

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Elegy (Noel Rawsthorne)

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Acknowledgment of Territory/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. Nancy Kerswill*

**OPENING PRAYER**

**INTROIT** God, We Pray at This Beginning

*(Christopher Redmond, Cyril Vincent Taylor)*

**SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM** (insert)

**INTRODUCTION TO A SONG OF FAITH**

**\*HYMN** Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery VU 121

*(insert S1)*

**SONG OF FAITH**

God is Holy Mystery, beyond complete knowledge...  
...God enlivens the universe, guiding all things toward harmony with their Source.

**Grateful for God's loving action,**

**We cannot keep from singing**

With the Church through the ages, we speak of God as one and triune: ...

...the One on whom our hearts rely, the fully shared life at the heart of the universe.

**We witness to Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love.**

**HYMN** The Play of the Godhead MV 43 (insert S1)

God is creative and self-giving, generously moving in all the near and distance corners of the universe. Nothing exists that does not find its source in God. Our first response to God's providence is gratitude.

**We sing thanksgiving.**

Finding ourselves in a world of beauty and mystery, of living things, diverse and interdependent, ...  
...We sing of the Creator, who made humans to live and move and have their being in God.

**\*HYMN** Called by Earth and Sky MV 135 (insert S2)

In and with God, we can direct our lives toward right relationship with each other and with God. We can discover our place as one strand in the web of life. We can grow in wisdom and compassion. We can recognize all people as kin.

**We can accept our mortality and finitude, not as a curse, but as a challenge to make our lives and choices matter.**

**PASSING THE PEACE**

Made in the image of God, we yearn for the fulfillment that is life in God. ...

...the covert despair that lulls many into numb complicity with empires and systems of domination.

**We sing lament and repentance.**

**ANTHEM** Renew Us (Herb Fromback, David Lantz III)

Peter Zsebik electronic wind instrument

Yet evil does not ---cannot--- undermine or overcome the love of God. ....

...to work with God for the healing of the world, that all might have abundant life.

**We sing of grace.**

**\*HYMN** We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky MV143

*(insert S2)*

The fullness of life includes moments of unexpected inspiration and courage lived out, ...

...animating all energy and matter and moving in the human heart.

**We sing of God the Spirit, faithful and untameable, who is creatively and redemptively active in the world.**

The Spirit challenges us to celebrate the holy not only in what is familiar, but also in that which seems foreign. We sing of the Spirit, who speaks our prayers of deepest longing and enfolds our concerns and confessions, transforming us and the world.

**We offer worship as an outpouring of gratitude and awe and a practice of opening ourselves to God's still, small voice of comfort, to God's rushing whirlwind of challenge. Through word, music, art, and sacrament, in community and in solitude, God changes our lives, our relationships, and our world. We sing with trust.**

Scripture is our song for the journey, the living word passed on from generation to generation ...

...all in faithful witness to the One and Triune God, the Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love.

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** Psalm 146

**GOSPEL** Luke 16: 19-31

We find God made know in Jesus of Nazareth, and so we sing of God the Christ, the Holy One embodied. ...  
...that in him people experienced the presence of God among them.

**We sing praise to God incarnate.**

Jesus announced the coming of God’s reign—a commonwealth not of domination...

...turning sorrow into joy, despair into hope.

**We sing of Jesus raised from the dead. We sing hallelujah.**

By becoming flesh in Jesus, God makes all things new. ...

...the transformation of our lives, the Christ.

*\*HYMN The Risen Christ VU 168 (vs 1,2,4) (insert S3)*

We sing of a church seeking to continue the story of Jesus...

...instrument of the loving Spirit of Christ, creation’s mending.

**We sing of God’s mission.**

### **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

*OFFERTORY HYMN The Church of Christ VU 601 in Every Age (vs. 1,3,5) (insert S3)*

### **PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

We are each given particular gifts of the Spirit. For the sake of the world, ...

...teaching us to be alert to the sacred in the midst of life.

**Before conscious thought or action on our part, we are born into the brokenness of this world. Before conscious thought or action on our part, we are surrounded by God’s redeeming love.**

Baptism by water in the name of the Holy Trinity is the means by which we are received, at any age, ...

...for what he did and said, and for the world’s brokenness.

**We taste the mystery of God’s great love for us, and are renewed in faith and hope.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*PRAYER PRELUDE O God We Call VU 411 (insert S4)*

We place our hope in God. We sing of a life beyond life...

...caring for the earth, choosing life.

**Grateful for God’s loving action, we cannot keep from singing. Creating, and seeking relationship, In awe and trust, we witness to Holy Mystery who is Wholly Love, Amen**

*\*HYMN My Live Flows On VU 716 (insert S4)*

### **COMMISSIONING AND BLESSING**

*SUNG BLESSING When You Walk from Here VU 298*

**When you walk from here, when you walk from here, walk with justice, walk with mercy, and with God’s humble care.**

*POSTLUDE Praise Unfolding (Sandra Eithum) Bellissimo Handbell Ensemble*

Today we welcome **Paul Stott**. Paul has been a member of Trinity-St. Paul’s United Church in Toronto for over 70 years. After taking early retirement from a teaching career at Toronto Metropolitan University (formally Ryerson) in 2003, he enrolled at Emmanuel College and obtained a Masters degree in Theology. He has served on committees at all levels of the church including 9 years on General Council Executive. He is a Licenced Lay Worship Leader in Shining Waters Region.

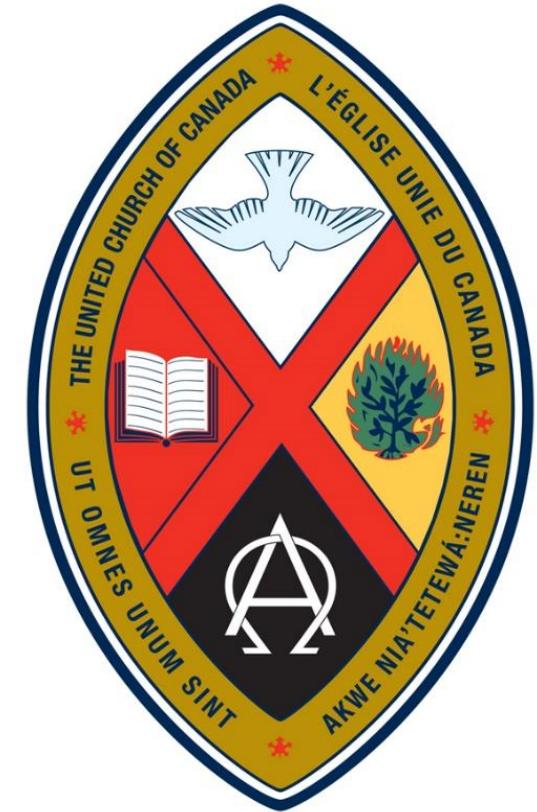


*The United Church of Canada acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast, are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.*

# **AURORA UNITED CHURCH**

**Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar**  
Music Coordinator—Margaret Heney

**Church Office Hours - Monday - Thursday 9am-12pm**  
Church Office 905-727-1935



**September 25, 2022**  
**11:00 AM**

*We sing of a church seeking to continue the story of Jesus by embodying Christ’s presence in the world. (A Song of Faith: A Statement of Faith, UCC)*

**\*HYMN** Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery *VU 121*

Tree of Life and awesome mystery, in your death we are reborn, though you die in all of history, still you rise with every morn, still you rise with every morn.

Seed that dies to rise in glory, may we see ourselves in you, if we learn to live your story we may die to rise anew, we may die to rise anew.

We remember truth once spoken, love passed on through act and word, every person lost and broken wears the body of our Lord, wears the body of our Lord.

Gentle Jesus, mighty Spirit, come inflame our hearts anew, we may all your joy inherit if we bear the cross with you, if we bear the cross with you. Christ, you lead and we shall follow, stumbling though our steps may be, one with you in joy and sorrow, we the river, you the sea, we the river, you the sea.

***HYMN*** *The Play of the Godhead MV 43*

The play of the Godhead, the Trinity's dance, embraces the earth in a sacred romance: with God the Creator, and Christ the true Son, entwined with the Spirit, a web daily spun in spangles of myst'ry the great Three-in-One.

The warm mists of summer, cool waters that flow, turn crystal as ice when the wintry winds blow. The tap-root that nurtures, the shoot growing free, the life-giving fruit, full and ripe on the tree: more mystic and wondrous, the great One-in-Three.

In God's gracious image of co-equal parts, we gather as dancers, uniting our hearts. Men, women, and children,

and all living things, we join in the round of bright nature that rings with rapture and rhythm: Creation now sings!

**\*HYMN** Called by Earth and Sky *MV 135*

**Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high. This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified, called by earth and sky.**

Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean's dream, waters of healing, rivers of rain, the wash of love again. **Refrain**

Precious this gift, the air we breathe; wind born and free. Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place, our gathering and our grace. **Refrain**

Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile land. Seeds of our wakening rooted and strong, Creation's faithful song. **Refrain**

Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day. Fire of passion, sorrows undone, our faith and justice one.

**Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high. This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified, called by earth and sky, called by earth and sky, called by earth and sky.**

**\*HYMN** We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky *MV143*

We cannot own the sunlit sky, the moon, the wildflow'rs growing, for we are part of all that is within life's river flowing. With open hands receive and share the gifts of God's creation, that all may have abundant life in ev'ry earthly nation.

When bodies shiver in the night and weary, wait for morning, when children have no bread but tears, and war-horns sound their warning, God calls humanity to wake, to join in common labour, that all may have abundant life in one-ness with their neighbour.

God calls humanity to join as partners in creating a future free from want or fear, life's goodness celebrating, that new world beckons from afar, invites our shared endeavour, that all may have abundant life and peace endure forever.

**\*HYMN** The Risen Christ *VU 168 (vs 1,2,4)*

The risen Christ, who walks on wounded feet from garden tomb through darkened city street, unlocks the door of grief, despair, and fear, and speaks a word of peace to all who hear.

The risen Christ, who stands with wounded side, breathes out his Spirit on them to abide whose faith still wavers, who dare not believe, new grace, new strength, new purpose they receive.

May we, Christ's body, walk and serve and stand with the oppressed in this and every land, till all are blessed and can a blessing be, restored in Christ to true humanity.

***OFFERTORY HYMN*** *The Church of Christ VU 601*  
(vs. 1,3,5)

The church of Christ in every age, beset by change but Spirit led, must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.

Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.

We have no mission but to serve in full obedience  
to our Lord: to care for all without reserve and  
spread Christ's liberating word.

***HYMN O God We Call VU 411***

O God we call, O God we call,  
from deep inside we yearn,  
from deep inside we yearn,  
from deep inside we yearn for you.

***\*HYMN My Life Flows On VU 716***

My life flows on in endless song, above earth's  
lamentation. I hear the sweet, though far off hymn that  
hails a new creation. Through all the tumult and the strife,  
I hear the music ringing: It finds an echo in my soul - how  
can I keep from singing?

What though my joys and comforts die? My Saviour still  
is living. What though the shadows gather 'round?  
A new song Christ is giving. No storm can shake my  
inmost calm, while to that Rock I'm clinging:  
since Love commands both heaven and earth, how  
can I keep from singing?

When tyrants tremble, sick with fear, and hear their death  
knells ringing: when friends rejoice both far and near,  
how can I keep from singing? In prison cell and dungeon  
vile our thoughts to them are winging: when friends by  
shame are undefiled, how can I keep from singing?

I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin; I see the blue above  
it; and day by day this pathway smooths, since first I  
learned to love it. The peace of Christ makes fresh my  
heart, a fountain ever springing: all things are mine since I  
am Christ's - how can I keep from singing?