

Welcome to Aurora United Church

...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.



Protesters at the Tha Phae Gate in Chiang Mai, Thailand (Photo by Olga Leskiew)

Lent 2

Ritual of Promise

March 13, 2022

*If you have ever loved someone you could not protect, then you understand Jesus' lament.
All you can do is open your arms. You cannot make someone walk into them.
Meanwhile, this is the most vulnerable posture in the world—wings spread,
Breast exposed—but if you mean what you say, this is how you stand.
(Barbara Brown Taylor)*

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE *Arioso (J.S. Bach, arr. Sam Franko) 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

In covenant with God...

we are made new.

In the newness God brings...

we are renamed.

In God's gift of a new name...

we are known--by each other and by God.

And in the knowing...

we are God's people.

No matter what stands in our path.

No matter how we turn away.

No matter how we get lost—

we are God's people in Christ.

In newness, in remembrance, in celebration...

let us worship God!

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.

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY Margaret, Myles & Melody Heney

On this second Sunday of Lent, we remember that God
promised to bless the whole world through Abraham and
Sarah. We come in worship, seeking the fullness of that
blessing through Jesus.

(One purple candle is extinguished.)

Let us pray...

**God of our longing, we give thanks for stories that
encourage us to take the risks that life requires, so that
the blessings of joy and creativity might be nourished
and grow freely among us. Amen.**

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

**In our call to be a blessing,
may we be a blessing true;
may we live and die confessing
Christ as Lord of all we do,
Christ is Lord of all we do.**

THEME STORY Abraham and Sarah (Saddleback Kids) YouTube

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Philippians 3:17-4:1 (My joy and crown.) NRSV Joyce Hagarty

¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself.

⁴Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

GIFT OF MUSIC It is Well With My Soul (arr. Linda Lamb)
EmBellished Handbell Ensemble

GOSPEL Luke 13:31-35 (Jesus cries over Jerusalem as a hen over her chicks.) NRSV

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Open Arms

HYMN Jesus Christ Is Waiting (*J. Bell/Iona Community*) VU 117

Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too. Make me
friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.

Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too. In the
Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too. Let my care
be active, healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,
where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.
Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.
On suspicion's graveyard let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,
'Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet.'
Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few. Walk one
step before me; I will follow you.

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 Deep in Our Hearts (*J.Oldham/R.Klusmeier*) *MV 154*

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.

Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.

Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

COMMISSIONING

From what we know to what we have yet to discover,

God is calling us.

From all that binds us to the truth that sets us free,

God is calling us on.

From the blessings of today,
to the possibilities of tomorrow—

God is calling us on.

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 Prelude and Fugue in C Minor, BWV 847 (*J.S. Bach*) *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, Myles & Melody Heney, Wesley Bells, Joyce Hagarty, EmBellished Handbell Ensemble

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! ☺

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Bulletin Cover – Olga Leskiw

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Arioso (J.S. Bach, arr. Sam Franko). Wesley Bells, violin and Margaret Heney, piano.

It is Well With My Soul (arr. Linda Lamb). EmBellished Handbell Ensemble

Prelude and Fugue in C Minor, BWV 847 (J.S. Bach). Margaret Heney

Abraham and Sarah. Saddleback Kids. August 6, 2015.