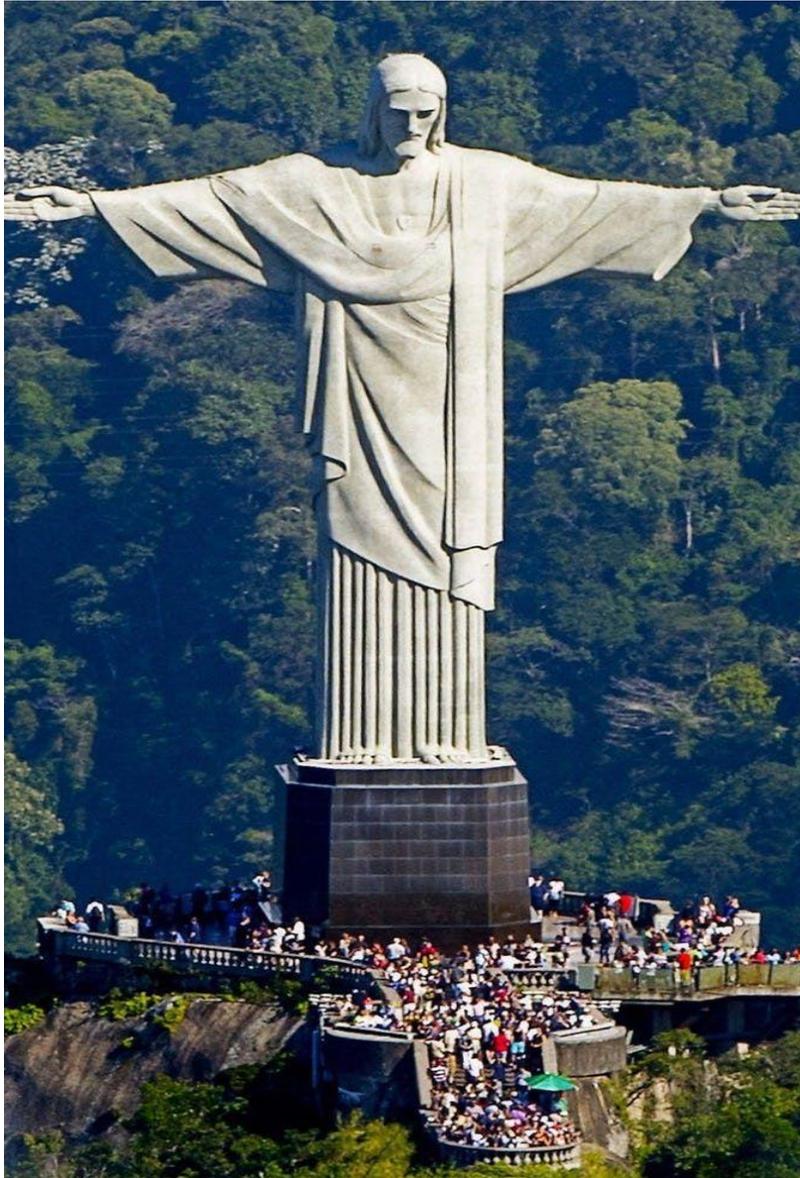


# *Welcome to Aurora United Church*

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



*Sunday, April 19, 2020*

*Easter 2*

*One of the earliest resurrection scenes in the Bible is that of Thomas demanding evidence—he wanted to see, touch, to prove. Those who question and probe and debate are heirs of the apostles just as much as the most fervent of believers. (Jon Meacham)*

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Song Without Words-- Op. 38, No. 6 (Duetto) *Felix Mendelssohn*

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** *Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** The Hanna-Verschelden Family

All of life is a circle;

**sunrise to sunset,**

today and tomorrow.

**birth and death.**

But there is One who, in one timeless moment,  
was made to break that pattern; One who conquered  
death, not only for himself, but for us all.

**Jesus, whom we call the Christ.**

As people of God, as followers of the Christ,  
we are invited into this timeless moment.

**So we come today—separated from one another,**

**but together in the spirit of worship—**

and we worship our God...Alleluia!

**Alleluia!**

**HYMN** Joy Comes with the Dawn (*G.Light*) VU 166

*Joy comes with the dawn; joy comes with the morning sun;  
joy springs from the tomb and scatters the night with her song,  
joy comes with the dawn.*

Weeping may come; weeping may come in the night,  
when dark shadows cloud our sight. *Joy comes with the dawn...*

Sorrow will turn, sorrow will turn into song,  
and God's laughter make us strong. *Joy comes with the dawn...*

We will rejoice, we will rejoice, and give praise,  
to the One who brings us grace. *Joy comes with the dawn...*

***PRAYER FOR RENEWAL***

**God of the empty tomb, the crowded room, the hushed darkness; so often you have made yourself known to us but we have not seen you. We have failed to recognize you in the neighbour who shares our worry, in the stranger who knows our pain, in the outcast who puts a voice and a name to our doubts—in the young child who invites us to see through her eyes—in the stories of our elders who keep the truth before us. Clear our eyes, O God, that we might see the Christ among us. Heal our fear and make us ready to change ourselves in order to change the world. Amen.**

***WORDS OF GRACE***

The stone has been rolled away;  
new life is before us.

**We celebrate God's gift to us—new life in Christ.**

Thanks be to God!

**Thanks be to God!**

***FINDING GOD TOGETHER***

***SCRIPTURE*** 1 Peter 1:3-9 (A new birth into living hope.) NRSV Sarah Huels

<sup>3</sup>Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, <sup>4</sup>and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, <sup>5</sup>who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

<sup>6</sup>In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, <sup>7</sup>so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. <sup>8</sup>Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, <sup>9</sup>for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

***GIFT OF MUSIC*** The People that Walked in Darkness (*G.F.Handel*) Bob McRoberts

**GOSPEL** John 20:19-31 (Thomas struggles to believe that Jesus has risen.) NRSV

Video Clip: The Gospel of John

<sup>19</sup>When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup>After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." <sup>22</sup>When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup>If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." <sup>24</sup>But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup>So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

<sup>26</sup>A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup>Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." <sup>28</sup>Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup>Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe." <sup>30</sup>Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. <sup>31</sup>But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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

**SERMON** Unless I See

**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....*

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.

### **SHARING GOD`S LOVE**

*A Statement about the gifts we bring in worship for the life of the church....*

**OFFERTORY PRAYER  
PRAYER SHAWL BLESSING**

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

**HYMN** Christ Is Alive (B.Wren/T.Williams) VU 158

Christ is alive! Let Christians sing. The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring. Love, drowned in death, shall never die.

Christ is alive! No longer bound to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now, and touching every place and time.

In every insult, rift and war, where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where even hope has died.

Women and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spirit, hear the call,  
and find the way, the life, the truth, revealed in Jesus, freed for all.

Christ is alive, and comes to bring good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring with joy, with justice, love and praise.

***COMMISSIONING & BLESSING***

And now—may Christ who died bless your every day.

**May Christ who was raised inspire us in every way.**

May Christ who lives, live with you today and always.

**We go in the peace of the Risen One!**

May the blessing of God, giver of every good and perfect gift;  
the blessing of Christ, the Redeemer of the lost and broken;  
the blessing of the Holy Spirit, God's presence in our lives,  
be with each one of us and all whom we love and serve. Amen.

***POSTLUDE*** Le Coucou (*Louis-Claude Daquin*)



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, Music Coordinator

The Hanna-Verschelden family: Jennifer, Skyler, Damien, Sabrina & Alexis

Bob McRoberts, Sarah Huels

***With thanks to...*** Bob Kyriakides, worship video editing

Keegan Comar, videographer...and to all who are filming at home in order  
to participate in worship in some way! ☺



