

Welcome to Aurora United Church

...uniting hearts and hands on the journey.



Ichthus: Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour

Lent 3

Open Invitation

March 20, 2022

Lead us on our journey from who we are to who you want us to be; so that patience is built into us, kindness is assumed in us, gentleness is part of us, compassion flows from us, truth is second nature to us, and the commitment to love is part of us.

(Ruth Harvey, Iona Community)

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Somewhere in Time (*J. Barry, arr. D. Coates*) 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 Nancy & Emma Kerswill

As long nights give way to light
and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,
we come to worship
to be reminded of God's love for us.
Like the green shoots of renewed life,
stirring beneath the soil,
we welcome an awakening
of God's word in our lives.
Awake to the moving of God's
Spirit in creation in the season of Lent
and in all time,
we bring our care and our love
for the Earth, for its people,
and for one another.
Let us worship!

HYMN God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness (*Farquharson/Taylor*) VU 260

God who gives to life its goodness, God creator of all joy,
God who gives to us our freedom, God who blesses tool
and toy: teach us now to laugh and praise you, deep within
your praises sing, till the whole creation dances for the
goodness of its King.

God who fills the earth with beauty, God who binds each friend to friend, God who names us co-creators God who wills that chaos end: grant us now creative spirits, minds responsive to your mind, hearts and wills your rule extending all our acts by Love refined.

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY Debby Schieck

Where is the time and place to listen for the still, small voice of God?

These Lenten days invite us to go within.
In Lent we journey to the parts of ourselves known only to God.

(One purple candle is extinguished,)

Let us pray...

Draw us together in your love, O God. May we know your presence among us as we mark these Lenten days together. May we know your wisdom in seeking centred, mindful lives, aware of the world around us and the relationships which enrich our lives. Amen.

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

**Living Water of salvation,
Be the fountain of each soul;
Springing up in new creation,
Flow in us and make us whole.
Flow in us and make us whole.**

THEME STORY What Does Peace Mean to You? YouTube
(Emily Hall-for the Peace Assembly at Washington Latin Public Charter School)

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 63 (I long for you, O God.) VU p.781
Noah Comar

You are my God, I long for you from early morning.
My whole being desires you like a dry, worn, waterless land.
My soul thirsts for you.

**In the sanctuary let me see how mighty are your works;
your constant love is better than life itself,
and so I will praise you.**

I will give thanks as long as I live;
I raise my hands in prayer.

**My soul will feast and be filled,
and I will sing and praise you.**

As I lie in bed, I remember you, O God;
I think of you all night long,
for you are my constant help.

**In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.
I cling to you, your hand keeps me safe. Amen.**

GIFT OF MUSIC Psalm 23 (*Srul Irving Glick*) *The Aurora Choralis*

GOSPEL Luke 13:1-9 (The parable of the barren fig tree.) NRSV

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON **Deeper Questions**

HYMN Long Before the Night (This Ancient Love) *C. McDade VU 282*

Long before the night was born from darkness,
long before the dawn rolled unsteady from fire;
long before she wrapped her scarlet arms around the hills,
there was a love, this ancient love, was born.

Long before the grass spotted green the bare hillside,
long before a wing unfolded to wind;
long before she wrapped her long blue arm around the sea,
there was a love, this ancient love, was born.

Long before a chain was forged from the hillside,
long before a voice uttered freedom's cry;
long before she laid her bleeding arms around a child,
there was a love, this ancient love, was born.

Long before the name of God was spoken,
long before a cross was nailed to a tree;
long before she laid her arm of colours 'cross the sky,
there was a love, this ancient love, was born.

Wakeful are our nights and slumbers our morning,
Stubborn is the grass sowing green wounded hills;
as we wrap our healing arms to hold what her arms held,
this ancient love, this aching love, rolls on.

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 My Love Colours Outside the Lines (*G. Light*) MV 138

My love colours outside the lines, exploring paths that few could ever find;
and takes me into places where I've never been before, and opens doors
to worlds outside the lines.

My Lord colours outside the lines, turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
and takes me into places where I've never been before, and open doors
to worlds outside the lines.

*We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown, body and soul
need a soaking from time to time. And we'll never move the gravestones
if we're not prepared to die and realize there are worlds outside the lines.*

My soul longs to colour outside the lines, tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I've never been before, throw open doors
to worlds outside the lines.

*We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown, body and soul
need a soaking from time to time. And we'll never move the gravestones
if we're not prepared to die, and realize there are worlds outside the lines.*

My soul longs to colour outside the lines, tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I've never been before, throw open doors
to worlds outside the lines.

COMMISSIONING

And now, may the God of creation
create in you, new hope for the future.

**May the Christ of the common road
guide your every step.**

May the Spirit of Compassion instill in you
a deep sense of caring for everyone you meet—
**and may we be blessed by the Holy One,
now and always.**

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 G Major, KV 283 (First Movement) (*W.A. Mozart*)



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, Wesley Bells, Nancy & Emma Kerswill, Debby Schieck, Noah Comar,
The Aurora Chorealis.

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! ☺

Image used in worship video...

Bulletin Cover – Lisa Brandel

The hymn recordings today...

God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness – Aurora United Church Chancel Choir. Reprinted
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Long Before the Night (This Ancient Love) – Aurora United Church Chancel Choir. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A-718074.

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Go and Tell the World – Aurora United Church Chancel Choir. Reprinted and podcast with permission under One License #A-718074.

Somewhere in Time (J. Barry, arr. D. Cotes). Wesley Bells, violin and Margaret Heney, piano.

Psalm 23 (Srl Irving Glick). The Aurora Choralis.

Sonata in G Major, KV 283 (First Movement) (W.A. Mozart). Margaret Heney

What Does Peace Mean to You? August 6, 2015.