

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**

**PRELUDE** Great Is Thy Faithfulness (W.M. Runyan)  
Amazing Grace (Arr. by M. Hayes)

**WELCOME AND CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**  
**PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP** *Lighting of the*  
*Christ Candle*

*Acknowledgement of Territory/Every Child*  
*Matters/Rainbow Candle of Inclusion*  
Louise Procter Maio

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather here as a community of seekers  
**looking for the light -**  
the light that will give us clarity,  
**the light that will guide our way.**  
God, refresh our eyes that we may see  
**Your manifestation in Christ.**  
Let us glimpse here today the truth fulfilled  
**in the life and love of Jesus.**  
May epiphany be not just a word  
**but a gasp of wonder at promise revealed.**  
**Amen.**

**\*HYMN** A Light is Gleaming *VU 82*

**\*OPENING PRAYER**

God of sanctuary,  
**We come to you for protection.**  
God of comfort,  
**We gather to feel your loving embrace.**  
God of assurance,  
**We ask you to whisper your secrets to our**  
**desperate hearts.**  
God of creation and beauty,  
**We acknowledge your power and grace.**  
We have known you in moments of joy,  
**We have felt you in moments of pain.**  
Moments in your presence, moments beyond words,

**Lead us to seek your truth and live in your light.**  
We ask that you let us feel your presence here today,  
**in gifts of revelation,**  
gentling of hearts,  
**and strengthening of spirits.**  
We are listening for your message and looking for direction.  
**We proclaim ourselves proud seekers. Amen.**

**ASSURANCE OF GOD'S GRACE**

**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**

**GOSPEL** John 18:33-38 p 113 *NRSV*  
Paula Hanna

**GIFT OF MUSIC** God Of Grace and God Of Glory  
Rebecca, piano (J. Hughes)

**GOSPEL** John 19: 19-22; 34-35 p 113-114 *NRSV*  
Paula Hanna

**REFLECTION** *God Grants Us Clues*

**\*HYMN** Open My Eyes, that I May See *VU 371*

**SHARING GOD'S LOVE**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** His Eye Is On The Sparrow (C.H. Gabriel)

**\*DEDICATION** Grateful (*T. Tomaszek*) *MV 182*  
**Grateful for the life you give us, thankful for your Holy**  
**Son, joyful in your Spirit 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**

**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**

Dear God, as grateful as we are for the bright days of purpose  
and love and fulfillment, our days can also be long and fraught  
with challenges and conflict, disappointment and fear.

**We look to you for comfort.**

The nights can be beautiful and deep and comfortably sweet,  
but some nights are long waiting for the dawn and we need to  
know that there *will be* a new day.

**We look to you for reassurance.**

You offer us unexpected ways out of dark circumstances. It is  
not your will that we live in grim resignation and you hint at  
ways achieve a brighter, vibrant lives.

**We look to you for guidance.**

When there is only emptiness and death before us you offer  
open arms of love and strength. You are there for us in our  
doubt and fear as much as in our faith and courage.

**We look to you for healing and grace.**

And for that healing and grace, now silently, in prayers too  
delicate to utter, we hold ourselves and others out to you ...

God, may our prayers be answered with the gentle force of your  
will and the vastness of your love. Amen.

**LORD'S PRAYER** (VU p.910)

**\*HYMN** Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah **VU 651**

**\* COMMISSIONING**

Seeking understanding, discerning truth,  
**we find God.**

Battling confusion, searching for meaning,  
**we trust in God.**

Trembling footsteps gaining strength on the path,  
**we walk with God.**

**\*SPOKEN BLESSING**

**\*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** All Glory, Laud and Honor (Arr. D. Lantern III)

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**Visiting Musician**

We welcome **Rebecca Loo** to AUC this morning, ...

Rebecca is an accomplished teacher, musician, accompanist, arranger, clinician, choral conductor, pianist, organist and harpsichordist in the GTA. She completed her ARCT for Piano Performance at the age of 16, and completed her ARCT for Organ Performance just a few years later (obtaining the highest mark in Ontario). She also has associateship Diplomas in the Royal Schools of Music (London, UK– ABRSM) and from the Royal Canadian College of Organists (ARCCO). Rebecca holds a Bachelor of Music Degree (Theory, Composition) from the University of Toronto. As a performer, she has won prestigious awards in Music Festivals, National Competitions, received scholarships, facilitated and participated in various Masterclasses in North America and Europe, and studied with distinguished artists. Rebecca has also been an RCM Piano/Organ Teacher for 30 years,

Ensemble Coordinator for numerous Music Festivals, Children's Camp Director and Youth volunteer, Director of Music in various local churches for over 20 years, accompanist for orchestras, choirs, singers, auditioning students and solo instrumentalists.

Welcome

**Today we welcome Cheryl Stenson**

Cheryl has been a member of Glebe Road United Church since getting married there in 1996. She began at Glebe serving coffee and tea in fellowship hour, became secretary of the board, then Clerk of Session, and then Chair of the Board for many years. Her greatest joy at Glebe has been singing in the choir and the yearly musical events.

The Glebe sanctuary has been the venue of Cheryl's wedding, the baptism and confirmation of her daughter Melodie, and the funerals of her grandmother, mother, and, most recently, her husband, Bill. And her church family, the "Glebers", has seen her through it all.

Over the years, Cheryl stepped into the pulpit when Glebe's minister was away and found a passion in creating services and sermons. Eventually, she decided to take the Licensed Lay Worship Leader (LLWL) course with the United Church of Canada, receiving her license in November 2021. Since then, most of her Sundays have been filled serving in many and varied church communities, east end to west, north end to south.

Cheryl firmly believes that God led her to Glebe for many and varied reasons which have revealed themselves over time. Cheryl helped coin Glebe's mission statement, "Inclusive. Inventive. In Faith." She aspires to reflect those same qualities in her work as an LLWL.



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

**Church Office 905-727-1935**  
[www.auroraunitedchurch.ca](http://www.auroraunitedchurch.ca)

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





**PENTECOST 14**  
**August 25, 2024**  
**11:00 am**

*Long, warm days...the pace of life slows...a time for picnics and rest in the shade...God, help us to rest awhile in the cooling shade of your presence. Slow down our restless hearts and fill us with gentle compassion for all your people.*

## **A Light is Gleaming**

**A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night, living in the light. Come share its gladness, God's radiant love is burning bright, living in the light.**

When light comes pouring into the darkest place, it hurts our eyes to see the glow. Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears, our memories and tears. **R**

When night is round us and every shadow grows, a star is there to light our way. It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say: 'God's light will ever stay.' **R**

And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk. He showed us things we hadn't seen. Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine, and this will be a sign:

So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n, and let us rise to see the dawn. We trust that God is here asparkle and ablaze, - warming all our days. **R**

## **Open My Eyes, That I May See**

Open my eyes, that I may see glimpses of truth thou hast for me; place in my hands the wonderful key that shall unclasp and set me free. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my eyes, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my ears, that I may hear voices of truth thou sendest clear; and while the wave notes fall on my ear, everything false will disappear. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

Open my mouth, and let me bear gladly the warm truth everywhere; open my heart and let me prepare love with thy children thus to share. Silently now I wait for thee, ready, my God, thy will to see. Open my heart, illumine me, Spirit divine!

## **Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah**

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but thou art mighty, hold me with thy powerful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain, whence the healing stream doth flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliverer, strong deliverer, be thou still my strength and shield, be thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side: songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever give to thee, I will ever give to thee.

