

# *Welcome to Aurora United Church*

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



## *Lent 1*

*Practice Gratitude*

*March 6, 2022*

*We sing of Jesus, a Jew, born to a woman in poverty in a time of social upheaval and political oppression. He knew human joy and sorrow. So filled with the Holy Spirit was he that in him people experienced the presence of God among them. We sing praise to God incarnate. (A Song of Faith: UCC Statement of Faith, 2006)*

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Ladies in Lavender (*Nigel Hess*) Wesley Bells, violin

**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** Bruce & Holly Williamson

As we travel this Lenten pathway,  
we journey together, a community of faith.

**As we travel this Way of Jesus,  
we journey together, but also alone.**

Practising our faith:

**living Christ's call  
to love God with all that we are,  
to love our neighbour  
as we love ourselves.**

Practising our faith in gratitude,  
**as stewards on the Way.**

*(Richard Bott, adapted)*

**HYMN** Soil of God, You and I (*Hannah/Melhorn*) MV 174

Soil of God, you and I, stand ready to bear  
seeds of faith nourished by God's tender care.  
Growing in everyone for here God is found.  
All stand together, we are...Holy ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now ready to be  
part of God's promise for others to see.  
Open to everyone for here God is found.  
All stand together, we are...Holy ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now called to rebirth,  
joining as partners with all of the earth.  
Living in harmony for here God is found.  
All stand together, this is...Holy ground.

***LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY*** Jen, Damien, Sabrina & Alex Hanna

It is the season of Lent. As we begin our Lenten journey with Jesus,  
we give thanks for his life and example.

*(one purple candle is extinguished.)*

*Let us pray...*

**God of all time, thank you for this special time of Lent.  
Help us to receive the spiritual abundance you offer as we walk  
with Jesus along the path of sorrows and blessings. Amen.**

***SUNG RESPONSE*** Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (*M.Haugen*) VU 121

**From the dawning of creation,  
you have loved us as your own;  
stay with us through all temptation,  
make us turn to you alone,  
make us turn to you alone.**

***THEME STORY*** The Temptation of Jesus (Saddleback Kids) YouTube

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** Romans 10:8b-13 (Declare with your mouth; believe with your heart.)

Brian Walter

<sup>8</sup>But what does it say? “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup>because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup>For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup>The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” <sup>12</sup>For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup>For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

**GIFT OF MUSIC** On Eagle’s Wings (*M.Joncas/arr. M.Hayes*) AUC Chancel Choir Nonet: Doreen Hiltz, Laurie Bentolila, Barb Balfour, Kathie Blackman, Dawn Horstead, Craig Arnold, Dave Summerfeldt, Bob McRoberts, Charles Truax

**GOSPEL** Luke 4:1-13 (Jesus tested in the desert.) NRSV

<sup>4</sup>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” <sup>5</sup>Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” <sup>9</sup>Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup>for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ <sup>11</sup>and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” <sup>12</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” <sup>13</sup>When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

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

**SERMON** We Are All Ukraine-A Time of Wilderness

**HYMN** When We Are Tested (*R.Duck/M.E.Byron*) MV 65, Tune: VU 642

When we are tested and wrestle alone,  
famished for bread when the world offers stone,  
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,  
food that sustains us by night and by day.

When in the desert we cry for relief,  
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,  
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,  
trusting your presence, our only true rest.

When we are tempted to barter our souls,  
trading the truth for the pow'r to control,  
teach us to worship and praise only you,  
seeking your will in the work that we do.

When we have struggled and searched through the night,  
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,  
Saviour, surround us with circles of care,  
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

**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 the Sun with Longer Journey (*J.P. Earls, French Trad.*) VU 111

As the sun with longer journey melts the winter snow and ice,  
with its slowly growing radiance warms the seed beneath the earth,  
may the sun of Christ's uprising gently bring our hearts to life.

Through the days of waiting, watching in the desert of our sin,  
searching on the far horizon for a sign of cloud or wind,  
we await the healing waters of our Saviour's victory.

Praise be given to the Maker of the season's yearly round:  
to the Speaker through the Spoken in their living Breath of love  
as the ever turning seasons roll to their eternal rest.

**COMMISSIONING**

And now, may God give us strength for the journey;  
**may Christ give us direction for our lives;**  
and may the Spirit give us hope in abundance  
for the days ahead.

**SUNG BLESSING** Go and Tell the World (*B. Wren*)

**Go and tell the world how Jesus lived and died.  
Go and show the love of Christ, the crucified.  
Many have not heard the liberating word,  
then go, and tell, and show how God is glorified.**

**POSTLUDE** Sonata in C Major, L. 104, K. 159 (*Domenico Scarlatti*) 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, Wesley Bells, AUC Chancel Choir Nonet: Doreen Hiltz, Laurie Bentolila, Barb Balfour, Kathie Blackman, Dawn Horstead, Craig Arnold, Dave Summerfeldt, Bob McRoberts, Charles Truax; Jen, Damien, Sabrina & Alex Hanna, Bruce & Holly Williamson and Brian Walter.

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Sonata in C Major, L. 104, K. 159 (Domenico Scarlatti). Margaret Heney.

The Temptation of Jesus. Saddleback Kids. February 8, 2016.