

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



PRELUDE Prelude on “Song 13” (Steven Scott)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Josh Szakal

INTROIT God of Freedom, God of Justice
(Shirley Erena Murray/French Traditional Carol 17th Century)

CALL TO WORSHIP

People of faith, come and worship!
**We are grateful for the opportunity
to gather in community.**
People of faith come and praise!
**We delight in this opportunity
to sing with heart and voice.**
People of faith, come and pray!
**We embrace this opportunity
to open ourselves to God’s leading.**
People of faith, come and listen!
**In this time of worship,
may we hear and respond.**

***HYMN** Come, Let Us Sing VU 222

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

**Called to be light in your world O God, we would
carry your hope into the shadows of the world.
Called to reach out beyond ourselves, we would
enhance the lives of those around us, meeting their
needs as we discover them. Called to live, reflecting
your realm, we would welcome everyone as sisters**

**and brothers in faith. Connect our intent to action,
Loving God; spark the motivation we need within us to
speak your love and grace in the world, embodying
peace and justice in all the parts of our lives. May we
reflect your light in the world, in your name. God in
Community—Holy in One, we pray in Jesus’ name.
Amen.**

WORDS OF GRACE

God works with us and within us,
renewing our world and our relationships.
Thanks be to God!

SUNG RESPONSE Arise, Be Clothed in the Light VU 886

**Arise, be clothed in the light.
Arise, be clothed in the light.
Your light has come,
your light has come.
Hallelujah! (repeat)**

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 46 VU p.770 Ref.2
(God is our refuge and strength.) Joan Brownlow

ANTHEM Didn’t My Lord Deliver Daniel?
(arr. Roger Emerson)

SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 p.175 Pew Bible NT
(Love is patient and kind.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Love in Action

***HYMN** Love Is the Touch (A.M.Robertson/J.L.Bell) MV 89

Love is the touch of intangible joy;
love is the force that no fear can destroy;
love is the goodness we gladly applaud:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the lilt in a lingering voice;
love is the hope that can make us rejoice;
love is the cure for the frightened and flawed:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the light in the tunnel of pain;
love is the will to be whole once again;
love is the trust of a friend on the road:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

Love is the Maker and Spirit and Son;
love is the kingdom their will has begun;
love is the path which the saints all have trod:
God is where love is, for love is of God.

SHARING GOD’S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Is There Anybody Here? (Karen Roth)
EmBellished Handbell Ensemble

DEDICATION Christ Has No Body Now but Yours
MV 171

**Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.**

OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing

PRAYER PRELUDE Let My Spirit Always Sing
 MV 83 **Let my spirit always sing,
 to your Spirit answering,
 through the silence, through the pain
 know my hope is not in vain,
 like a feather on your breath
 trust your love, through life and death.**

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

***HYMN** Though I May Speak VU 372

*** COMMISSIONING**

And now, may God's blessing be ours:
a blessing of loving kindness,
 a blessing of hope and courage,
a blessing of listening and of love.
 God's blessing be ours—
Always.

***SUNG BLESSING** Take Up His Song MV 213
**Take up his song of love and go into the world.
 Take up his song of love in every moment.
 In every moment of the journey,
 we're laying down our lives;
 lay them down, in love, lay them down,
 and take up his song.**

POSTLUDE Fugue from Sonata No. 6, opus 65
 (Felix Mendelssohn)



Mission and Service

Lessons of Racism Learned When Young
**The name calling started when she was
 about three years old.**

The name calling started when she was about three years old. They were racial slurs, and names, and taunts. My child, my own flesh and blood, was being ostracized for having Black skin. The people slinging the insults? Other children on the playground....

She may not have necessarily always understood the particular terms that they used, but she knew that they were related to her Blackness and her racial identity. And this deeply wounded her tender heart....

Despite all of our intentional modelling, teaching, and proactive actions, our child is still already developing internalized racism and inferior notions of herself.

The children who were taunting her were offering explicit and overt notions of racism, but they were children! They had not even started primary school! And yet, the children had already learned behaviour (at home, or elsewhere in society) that Whiteness is superior. And, they had the audacity to vocalize that to an innocent little child....

This is in part why I am so deeply committed to dismantling racism in all its forms—racism is damaging and destructive for all people in society. It reinforces negative notions for people of colour. I live it in a particular way because of my own racial identity, as a Black person who has lived with racial injustice my entire life.

The systemic nature of racism is something that cannot be ignored.... This effort to overcome racism is a continuous effort. And I am committed to this work for the long haul.

*Your Mission and Service gifts support anti-racism
 programs and initiatives
 Thank you for your support*



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

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





EPIPHANY 4
Black History Month
**'Black Legacy and Leadership:
 Celebrating Canadian History and Uplifting
 Future Generations'**

**February 2, 2025
 11:00 am**