

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



PRELUDE Intermezzo II (*Hermann Schroeder*)

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Alison Heffer

INTROIT The Lord’s Prayer (*P. Mayberry arr. D.Kai*)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Covenant.
Promises made.
Covenant.
Promises between people
and between people and God.
Sometimes...
covenant is broken. Promises are forgotten.
And we grieve.
And God grieves.
Yet, even with our loss, even with our fear,
even with our grief,
**God invites us back. God invites us
into covenant again.**
So we gather.
**To remember our brokenness.
To renew our bonds
with each other and with God.**
And so it is—now.

***HYMN** Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above
VU 216

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY Margaret & Myles Heney
Between his baptism and the beginning of his adult
ministry, Jesus went into the wilderness for forty days
‘to be tested.’

**The desert is a dangerous place and Jesus was
hungry, cold and tired. He was also tempted and
tormented, but he didn’t give up.**

When life is difficult, how do we remember
that God is always with us?

(The first Lenten candle is extinguished.)

Let us pray...

**God of wilderness places and the places of our lives,
we step onto the Lenten path as pilgrims travelling
your road together through death to resurrection.
You meet us with arms filled with bread to eat and
water to drink; you place your loving hand on our
shoulder and remind us that we are never alone in you.
Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery
VU 121
**From the dawning of creation,
you have loved us as your own;
stay with us through all temptation,
make us turn to you alone,
make us turn to you alone.**

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

SCRIPTURE Romans 10:8b-13 *p.160 Pew Bible NT*
(Believe with your heart.) Paula Hanna

ANTHEM Into the Wilderness (The Temptation of Jesus)
(Jason Krug)
Faith-A-Peal Handbell Ensemble

GOSPEL Luke 4:1-13 *p. 61 Pew Bible NT*
(Jesus tested in the desert.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Surety

***HYMN** When We Are Tested (*Duck/Byron*)
MV 65, Tune: VU 642

When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.

When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.

When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for the pow’r to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.

When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Saviour, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.

SHARING GOD’S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY On Eagle’s Wings (*M.Joncas arr. M.Hayes*)
AUC Chancel Choir

***DEDICATION** Take, O Take Me as I Am *(Bell/Maule)*
MV 85 **Take, O take me as I am;**
summon out what I shall be;
set your seal upon my heart and live in me.
(sing twice)

OFFERTORY PRAYER & Prayer Shawl Blessing

PRAYER PRELUDE Spirit God, Be Our Breath *MV 150*
Loving God, be our voice, be our prayer.
Reaching out, joining hands as we share,
we seek your guidance through friendship
and care. Loving God, be our prayer.

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

***HYMN** O Jesus, I Have Promised **VU 120**

***COMMISSIONING**

And now, may God give us strength for the journey;
may Christ give us direction for our lives;
 and may the Spirit give us hope in abundance
 for the days ahead.

***SUNG BLESSING** Go and Tell the World *(B.Wren)*
Go and tell the world how Jesus lived and died.
Go and show the love of Christ, the crucified.
Many have not heard the liberating word,
then go, and tell, and show how God is glorified.

POSTLUDE God of Our Fathers *(Mary McDonald)*



MISSION AND SERVICE



Working to empower women and change the world.

In India, social and cultural factors limit access to theological education for women in comparison to men. The Rev. B. Silpa Rani is actively encouraging women to pursue theological education and engage in leadership roles. When Silpa started her first degree in Theology, she spent two years as the only woman in a class of 16. Now, years later, as she works on her doctoral dissertation, she has seen a gradual increase in the enrolment of women in theological programs. While this is encouraging, Silpa recognizes that there is still a long journey forward. While she seeks to empower modern women, she is also working to shed light on the experiences of women and minorities of the past.

Silpa was the recipient of a theological education scholarship, which paved her way to join the faculty at Bishop's College, Kolkata. She has been exploring the unique identity of the Qumran community within the context of the Dead Sea Scrolls. She is actively researching to identify the women, children, and minority groups of the society, drawing parallels between the Qumran context and contemporary Indian context.



Your [Mission and Service](#) gifts provide support to leaders like Silpa, who are actively working to empower women and change the world.



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



LENT 1
'Coming Back to Life'
March 9, 2025
11:00 am

We sing of Jesus, a Jew, born to a woman in poverty in a time of social upheaval and political oppression. He knew human joy and sorrow. So filled with the Holy Spirit was he that in him people experienced the presence of God among them. We sing praise to God Incarnate. (A Song of Faith: UCC Statement of Faith, 2006)

Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

Sing praise to God, who reigns above, the God of all creation, the God of power, the God of love, the God of our salvation; with healing balm my soul is filled, and every faithless murmur stilled: to God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power hath made, God's gracious mercy keepeth: by morning glow or evening shade God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth; within the shelter of God's might, lo! all is just and all is right: to God all praise and glory!

Our God is never far away, but through all grief distressing, an ever-present help and stay, our peace, and joy, and blessing; as with a mother's tender hand, God gently leads the chosen band: to God all praise and glory!

Thus all my gladsome way along, I sing aloud thy praises that all may hear the grateful song my voice unwearied raises. Be joyful in your God, my heart! Both soul and body take your part: to God all praise and glory!

O Jesus, I Have Promised

O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end, remain for ever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side, nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near; I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear; my foes are ever near me, around me and within; but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will; O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you, that where you are in glory your servant shall be too. And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end; O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.

