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Today's message has been prepared by David Kai. David and spouse, Marly Bown are our Voluntary Associate Ministers (VAMs).

*God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."*  
*Genesis 9: 11-13 (NRSV)*

### **We Are a Rainbow** (part 2)

Last week I mentioned the Affirming hymn, "We Are a Rainbow" that I wrote for HSUC and other Affirming Congregations. I thought that you might be interested in some of the background behind the hymn.

After we held our HSUC Affirming celebration service, Marly mentioned to me that it would be a good idea for me to write a specifically affirming hymn. I had the idea on the back burner for several months; then one day we were staying over at the place of our daughter, Tamiko and husband Chris in downtown Toronto. They are located at Jarvis and Wellesley, basically at the corner of the area known as the (Gay) Village.

During the night, I woke up with a short melody and a few words running through my head: "We are a rainbow". I got up and scratched down a few notes on a scrap piece of paper, along with a few bible quotes that seemed to be related. In the morning, I got up and looked at the notes, which I could actually decipher, which isn't always the case. I noted that, by coincidence, the melody of the words I had written followed the shape of a rainbow on staff paper!

From there, the harder work of composition began. As is often said, creativity is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration. I thought of bible verses that related to light, which is made up of rainbow colours. I referred to the story of Noah's Ark for the account of the creation of rainbows as a sign of the covenant. I thought of Joseph's coat of many colours, which would look like a rainbow. I used the Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love as the basis for one verse. I adapted Psalm 30:5, "Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning" for one line because I liked the contrast of putting "mourning" and "night" beside each other.

You can hear the song at this link: <https://youtu.be/9gOrQkODcqY>

In case you are not able to access the video, I am printing the words here.

We're the light of all the world, we are a city on a hill,  
We're a candle on a stand proclaiming light,  
We will not hide our lamp beneath a bushel any more,  
We will shine a ray of hope that's burning bright.

Chorus: *We are a rainbow, sign of covenant and peace,  
For the flood of tears will finally cease to be,  
Come shine your rainbow, splash your hues across the sky,  
Paint the world in colours proud and bold and free.*

We're a coat of many colours, sewn from many different threads,  
Covering all in warmth, in welcome and in grace,  
God said "Let there be light", created every varied shade,  
In the rainbow each of us can find a place. Chorus:

We are hope to still believe in tomorrow's better day,  
We are peace in a world that's torn apart,  
We are joy that will last in all the struggles that we face,  
We are love that blooms and grows in every heart. Chorus:

When we face the storms of life, we will never be alone,  
For our God will be with us on the way,  
Hand in hand, side by side, we won't be frightened any more,  
As the mourning night of tears breaks into day. Chorus:

HSUC has taken a brave and bold step in declaring itself to be an Affirming Congregation. At our best,  
we truly are God's rainbow.

Happy Pride!

David  
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*"Our relationship with God and each other strengthens us, and helps make the world a better place.  
We welcome and include **everyone** into congregational life."*