

# *Welcome to Aurora United Church*

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



## *Pentecost 9*

*August 2, 2020*

*Love is a fruit in season at all times,  
and within reach of every hand.  
(Mother Teresa)*

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** What's Going On (*Marvin Gaye*) David Pilkey

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

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

***Acknowledgment of Territory***

*As we come into worship today, we acknowledge that we reside and worship on the traditional lands of the people of the William Treaty First Nations (Chippiwias of Beausoleil First Nation) Georgina Island First Nation, Rama First Nation, Mississaugas of Alderville First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation and the Scugog First Nation...and acknowledge their stewardship of this land throughout the ages.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP** Seth Backer

Like a seed growing  
in the darkness of the soil,

**our faith puts down roots  
and breaks through into sunlight.**

Like the tiniest seed,  
starting out small and insignificant,  
and yet filled with potential,

**our faith can grow to be far more  
than we imagined.**

Our God is with us in all time  
And in every place;

**encouraging our faith and growth.**

God is all around us, no matter where we are.

**We come in worship!**

**HYMN** O God beyond All Praising (*M.Perry/G.T.Holst*) 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***

**You open our hearts, O God, as you put a sail on your hope so it may reach the furthest shores of our despair. Your showers of grace fall softly upon the loose soil of our dried-up dreams. Your words do not return empty to you, Story-teller. They take root deep within us, blossoming into gentleness which can comfort a broken heart, into compassion which can transform a cold shoulder into an embrace, into kindness which can make even the most reluctant person break into laughter. You move into our lives, Spirit of life, quietly taking those fears which trip us in the night hours and putting them out in the trash; gently watering the seeds planted in our hesitant souls until they become bushels of grace. We join all in coming to you, God in Community, Holy in One. Amen.** *(Thom Thurman. Lectionary Liturgies. Adapted)*

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

God, in the midst of us, encourages our growth  
in faith—and in living.  
**Thanks be to God!**

***THEME STORY***      The Baby Red Squirrel, *by* Holly Williamson (as told to Cali LaPoint).

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** Romans 9:1-5 (I am speaking the truth in Christ.) NRSV Lisa Kyriakides

I am speaking the truth in Christ—I am not lying; my conscience confirms it by the Holy Spirit—I have great sorrow and unceasing anguish in my heart. For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh. They are Israelites, and to them belong the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, comes the Messiah, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

**GIFT OF MUSIC** What a Wonderful World (*B.Thiele/G.D.Weiss*) David Pilkey

**GOSPEL** Matthew 14:13-21 (Feeding more than five thousand.) NRSV

Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, “This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves.” Jesus said to them, “They need not go away; you give them something to eat.” They replied, “We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish.” And he said, “Bring them here to me.” Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds. And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

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

**SERMON** Recipe for a Miracle

**HYMN** God in the Darkness (*E.J.Smith/C.Gibson*) MV 17

God in the darkness, God beyond our knowing, patient creator,  
seed in secret growing, rock of the living, water ever flowing,  
come and renew us.

God in the darkness, God in all our grieving, friend of our tears,  
companion never leaving, drawing us past the limits of believing,  
come and renew us.

God in the darkness, God of holy dreaming, giver of hope,  
and pledge of our redeeming, Spirit of truth, our memory and meaning,  
come and renew us.

### **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** It Only Takes a Spark (Pass It On) *(K.Kaiser) VU 289*

It only takes a spark to get a fire going,  
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:  
that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it:  
you spread God's love to everyone, you want to pass it on.

What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding,  
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;  
that's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it:  
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring, you want to pass it on.

I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found—  
on God you can depend, it matters not where you're bound;  
I'll shout it from the mountain top, I want the world to know:  
the Lord of love has come to me, I want to pass it on.

#### **COMMISSIONING & BLESSING**

May the Creator, within us and around us,  
**above us and below us,**  
bless us and keep us,  
**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** All the People Said Amen (*Mahe/Moak/Morgan arr. Hamby*)  
AUC Chancel Choir, 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert, May 27, 2018



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

---

*All hymns and music used today are reprinted and podcast with permission  
under One License #A-718074 and CCLI Licenses #20425240 and #20425257*

***Participating in Worship today...***

Rev. Lorraine Newton-Comar & Rev. Andrew Comar  
David Pilkey, Lisa Kyriakides, Seth Backer,  
AUC Chancel Choir, Holly Williamson.

***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)

