

**SEEKING GOD TOGETHER**



**PRELUDE** Jesus is Calling *(Franklin Ritter)*

**WELCOME & CONGREGATIONAL LIFE**

*Lighting of the Christ Candle*

**Acknowledgment of Territory/Every Child Matters/  
Rainbow Candle of Inclusion** Martha Bailkowski

**INTROIT** The Play of the Godhead  
*(M.L. Bringle/R.J. Batastini)*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

The Spirit of God  
calls to our spirits,  
**inviting us to worship.**

The Spirit of God  
calls to our spirits,  
**inviting us to love and be loved.**

The Spirit of God  
calls to our spirits,  
**calling us to new life.**

We gather, seeking unity in the Spirit.  
**Let us worship together in hope  
and in love.**

\* **HYMN** Sing Your Praise to God Eternal *p 7*

**LENTEN CANDLE LITURGY**

Josh, Nathaniel & Matthew Szakal

On this fourth Sunday of Lent we remember with joy  
that God’s ways are not our ways and that God’s ways  
will challenge our well-laid plans.

*(One purple candle is extinguished.)*

*Let us pray...*

**Compassionate God, help us to see with your eyes  
and to love with your heart. Amen.**

**SUNG RESPONSE** Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery  
*VU 121*

**Give us eyes to see you clearly,  
make us children of your light;  
give us hearts to live more nearly  
as your gospel shining bright,  
as your gospel shining bright.**

**FINDING GOD TOGETHER**

**SCRIPTURE** 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 *p.181 Pew Bible NT*  
*(Anyone in Christ is a new creation.) Bob McRoberts*

**ANTHEM** Grace *(arr. Mark Hayes)*

**GOSPEL** Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 *p.78-79 Pew Bible NT*  
*(The prodigal son; the prodigal father.)*

*Come to the quiet...a time for reflection*

**SERMON** The Way Home

\***HYMN** My Love Colours Outside the Lines *(G.Light)*  
*MV 138*

My love colours outside the lines, exploring paths that few  
could ever find; and takes me into places where I’ve never  
been before, and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

My Lord colours outside the lines, turns wounds to  
blessings, water into wine; and takes me into places where  
I’ve never been before and opens doors to worlds outside  
the lines.

*We’ll never walk on water if we’re not prepared to drown,  
body and soul need a soaking from time to time. And we’ll  
never move the gravestones if we’re not prepared to die,  
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.*

My soul longs to colour outside the lines, tear back the  
curtains, sun, come in and shine; I want to walk beyond  
the boundaries where I’ve never been before, throw open  
doors to worlds outside the lines.

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**SHARING GOD’S LOVE**

**OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD**

**OFFERTORY** Make You Feel My Love *(Bob Dylan)*  
David Pilkey & Janice Nolan

\***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** I Feel the Winds of God *p 7*

\***COMMISSIONING**

And now—in every word,  
 with every gesture,  
 by every art,  
 through every means,  
 may you be  
 a living gospel in the world.

\***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** Circle Game *(Joni Mitchell)*  
 David Pilkey & Janice Nolan



Scan the QR code with your phone's camera—the AUC website will appear...click on to read the words for today's Offertory and Postlude Songs.



**Mission and Service**

Spring reminds us of renewal, of hope, of life returning

First come the tiny snowdrops, bravely peeking out over the melting snow. Then, the crocuses with their delicate purple petals, followed by the buttery-yellow daffodils. By the time I'm bundling up for Easter service, tulips in every colour of Joseph's splendid coat are blooming.

Spring reminds us of renewal, of hope, of life returning. And in this Easter season, I see that same renewal in the Mission and Service work that your generosity makes possible.

Because of you, Mission and Service partners are like the first flowers of spring—blooming where they are needed most. Your compassion takes root and becomes warmth and care for those in crisis, hope for those facing hardship, and new possibilities for communities near and far.

Like the crocuses and tulips, our shared ministry blossoms in many forms, responding to the needs of different communities in the ways that will help most. Your support makes this possible, and for that, we are deeply grateful.

This Easter, may you be like the first flowers of spring—vibrant, alive, and bringing joy to those around you.

In this time of renewal, know that your generosity through [Mission and Service](#) will help even more seeds of hope take root and grow.

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

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

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



**LENT 4**  
 'Coming Back to Life'  
**March 30, 2025**  
**11:00 AM**

*'It was his home now. But it could not be his home till he had gone from it and returned to it. Now he was the Prodigal Son.'*  
*(G. K. Chesterton)*

### **Sing Your Praise to God Eternal**

Sing your praise to God eternal, sing your praise to God the Son, sing your praise to God the Spirit, living and forever One. God has made us, God has blessed us, God has called us to be true. God rules over all creation, daily making all things new.

Join the praise of every creature, sing with singing birds at dawn; when the stars shine forth at nightfall, hear their heavenly antiphon. Praise God for the light of summer, autumn glories, winter snows, for the coming of the springtime and the life of all that grows.

Praise God on our days of gladness for the summons to rejoice; praise God in our times of sadness for the calm, consoling voice. God our Maker, strong and loving, Christ our Saviour, Leader, Lord, living God, Creator Spirit, be your holy name adored!

### **I Feel the Winds of God**

I feel the winds of God today; today my sail I lift, though heavy oft with drenching spray and torn with many a rift; if hope but light the water's crest, and Christ my bark will use, I'll seek the seas at his behest, and brave another cruise.

It is the wind of God that dries my vain regretful tears, until with braver thoughts shall rise the purer, brighter years; if cast on shores of selfish ease or pleasure I should be, O let me feel your freshening breeze, and I'll put back to sea.

If ever I forget your love and how that love was shown, lift high the blood-red flag above; it bears your name alone. Great pilot of my onward way, you will not let me drift. I feel the winds of God today; today my sail I lift.



*The prodigal son; the prodigal father.*