

SEEKING GOD TOGETHER



PRELUDE The Cloths of Heaven (T.F.Dunhill)
Mehraeen Safari, violin

WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
Lighting of the Christ Candle

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Debra Hilliard

INTROIT As the Deer Pants for the Water
(M.Nystrom/L.Pedersen)

CALL TO WORSHIP

As long nights give way to light
and winter sleep to fresh beginnings,
we come to worship
to be reminded of God`s love for us.
Like the green shoots of renewed life,
stirring beneath the soil,
we welcome an awakening
of God`s word in our lives.
Awake to the moving of God`s
Spirit in creation in the season of Lent
and in all time,
we bring our care and our love
for the Earth, for its people,
and for one another.
Let us worship!

***HYMN** God Who Give to Life Its Goodness p7

LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY

Kathryn & Owen Yearwood

Where is the time and place to listen for the still,
small voice of God?
These Lenten days invite us to go within.
In Lent we journey to the parts of ourselves
known only to God.

(One purple candle is extinguished.)

Let us pray...

**Draw us together in your love, O God. May we know
your presence among us as we mark these Lenten
days together. May we know your wisdom in seeking
centred, mindful lives, aware of the world around us
and the relationships which enrich our lives. Amen.**

SUNG RESPONSE Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery
(M.Haugen) VU 121

**Living Water of salvation,
be the fountain of each soul;
springing up in new creation,
flow in us and make us whole,
flow in us and make us whole.**

FINDING GOD TOGETHER

RESPONSIVE READING Psalm 63 Ref.2 p7
(I long for you, O God.) Debra Hilliard

ANTHEM Unto the Hills (Howard Helvey)
with Mehraeen Safari, violin

GOSPEL Luke 13:1-9 p.76 Pew Bible NT
(The Parable of the barren fig tree.)

Come to the quiet...a time for reflection

SERMON Second Chances

***HYMN** Soil of God, You and I (j.hannah/D.Melhorn)
MV 174

Soil of God, you and I, stand ready to bear
seeds of faith nourished by God`s tender care.
Growing in everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are...Holy ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now ready to be
part of God`s promise for others to see.
Open to everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are...Holy ground.

Soil of God, you and I, now called to rebirth,
joining as partners with all of the earth.
Living in harmony for here God is found.
All stand together, this is...Holy ground.

SHARING GOD`S LOVE

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY Salut d`Amour (Edward Elgar)
Mehraeen Safari

***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** Will You Come and Follow Me *p 7*

***COMMISSIONING**

And now, may the God of creation
 create in you, new hope for the future.
**May the Christ of the common road
 guide your every step.**
 May the Spirit of Compassion instill in you
 a deep sense of caring for everyone you meet—
**and may we be blessed by the Holy One,
 now and always.**

***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 Processional *(W. Baylor ed .C. Cooman)*



Mission and Service
**Changing the Changing the Narrative:
 Young Voices for Climate Justice**

These young leaders are now poised to advocate for climate justice and inspire their communities.

In 2024, Mission and Service partner the World Student Christian Federation Asia-Pacific collaborated with the Bangladesh Student Christian Movement on a workshop called “Youth Leading Change: Climate Justice through Cultural Movement.” Through discussions and activities, it aimed to raise awareness among young people about climate challenges and empower them to take local actions.

Over four days, 50 passionate students from various regions of Bangladesh came together to address the critical issue of climate change. They explored the severe impacts that climate change has on communities and livelihoods in Bangladesh, particularly the displacement caused by floods. Floods force families to migrate to Dhaka, now one of the world’s most densely populated cities. The heart-wrenching stories of displaced families deeply resonated with the participants, igniting their determination to drive change. Equipped with knowledge and tools, these young leaders are now poised to advocate for climate justice and inspire their communities.



Your generous support of Mission and Service helps make empowering work like this possible.
Thank you.



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



LENT 3
‘Coming Back to Life’
March 23, 2025
11:00 AM

*Hope is the thing with feathers/that perches in the soul/
 and sings the tune without words/and never stops at all. (Emily Dickinson)*

God Who Gives to Life its Goodness

God who gives to life its goodness, God creator of all joy, God who gives to us our freedom, God who blesses tool and toy: teach us now to laugh and praise you, deep within your praises sing, till the whole creation dances for the goodness of its King.

God who fills the earth with beauty, God who binds each friend to friend, God who names us co-creators God who wills that chaos end: grant us now creative spirits, minds responsive to your mind, hearts and wills your rule extending all our acts by Love refined.

PSALM 63

My soul is thirsting for you, O God, my God

You are my God, I long for you from early morning. My whole being desires you like a dry, worn, waterless land. My soul thirsts for you.

In the sanctuary let me see how mighty are your works; your constant love is better than life itself, and so I will praise you. R

I will give thanks as long as I live; I raise my hands in prayer.

My soul will feast and be filled, and I will sing and praise you. R

As I lie in bed, I remember you, O God; I think of you all night long, for you are my constant help.

In the shadow of your wings I sing for joy. I cling to you; your hand keeps me safe. R

Will You Come and Follow Me

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the 'you' you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me

