

Welcome to Aurora United Church

...uniting hearts and hands on the journey



Pentecost 4 *June 28, 2020*

*As swimmers dare to lie face to the sky and water bears them,
as hawks rest upon air and air sustains them,
so would I learn to attain free fall, and float into the Creator Spirit's deep embrace,
knowing no effort earns that all-surrounding grace.*

Denise Levertov

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE O Canada (Toronto. Native Canadian Country Song) YouTube

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *Lighting of the Christ Candle*

CALL TO WORSHIP Carmen Harany & Nelly Lopez

This is God's land. From coast to coast;
from the far-off reaches of the north,
to the windswept shores of east and west,
to the border with our southern neighbour,
God is present in this land.

This is our land too.

We are God's people. From First Nations
to recent immigrants; from fifth generation farmers
to the newly arrived dreamer,
God's people surround us.

We are people of this land.

Now is God's time. In summer days much changed
by circumstance, still we dream of retreat and refreshment
as we honour this Sabbath day together.

This is a time to honour God.

Let us give God thanks and praise.

HYMN 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.

Desserts 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.

La, la, la, la.....

Desserts 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.

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

In a world shaped by conflict, where we seem to be slipping back into tribal divisions, you call us to welcome those with whom we have absolutely nothing in common.

In a culture full of inequalities which only seem to be widening, you call us to treat each person as our sister and brother. In a time of intensifying injustices which are found in every community, if not in every neighborhood, you call us to yoke ourselves to your radical hope. In a lifestyle which idolizes the individual to the exclusion of others, you call us to look beyond ourselves—to open ourselves to the lives of others. May we offer not just cups of cold water, but ourselves, to those who are in our midst. God in Community, Holy in One, we pray. Amen. *(Lectionary Liturgies, adapted)*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Broken, we are made whole, thirsty we are filled with living water,
longing for a renewed relationship with God, we are welcomed with open arms.

Thanks be to God!

THEME STORY ‘Piper’ (YouTube)

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm for a Canadian Summer (*based on Psalm 148*) Brian Walter

Praise God from the heavens.

Praise God in the highest heavens.

Praise God, all you angels,
all you who live in God's presence.

Praise God, sun and moon and all you glittering stars.

Praise God above the skies, in the realms beyond our knowledge.

**Praise God for rich earth and all growing things,
for spiders, bees, and all Creation—even blackflies!**

Praise God for campfires, thunder, lightning, and rain;
for sunrises and sunsets and winds that blow at God's command.

Praise God for mountains and prairies, orchards, cities, lakes,
forests and rock.

**Praise God for animals, fish, and birds that fly; for moose,
and deer, bears and racoons, squirrels and chipmunks...
for Canada geese.**

Praise God in the highest heavens.

Praise God for the first caretakers of this land.

Praise God, all who call Canada their home.

Praise be to God!

GIFT OF MUSIC O How I Love Jesus (*Linda Lamb*) EmBellished Handbell Ensemble
Lisa Kyriakides, director

GOSPEL Matthew 10:40-42 (Living the welcome.) NRSV

“Whoever welcomes you welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes the one who sent me. Whoever welcomes a prophet in the name of a prophet will receive a prophet's reward; and whoever welcomes a righteous person in the name of a righteous person will receive the reward of the righteous; and whoever gives even a cup of cold water to one of these little ones in the name of a disciple—truly I tell you, none of these will lose their reward.”

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Opening to the Possibilities

HYMN Creator God You Gave Us Life (J.Snowdon) MV 27

Creator God you gave us life, your image formed within our souls,
yet through the mist of time and space, we search for that which makes us whole.

*Through hands that paint majestic skies, and voices chanting melody,
with words that reach beyond the page, we comprehend your mystery.*

In every flower and every tree, we see your great diversity,
yet greater still we see your love, expressed in our humanity.

*Through hands that paint majestic skies, and voices chanting melody,
with words that reach beyond the page, we comprehend your mystery.*

When with our hearts, our hands and minds, we share our gifts with
all the world, our spirits soar beyond the veil, to touch the very face of God.

*Through hands that paint majestic skies, and voices chanting melody,
with words that reach beyond the page, we comprehend your mystery.*

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 Will You Come and Follow Me VU 567

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?
Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen,
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?"
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

COMMISSIONING & BLESSING

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 you be blessed by the Holy One,
now and always.**

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 Believe (*A.Jones*) Aled Jones YouTube



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
Carmen Harany, Nelly Lopez, Bellissimo Handbell Ensemble,
Brian Walter

With thanks to... Bob Kyriakides, worship video editing
Noah Comar videographer...and to all who are filming at home in order
to participate in worship in some way! ☺

The hymn recordings today are from...

More Voices: Audio CD (The UCC, 2007)
Voices United-Accompaniment Collection Volume 4 (The UCC, 2009)

