

Welcome to Aurora United Church

...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.



Epiphany 6

Honouring Black History Month

February 13, 2022

*Your ordinary acts of love and hope point to the extraordinary promise
that every human life is of inestimable value.*

The Most Rev. Desmond Tutu

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE 'Tis So Sweet To Trust in Jesus (*arr. John M. Rasley*) Tim Birtch, trumpet,
Margaret Heney, piano

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 Carmen Harany/Nelly Lopez

Blessed are those who trust - in God!
We come in trust,
to be grounded in God's love.
Blessed are those who hope - in God!
We come in hope, trusting in the One
who gives us life.
Blessed are those who delight - in God's Word!
We come to hear God speak,
hoping for healing and joy.
Let us worship!

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.*

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Today in our worship, we recognize people of African descent and lament anti-Black racism and violence. We pray that God's Spirit will reorient us: challenging us to live by grace rather than entitlement; expecting us to be a blessing to the earth. We pray that by acknowledging our brokenness, we will be closer to becoming a church where the good news is lived out: faith nurtured and hearts comforted, gifts shared for the good of all, resistance to the forces that exploit and marginalize, fierce love in the face of violence, human dignity defended, members of a community held and inspired by God. May we witness to your love and grace.

Amen. *(Black History Month resources-UCC)*

WORDS OF GRACE

God invites our response to a world in need.
Thanks be to God!

THEME STORY Blest Are They - the Beatitudes *(Music-D. Haas) YouTube*

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Jeremiah 17:5-10 (Those who trust in God are like trees planted by water.)
Lisa Kyriakides

⁵Thus says the LORD: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the LORD. ⁶They shall be like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. ⁷Blessed are those who trust in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. ⁸They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. ⁹The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse— who can understand it? ¹⁰I the LORD test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

GIFT OF MUSIC My Lord, What a Morning (*Trad.spiritual-arr.D. Marlatt*)
Tim Birtch, trumpet, Margaret Heney, piano

GOSPEL Luke 6:17-26 (Blessings and woes-the Beatitudes.) NRSV

¹⁷He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. ¹⁸They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. ¹⁹And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them. ²⁰Then he looked up at his disciples and said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. ²¹“Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. “Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. ²²“Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. ²³Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets. ²⁴“But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. ²⁵“Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. “Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. ²⁶“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Ubuntu

HYMN Blest Are They (D. Haas) VU 896

Blest are they, the poor in spirit, theirs is the kingdom of God.
Blest are they, full of sorrow, they shall be consoled.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, the lowly ones, they shall inherit the earth.
Blest are they who hunger and thirst, they shall have their fill.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they, who show mercy, mercy shall be theirs.
Blest are they, the pure of heart, they shall see God.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.

Blest are they who seek peace, they are the children of God.
Blest are they who suffer in faith, the glory of God is theirs.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.

Blest are you who suffer hate, all because of me.
Rejoice and be glad yours is the kingdom shine for all to see.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God.
Rejoice and be glad! Blessed are you, holy are you!
Rejoice and be glad! Yours is the kingdom of God

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 As a Fire Is Meant for Burning (*R.Duck/M.Haugen*) VU 578

As a fire is meant for burning with a bright and warming flame,
so the church is meant for mission, giving glory to God's name.
Not to preach our creeds or customs, but to build a bridge of care,
we join hands across the nations, finding neighbours everywhere.

We are learners; we are teachers; we are pilgrims on the way.
We are seekers; we are givers; we are vessels made of clay.
By our gentle, loving actions, we would show that Christ is light.
In a humble, listening Spirit, we would live to God's delight.

As a green bud in the spring-time is a sign of life renewed,
so may we be signs of oneness mid earth's people many-hued.
As a rainbow lights the heavens when a storm is past and gone,
may our lives reflect the radiance of God's new and glorious dawn.

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

May we go forward today as members of God's family.

**May our roots grow deep that we may both receive
and give life to all.**

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 Prelude to Te Deum (*Marc-Antoine Charpentier, arr.S.L. Gover*)
Tim Birtch, trumpet/Margaret Heney, piano



The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast
are on traditional Territories of Indigenous Peoples.



Participating in Worship today... Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar, Margaret Heney, Carmen Harany, Nelly Lopez, Lisa Kyriakides, and Tim Birtch.

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) and YouTube.

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Prelude to Te Deum by Marc-Antoine Charpentier (1634-1704) was arranged and edited by Stephen L. Glover and published by The Brad Press in 1984. Margaret Heney & Tim Birtch.

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