

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Autumn— the Four Seasons (*1st Movement*)  
(A.Vivaldi arr. M.Carnelli) Wesley Bells, violin

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**  
**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

*Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters*

**INTROIT** You, God, Are My Firmament  
(Miriam Therese Winter)

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

All creation cries of the coming cold,  
the seasonal change.

**We come, wondering, waiting,  
worrying, wanting.**

Our hearts yearn for deepening faith,  
for widening connections,

**so we come for guidance,  
for understanding,**

**for relationship.**

In the midst of the whirlwind of change,  
God gathers us in loving embrace.

**We come to listen for God’s voice—  
to hear words of welcome, of joy,**

**of anticipation, of community.**

We come separate and singular,  
**but we sing our thanks to God  
as one in Christ. Let us worship!**

**\*HYMN** Come, Let Us Sing VU 222 (pg 8)

**PRAYER FOR RENEWAL**

In a world divided by so many possibilities and perspectives, Creator God, help us to be a place of care and respect for others, even if our ways are strange to each other. May your example, in Jesus, show us how to welcome strangers and bridge divides. May your generous Spirit inspire us to perceive the world as you perceive it: evolving, and opening into a new day of unity, shared concerns, growing and understanding, and wisdom. God in community-Holy in One, we pray. Amen.

**WORDS OF GRACE**

God continually invites us to new visions  
of wholeness.

**Thanks be to God!**

**SUNG RESPONSE** Dance With the Spirit (*J.Strathdee*)

*MV 156* **Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin’,  
walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.  
work and hope for the new life abornin’,  
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.**

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**RESPONSIVE READING** Psalm 63 VU p.781 2nd Ref.

(In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.) (insert pg 7)  
Nancy Kerswill

**ANTHEM** The Time for Turning (*C.Courtney*)

The Aurora Choralis, and Wesley Bells

**GOSPEL** Luke 18:9-14 p.81 *Pew Bible NT*

(The Pharisee and the tax collector go to pray.)

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

**SERMON** The Distance Between Us

**\*HYMN** Spirit, Open My Heart (*Ruth Duck*) MV 79

**Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.**

God, replace my stony heart with a heart that’s kind  
and tender. All my coldness and fear to your grace  
I now surrender. **Spirit, open my heart...**

Write your love upon my heart as my law, my goal,  
my story. In each thought, word, and deed, may my  
living bring you glory. **Spirit, open my heart...**

May I weep with those who weep, share the joy of sister,  
brother. In the welcome of Christ, may we welcome  
one another. **Spirit, open my heart...**

**SHARING GOD’S LOVE**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** Autumn-the Four Seasons (*2nd Movement*)

(A.Vivaldi arr. M.Carelli) Wesley Bells, violin

**\*DEDICATION** Take, O Take Me as I Am (*Belle/Maule*)

*MV 85* **Take, O take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
set your seal upon my heart,  
and live in me. (sing twice)**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER  
PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING**

**PRAYER PRELUDE** Spirit of Life (C.McDade) VU 381

**Spirit of Life, come unto me.**

**Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.**

**Blow in the wind, rise in the sea;**

**move in the hand, giving life the shape of justice.**

**Roots hold me close; wings set me free;**

**Spirit of Life, come to me, come to me.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & LORD'S PRAYER**

**\*HYMN** Dear Weaver of Our Lives' Design VU 623  
(pg 8)

**\* COMMISSIONING**

And now, let us go from this place  
in the power that is love.

**We go together in God's name.**

**\*SUNG BLESSING** Wherever You May Go (MV 216)

**Wherever you may go, I will follow,**

**and your people shall be my people too.**

**Wherever you may go, I will follow,**

**for I would be faithful, loyal and true.**

**POSTLUDE** Autumn-the Four Seasons (3rd Movement)  
(A.Vivaldi arr. M.Carelli) Wesley Bells, violin



MINUTE FOR MISSION

Your Generosity Serves as a Reminder of the  
Loving Spirit of God.

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine began on February 24, Mission & Service partners have been responding to the needs of those impacted by the war. Here's an update about some of the ways your generosity is helping to provide life-saving support through our global partnerships:

- With the freezing cold of winter looming, ACT Alliance (Action by Churches Together) is working hard to ensure that those affected by the conflict have safe, warm, and dignified accommodation. As schools are being used to shelter refugees and internally displaced people, ACT is making certain children can continue to access education.
- In the earliest days of the crisis, one of our partners—Hungarian Interchurch Aid—opened welcome points at borders for those driving and walking across the border and transitioned to support those arriving by train. They have now opened a centralized refugee hub.
- In Poland, our partner the Lutheran World Federation is hosting cash support centres, providing refugee families with money to meet their basic needs.
- Throughout affected regions, Mission & Service partners are helping people access essentials like food, water, and hygiene.

Church leaders are also on the ground providing spiritual comfort. Father Eugen Omu is a Romanian Orthodox priest who is staffing a refugee welcome centre in Sculeni, Romania. "It is important to have priests here," he says. "When someone sees a priest, it reminds them of God and gives them courage to face what is to come."

Our church partners are at the forefront of the emergency response in Ukraine with help from faithful supporters like you.

Your generosity serves as a reminder of the  
loving spirit of God, providing care and  
encouragement when and where it is most needed.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



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

Church Office 905-727-1935  
www.auroraunitedchurch.ca

**AURORA UNITED  
CHURCH**

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



Apple Day—Kyle Munro and sons, Peter & Henry

**PENTECOST 20**  
**October 23, 2022**  
**11:00 AM**

*Thank God for all the seasons with colours rare and  
fine: and pray to God, this beauty might last  
throughout all time. (T.Thorn, Iona.)*

Psalm 63

**R2—My soul is thirsting for you, O God, my God.**

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. R**

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. R**

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. R**



Come, Let Us Sing VU 222

Come, let us sing to the Lord our song, we have stood silently too long;  
surely the Lord deserves our praise, so joyfully thank God for our days.

O thirsty soul, come drink at the well; God's living waters will never fail.  
Surely the Lord will help you to stand, strengthened and comforted  
by God's hand.

You dwell among us and cause us to pray, and walk with each other  
following your way; our precious brothers and sisters will grow in the  
fulfilling love they know.

Deserts shall bloom and mountains shall sing to the desire of all  
living things. Come, all you creatures, high and low, let your  
praises endlessly flow.

Dear Weaver of Our Lives' Design VU 623

Dear weaver of our lives' design whose patterns all obey,  
with skillful fingers gently guide the sturdy threads that will survive  
the tangle of our days, the tangle of our days.

Take up the fabric of our lives with hands that gently hold;  
bind in the ragged edge that care would sunder and that pain would tear,  
and mend our ravelling souls, and mend our ravelling souls.

Let eyes that in the plainest cloth a hidden beauty see  
discern in us our richest hues, show us the patterns we may use  
to set our spirits free, to set our spirits free.

