

# ***Welcome to Aurora United Church***

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



## ***Epiphany 7***

### ***Honouring Black History Month***

***February 20, 2022***

*'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you,  
pray for those who abuse you. (Lk 6:27-28)*

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Nocturne in F Minor, Opus 55, No. 1 (*Frederic 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**

We come,  
those who seek to trust in God.

**We commit ourselves  
to do as Jesus would do for those around us.**

We come,  
delighting in all the wonders God provides for us.

**We would not worry,  
but open ourselves to God's heart.**

We come,  
waiting patiently for God to speak.

**We will be still,  
listening for God's words of hope, of peace.**

Let us worship! (T. Thurman, Lectionary Liturgies, 2022)

**HYMN** Come and Find the Quiet Centre (*S.E.Murray/B.F.White*) VU 374

Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:  
clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see  
all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,  
God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face,  
making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,  
raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:  
there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

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

**Creator God, in worship we come to sing your praise, to seek your help, to learn your ways. Help us to open our minds to all you are: you contain all genders, all melodies, all colours, all languages. Our limited human understanding seeks to name who you are and how you are, and all our words and all our images fall short. Keep us mindful, loving God, that while our language may fall short, your patience is endless. Welcoming, embracing God, we come. Release the tightness in our chests—open our hearts and minds to you. God in Community-Holy in One, we pray. Amen.**

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

God's love embraces us; body, mind, and spirit.  
**Thanks be to God!**

***THEME STORY***      A Family is a Family is a Family (Sara O'Leary/Qin Leng) YouTube  
Stories With Sue

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 37 (Do not fret - trust in God,) VU p.763  
Paula Hanna

Do not fret because of the wicked, or envy those who do evil.

**For they soon wither like grass and fade away  
like the green leaf.**

Trust in God and do good;

**dwelling in the land and there find safe pasture.**

Find your delight in God,

**who will grant the desires of your heart.**

God will make your vindication shine like the light,

**the justice of your cause like the noonday sun.**

Be still before God and wait patiently;

**do not fret because some prosper in evil schemes.**

Let go of anger and abandon wrath.

**Do not fret –it can only do harm.**

Those who do evil shall be cut off,

**but those who look to God shall inherit the earth.**

In a little while the wicked will be no more;

**you will look where they were and their place  
will be empty.**

But the meek shall inherit the earth;

**they shall enjoy fullness of peace.**

Salvation for the righteous comes from God,  
their refuge in time of trouble.

**God helps and delivers,**

**and rescues from the wicked those who seek shelter. Amen.**

**GIFT OF MUSIC** Sweet Hour of Prayer (arr. Kevin McChesney)  
EmBellished Handbell Ensemble

**GOSPEL** Luke 6:27-38 (Love your enemies, be merciful.) NRSV

<sup>27</sup>“But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup>bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup>If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup>Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup>Do to others as you would have them do to you. <sup>32</sup>“If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup>If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup>If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup>But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup>Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup>“Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup>give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back.”

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

**SERMON** the Measure of Things

**HYMN** Love is the Touch (A.Robertson/J.L.Bell) MV 89

Love is the touch of intangible joy;  
love is the force that no fear can destroy;  
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;  
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;  
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;  
love is the will to be whole once again;  
love is the trust of a friend on the road:  
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;  
love is the kingdom their will has begun;  
love is the path which the saints all have trod:  
God is where love is, for love is 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** Great Is Thy Faithfulness (*T.Chisolm/W.Runyan*) VU 288

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;  
as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.  
*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!*  
*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*  
*all I have needed thy hand hath provided—*  
*great is thy faithfulness, every to me!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
join with all nature in manifold witness  
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.  
*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!*  
*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*  
*all I have needed thy hand hath provided—*  
*great is thy faithfulness, every to me!*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow—  
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.  
*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!*  
*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*  
*all I have needed thy hand hath provided—*  
*great is thy faithfulness, every to me!*

### **COMMISSIONING & BLESSING**

Bless to us, O God,  
**the sun that is above us,**  
the earth that is beneath us,  
**the friends who are around us,**  
**your image deep within us.**

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** All Things Work Together for Good (*John Carter*) Margaret Heney  
Yvonne Speck, Janice Nolan, Colleen Abbott, Peter Zsebik, Bob McRoberts



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, Paula Hanna, EmBellished Handbell Ensemble, Yvonne Speck,  
Janice Nolan, Colleen Abbott, Peter Zsebik, Bob McRoberts.

***With thanks to...*** Noah Comar, videographer, and to Bob Kyriakides, video editor... and to all who are filming at home 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.

*Come and Find the Quiet Centre* - B. J. Collins, 70 times 7 band. July 31, 2020.

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*Love is the Touch* – More Voices Festival, St. Andrew's United Church, Cochrane, Alberta. November 10, 2006. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A-718074.

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness* – Pendleton Corps. The Salvation Army. September 13, 2017.

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*A Family is a Family is a Family*. Storytime with Suzanne. June 21, 2020.