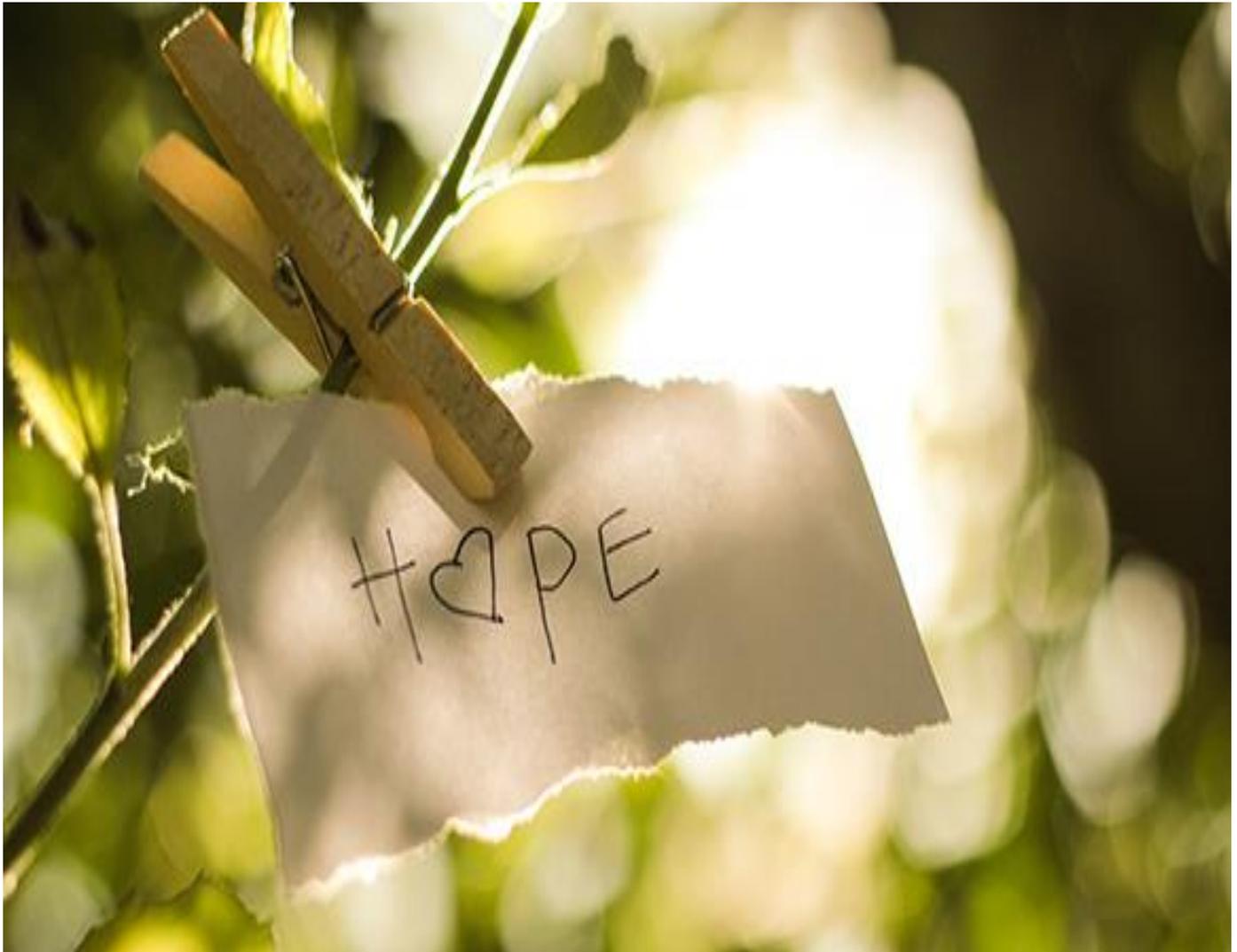


# *Welcome to Aurora United Church*

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



***Sunday, May 3, 2020***

***Fourth Sunday of Easter***

*To me, the trick in life is to take that sense of generosity between kin, make it apply to the extended family and to your neighbour, your village—and beyond. (John Philip Newell)*

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Your Love is Amazing (Hallelujah) (B.Brown/B.Doerksen) Myles and Margaret Heney

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

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

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Margaret, Myles & Melody Heney

Gather us, O God,

**and we will know your life**

**that makes us one no matter where we are.**

Gather us, O God,

**and we will celebrate our variety**

**and uniqueness.**

Gather us, O God,

**and we will give you the pain**

**of our brokenness.**

Gather us, O God

**and we will share the gifts of your Spirit.**

Though we are apart from one another,

you bind us as one—

**so that our brokenness is healed by you;**

**so that our fears are held by you;**

**so that our gifts might be used by you;**

**so that our lives will be shaped by you.**

Children of God, let us come in worship.

**Let us worship!**

**HYMN** O God beyond All Praising *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 splendor 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.

### ***PRAYER FOR RENEWAL***

**When every day seems the same, with no one listening to our dreams, our hopes, our fears, and worries, you pause, Loving God, turning your head so that you can read our lips. When every road seems the same, filled with despair's potholes, littered with pain's remnant, you come alongside us, pointing out that side road that will take us to where there is abundance to be enjoyed. When each step trips us, when every loss weighs us down, when every grief breaks our heart, you come, God our Keeper, with your book of grace filled with easy words and lots of pictures to teach us hope. You walk with us, day to day, talking with us, refusing to abandon us. God in Community, Holy in One-Holy in Three, you lead the way to love—you are love—and we are in you. Amen.** (Lectionary Liturgies, Thom Thurman, adapted)

### ***WORDS OF GRACE***

In hope, we are God's people.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## **FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** Psalm 23 (The Lord is my Shepherd.) KJV Emma Kerswill

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.  
He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:  
he leadeth me beside the still waters.  
He restoreth my soul:  
he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.  
Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,  
I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of my enemies:  
thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

**GIFT OF MUSIC** Panis Angelicus (*Cesar Franck*)  
Elizabeth Kyriakides, trombone & Lisa Kyriakides, piano

**SCRIPTURE** Acts 2:42-47 (The believers share everything in common.) NRSV

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

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

**SERMON** *Life Together*

**HYMN** I Have Called You by Your Name (*D.C.Damon/D.Fines*) MV 161

I have called you by your name, you are mine; I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.  
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true. You are gifted, called and chosen; you are mine.

I will help you learn my name as you go; read it written in my people, help them grow.  
Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim, offer Jesus' body given long ago.

I know you will need my touch as you go; feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.  
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt, hold the hem of Jesus' robe,  
then let it go.

I have given you a name, it is mine; I have given you my Spirit as a sign.  
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole; go and tell my precious  
people they are mine.

**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** I Heard the Voice of Jesus VU 626

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Come unto me and rest; lay down, O weary one,  
lay down your head upon my breast.' I came to Jesus as I was, weary and worn and sad;  
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'Behold, I freely give the living water; thirsty one,  
stoop down, and drink, and live.' I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, 'I am this dark world's light; look unto me, your morn shall rise,  
and all your day be bright.' I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk till travelling days are done.

**COMMISSIONING & BLESSING**

Though set apart from one another,  
**we can still go with God into the world.**  
Separated from one another,  
**We can still go with Jesus to serve others.**  
Distanced and distancing,  
**We can still join the Spirit, offering love.**

And now, 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** Vittoria, Vittoria! (*Giacomo Carissimi/Domenico Benigni*)  
Ocean Yin, baritone & Hector Valls, piano



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  
Myles Heney, Melody Heney, Emma Kerswill, Ocean Yin,  
Elizabeth Kyriakides, Lisa Kyriakides

***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! ☺



