

Belovedness Prayer & Ritual

(On the stickies provided, you are invited to write down 1– a word or sentence, something that reminds you that you are beloved. 2– write down a challenge for yourself for this coming week: what is one actionable thing you will do to share belovedness with someone—to make that person feel how beloved they are.)

SHARING GOD’S LOVE

***OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

OFFERTORY Over the Rainbow
(E.Y.Harburg/Harold Arlen) Lisa Kyriakides

***DEDICATION** Grateful (T.Tomaszek) MV 182
Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy Son, joyful in your mercy flowing over all, O God of love. Grateful for the Bread of Heaven, thankful for your Holy Word, joyful in your mercy flowing, we will praise you.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Trust your belovedness.
Let it be a protest,
an act of resistance,
a song of celebration.
Trust your belovedness in a world
that is rarely satisfied.
Wear it like a badge of honour.
Speak it as confidently as your last name.
Tattoo it to your heart.
When outside forces
chip away at your sense of self,
when life asks you
to hand over the keys,
remember the water.
Remember creation.
Remember how it was good,
so very good.
Let that truth hum through your veins.
Sing it so loud that it drowns out the
weariness of the world,
for the bravest thing we can ever do
is trust that we belong here. Amen**
(Rev.Sarah A.Speed)

PRAYER PRELUDE There Is Room For All
MV 62

**There is room for all in the shadow of
God’s wing; there is room for all, sheltered
in God’s love. And I rejoice and sing,
‘my refuge and my rock in whom I trust.’
There is room for all, there is room for all.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE &
LORD’S PRAYER** VU p. 910

***HYMN** Sing a New World into Being
(Mary Louise Bringle.)

Sing a new world into being. Sound a bold
and hopeful theme. Find a tune for silent
yearnings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:
dream a church where all who worship find
their lives and loves belong. Sing a new world
into being. Sing as Christ inspires your song!

Sing a new world into being where each
gender class and race brings its rainbow gifts
and colours to God’s limitless embrace: where
the lines that once divided form instead the
ties that bind. Sing a new world into being:
risk transforming heart and mind!

Sing a new world into being where the
homeless find a home; where no children ever
hunger but are filled with God’s shalom;
where all people work for justice, where all
hate and vengeance cease. Sing a new world
into being: raise the harmonies of peace.

Sing a new world into being. Join the ancient
prophets’ cry for a time of health and plenty
when all tears have been wiped dry; when
compassion flows like waters, pouring balm
for all who grieve. Sing a new world into
being: live the promise you believe!

***COMMISSIONING & BLESSING**
...Go now in the peace of God,
the love of Christ,
and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

***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 Now Thank We All Our God
(J.S.Bach arr. Noel Rawsthorne)




Affirming Ministry Committee
Debby Schieck, Mary Munro, Noah Comar,
Victoria Kyriakides, Jay Madore,
Lisa Kyriakides, Joyce Hagarty,
Rev. Lorraine

The Affirming Ministry Committee meets
the fourth Tuesday of the month—
September to June. If you have any
questions about Affirm,
please message Rev. Lorraine.
lorraine@auroraunitedchurch.ca



Scan the QR code below with your phone
camera to go directly to our Affirming
Ministry page featuring local, regional and
national Affirming ministries.



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



**AURORA UNITED
CHURCH**



An Affirming Congregation

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

Church Office 905-727-1935
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PRIDE SUNDAY
In the Image of God
June 9, 2024
11:00 am

*Like light through a prism, the glory of God refracts
through the multifaceted life of each and every human
being, creating a picture of the divine that is as varied and
beautiful as there are colours in existence.*
(Lauren Wright Pittman)

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER

PRELUDE Berceuse (Louis Vierne arr. N. Hawthorne)

WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
Lighting of the Christ Candle

Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/Rainbow Candle of Inclusion
Noah Comar/Joyce Hagarty

INTROIT We'll Build a World (David Lohman)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Source of Life, in the beginning,
you made us and called us beloved.
When we forget how to love,
you remind us we are beloved.
When the powers of the world try to oppress us,
you name us beloved.
When our siblings in faith condemn us,
you claim us: beloved.
We are your beloved,
so today we sing your praises,
Source of Love, in worship!

***HYMN** We Are a Rainbow (D. Kai)

We're the light of all the world, we are a city on a hill, we're a candle on a stand proclaiming light. We will not hide our lamp beneath a bushel anymore, we will shine a ray of hope that's burning bright.

Chorus-

We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace for the flood of tears will finally cease to be. Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky, print the world in colours proud and bold and free.

We're the coat of many colours, sewn from many different threads, covering all the warmth, in welcome and in grace. God said, 'Let there be light,' created every varied shade, in the rainbow each of us can find a place.
We are a rainbow...

We are hope to still believe in tomorrow's better day, we are peace in a world that's torn apart. We are joy that will last in all the struggles that we face; we are love that blooms and grows in every heart. *We are a rainbow...*

When we face the storms of life, we will never be alone, for our God will be with us on the way. Hand in hand, side by side, we won't be frightened anymore, as the mourning night of tears breaks into day.

We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace, for the flood of tears will finally cease to be. Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky, paint the world in colours proud and bold and free. Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

(Debby Schieck, Lisa Kyriakides, Joyce Hagarty, Noah Comar, Victoria Kyriakides)

Divine Creator, we come before you with humble hearts, acknowledging our shortcomings and seeking forgiveness.

We confess, O God, that we have subjected others to the kind of rejection and misunderstanding that you yourself experienced in the form of Jesus.

We try to control the paths of those we love, deeming them 'out of their minds' or unworthy of acceptance when they veer from our expectations for how they 'should' be or whom they 'should' love.

Meanwhile, in moments of doubt, we have sometimes sought approval from those who do not understand our truth instead of finding solace in the chosen family you have blessed us with.

Have mercy on us, O God, when we have believed what others say about us rather than what you promise. Have mercy on us, O God, when we have caused others to doubt your love.

Forgive us for the moments we stand in our own way or in the way of others—dimming a God-given light, participating in the silencing of God-given voices.

Forgive us, O God, for the times when we have allowed ego to overshadow our ability to extend solidarity and support to our most marginalized siblings.

Like Esther, who risked her life to advocate for her people, help us to use whatever privilege or advantages we possess to uplift the voices of those who are vulnerable and oppressed.

Grant us the courage to stand in solidarity with our 'queer' and trans siblings, even when doing so puts us at risk or challenges our comfort.

In times of fear and uncertainty, may we find solace in your promises, O God.

Even if our earthly relationships falter, you remain steadfast in your love for us. Strengthen us with the knowledge that you will always take us in and hold us close, especially when we feel alone or misunderstood by those we hold dear.

Help us, O God, to live authentically and boldly as the children you created us to be.

Give us courage to trust our belovedness even in a world that sometimes threatens to snuff out the life that has been breathed into us by God.

Strengthen us to embody your love and courage in all that we do.

Guide us to walk humbly, act justly, and extend grace and mercy to all whom we encounter.

May our lives be a reflection of your boundless love and embrace. In your holy name we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

Nothing can separate us from the love of God—not religious doctrine, not denominational decisions, not a person's unbelief, not even our own fears. Friends, each day is a new chance to affirm life, to start over, and to love more fiercely. We are being renewed daily. This is our hope.
We are loved, forgiven, embraced, and cherished. We are God's beloved. Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE Sing, Sing Out!
(Hannah/Melhorne-Boe) MV 180

Sing, sing out! Sing a new song.
Sing oh people as one voice! Sing, sing out!
Sing a new song. Sing of God.
Each heart rejoice! (repeat)

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 27 pg 9
(Wait for God, be strong, and take courage.)

Nancy Kerswill

ANTHEM What a Wonderful World
(George David Weiss/Bob Thiele arr. Mark A. Brymer)

SCRIPTURE Mark 3:20-35 p. 37-38 Pew Bible
(Jesus draws his detractors into discussion and identifies his family among those who do the will of God.)

SERMON Imago Dei—Image of God

***HYMN** My Love Colours Outside the Lines

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 opens 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 if we're not prepared to drown, body and soul need a soaking from time to time. And we'll never move the grave-stones 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. (MV 138) G. Light, arr. A. Donaldson

Psalm 27 VUp.754-55

R God is my light and saving health, I shall not be afraid

God is my light and my salvation, whom then shall I fear?

God is the stronghold of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked close in to devour me,

it is they, my enemies and my foes, who stumble and fall.

If an army should encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid;

if war should arise against me, even then I will not be dismayed. R

One thing I have asked of God, for which I long; that I may dwell in God's house all the days of my life,

to gaze on your beauty, O God, and to seek you in your temple.

For in the time of trouble you will give me shelter;

you will hide me under the covers of your tent, you will set me high upon a rock.

And now you have raised my head above my enemies round about me.

Therefore I will offer in your dwelling a sacrifice with great gladness. R

Hear my voice, O God, when I call; have mercy and answer me.

Your face, O God, I seek.

Do not hide your face from me; do not reject your servant in anger, you who have been my helper.

Do not cast me off, or forsake me, O God my saviour.

Though my father and mother forsake me, my God will take me up. R

Teach me your way, O God,

lead me on a level path, safe from those who lie in wait for me.

Do not give me up to the will of my enemies,

for liars and false witnesses arise against me.

I believe that I shall see God's goodness in the land of the living.

Wait for God, be strong and take courage; yes, wait for God! R

