

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



PRELUDE Intermezzi IV & V (Hermann Schroeder)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Paula Hanna

INTROIT Bless the Lord
(D.Brennan/M.Cavallero/K.Roth/K.Canedo)

CALL TO WORSHIP

We come,
those who seek to trust in God.
**We commit ourselves
to do as Jesus would do for those around us.**
We come,
delighting in all the wonders God provides for us.
**We would not worry,
but open ourselves to God’s heart.**
We come,
waiting patiently for God to speak.
**We will be still,
listening for God’s words of hope, of peace.**
Let us worship! (T.Thurman, Lectionary Liturgies, 2022)

***HYMN** Come and Find the Quiet Centre *p 7*

PRAYER FOR RENEWAL

Creator God, in worship we come to sing your
praise, to seek your help, to learn your ways. Help
us to open our minds to all you are: you contain all
genders, all melodies, all colours, all languages.

Our limited human understanding seeks to name who
you are and how you are, and all our words and all our
images fall short. Keep us mindful, loving God, that
while our language may be limited, your patience is
endless. Welcoming, embracing God, we come. Release
the tightness in our chests—open our hearts and minds
to you. God in Community-Holy in One, we pray in
Jesus’ name. Amen.

WORDS OF GRACE

God’s love embraces us; body, mind and spirit.
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 91 *p 7*
(I will raise you up on eagle’s wings.) Joyce Hagarty

ANTHEM Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing
(arr. Kevin D. Thomson)
with David Price, snare drum and Joanne Banfill, violin

GOSPEL Luke 6:27-38 *p. 64-65 Pew Bible NT*
(Love your enemies, be merciful.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Travelling Mercies

***HYMN** Love Knocks and Waits *(D.C. Damons) MV 94*

Love knocks and waits for us to hear, to open and invite;
love longs to quiet every fear, and seeks to set things right.

Love offers life, in spite of foes who threaten and
condemn; embracing enemies, Love goes the second mile
with them.

Love comes to heal the broken heart, to ease the troubled
mind; without a word Love bids us start to ask and seek
and find.

Love knocks and enters at the sound of welcome from
within; Love sings and dances all around, and feels new
life begin.

SHARING GOD’S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Somebody’s Knocking at Your Door
(Mark Arnold)
Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensemble with Jake Robertson, Cajon

***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** Great Is Thy Faithfulness *p 8*

*** COMMISSIONING**

And now, may the blessing of our Maker,
whose life flows through us—
the blessings of Jesus,
who found joy in the everyday moments of life—
and the blessing of the Spirit,
whose companionship keeps us on the journey—
surround, enfold, and guide us
this day, this night, and always.

(B.Root, Peterborough, On)

***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 Festive Toccata *(Matthew McConnell)*



MISSION AND SERVICE

Farming Against All Odds

Training helps farmers find stability and hope for the future.

In the rugged hills of India's Badabasko village, Jaiprakash Paharia, a determined 60-year-old farmer, and his wife, Rami Paharin, have battled against nature's odds. Their land, stony and dependent on increasingly unpredictable rains, yielded meagre crops of maize, cowpea, pigeon pea, and sorghum each year. Their family had literally hit rock bottom.

Faced with declining harvests, they turned to goat rearing in search of a more sustainable livelihood. Left with no other choice, Jaiprakash invested all he had in what seemed to be a promising venture. However, these efforts were marred by heartbreaking losses. Year after year, diseases claimed up to 20 of their precious goats, threatening their hope for a steady future once again. It was as if they were back at the foot of the hill; they were desperate.

As they were counting their losses, through Mission and Service partner Canadian Foodgrains Bank, member Tearfund Canada brought life-changing support to their village through The Evangelical Fellowship of India Commission on Relief (EFICOR). The project team provided thorough training on livestock management practices and taught about essential deworming and vaccinations to best sustain livestock.

Jaiprakash was skeptical at first about giving these treatments to his goats. However, as he learned how they could safeguard his livestock's health, he took on these practices graciously and achieved transformative results. For the first time since they had started keeping livestock, their goats remained healthy throughout the season, with zero losses! This newfound stability secured their livelihood and revitalized their hope for the future.

Jaiprakash and his family are endlessly thankful to Tearfund Canada and EFICOR for their radical support. Their training not only improved the health and well-being of their livestock but also equipped them with the tools and understanding to sustain themselves through future adversity.

Thank you for supporting our [Mission and Service partners](#) and people around the world, as they walk toward a more sustainable future.



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

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



EPIPHANY 7

Honouring Black History Month

February 23, 2025

11:00 am

'Bless those who know the darkness and do not fear it, who carry the light and are not consumed, who prepare the way and will not abandon it, who bless with grace that does not leave us'

(J.Richardson. Wisdom's Path.)

Come and Find the Quiet Centre

Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed: clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes, that we can see all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.

Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace, God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being, face to face, making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun, raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.

In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain, let our loves and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain: there's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care, in the Spirit's lively scheming there is always room to spare!

Psalm 91

R And I will raise you up on eagles wings, bear you on the breath of dawn, make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of my hand.

You who dwell in the shelter of your God, who abide in God's shadow for life,
say to your God: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"
The snare of the fowler will never capture you, and famine will bring you no fear;
under God's wings your refuge, God's faithfulness your shield. R

You need not fear the terror of the night, not the arrow that flies by day,
though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come.
For to the angels is given a command to guard you in all your ways;
upon their hand they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone R

"Because they have set their love upon me I will deliver them,
I will uphold them because they know my name.
When they call to me I will answer,
I will be with them in trouble;
I will rescue and bring them to honour.
With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my saving power." R

Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator; there is no shadow of turning with thee; thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not; as thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

**Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see; all I have needed thy hand hath provided great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!**

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. **R**

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide, strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. **R**

