messenger of peace, justice and inclusiveness that is the realm of God. For the renewing strength and freedom of the Spirit always present in the breath of life.

**We give thanks for the love, peace, justice, prosperity, strength
and freedom, and for the presence of God in the midst of life.**

God of winter, we praise you.

God of mystery, wind and storm, we praise you.

So we join our celebration to the adoration of all your people,
in heaven and earth, singing...

***O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space,
All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!***
(MV 203)

We remember the time when Jesus faced difficult decisions and destructive forces. He prayed that your will might be done in all of life's winter trials. When we too experience the winter of our soul may we find the courage to let go and trust in your guiding, warming light.

Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen, Christ will come again!
(MV 204)

We remember Jesus has shown us that life is stronger than death.
And as we eat together at this table we remember the words and actions of that meal... *Words of institution*

On the night in which he was betrayed, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks, he broke the bread, gave it to his friends saying, 'This is my body broken for you-do this in remembrance of me.' In the same way, after supper Jesus took a cup of wine, and after giving the traditional blessing over the cup, he shared it with his friends and said to them: 'Drink of this-the true vine. Remember me, for this is my blood shed for you.'

May we share new life through this holy meal. Bless its nourishment to our bodies and Your body, the Church.
**God of all seasons, renewing hope and the roots of life,
blessed is your recreating Spirit.**

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen. (MV 205)

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

SHARING THE FEAST

Communion in this time of pandemic will reflect our households as we bring to our worship spaces the things which speak to our lives...bread/wine, bread/juice; pita, rice cracker or otherwise...In response to the invitations: 'Jesus Christ, bread of heaven' and 'Jesus Christ, cup of salvation'...take your elements each in their turn, knowing you reside in the embrace of a broad faith community, tied to one another in the Spirit of God made known in Jesus. We are not alone.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May we become what we have shared this day: bread and wine for a hungry world; a blessing to those whose hearts are empty; a light in the darkness. Amen.

HYMN O for a World (*Miriam T. Winter/C.G.Glaser*) VU 697

O for a world where everyone
respects each other's ways,
where love is lived and all is done
with justice and with praise.

O for a world where goods are shared
and misery relieved, where truth is spoken,
children spared, equality achieved.

We welcome one world family
and struggle with each choice that opens
us to unity and gives our vision voice.

The poor are rich, the weak are strong,
the foolish ones are wise. Tell all who mourn:
outcasts belong, who perishes will rise.

O for a world preparing for God' glorious
reign of peace, where time and tears will be
no more, and all but love will cease.

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

Whatever we have received in this time of worship;
**forgiveness, encouragement, hope, support, love,
grace, joy...**

With the example of Christ before us—
let us share it with the world.

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 Trumpet Tune (*N. Warren*) Margaret Heney



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,
Margaret Heney, Steve Falk, Jane Taylor, Joyce Hagarty, AUC Chancel Choir.

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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The hymn recordings today are from...

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

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Bread of Life – St. Paul’s United Church Choir, Riverview, NB. Brenda Barnes, director. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A-718074.

O For a World – Grosse Pointe Memorial Church Choir, Michigan, James Biery, organist. October 10, 2020. Copyright 1990 Medical Mission Sisters; music AZMON arranged by James Biery. Used with permission.

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Know My Heart (Benjamin Harlan) – AUC Chancel Choir. February 11, 2018. Podcast with permission under CCLI Licenses #20425240 and #20425257.

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