

**BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH**

**EPIPHANY: THE BAPTISM OF JESUS**

**January 7, 2024, 10 am**

*\*The service will be broadcasted and recorded on YouTube, check your email for the link.*

***Gathering Music:***

*\*Indicates stand as you are able.*

***Candle Lighting***

Rev. Lorrie

As we light this candle, may we be ever mindful of the light of Christ in our collective lives, and in our personal life as well.

May the Christ light shine to peel away the gloom and expose us to Christ's love, so we too may shine today and always.

***Welcome and Announcements***

Rev. Lorrie

***\*Call to Gather***

Rev. Don Maclean

Come people of God, let us worship with joy and wonder.

**We have come to praise God in community and in compassion:  
Creator, Redeemer and abiding Spirit.**

***\*Hymn: How Firm a Foundation*** – Voices United #660

1 How firm a foundation, you servants of God,  
is laid for your faith in his excellent word!  
What more can be said than to you has been said,  
to you who for refuge to Jesus have fled?

2 "Fear not, I am with you; O be not dismayed!  
For I am your God and will still give you aid;  
I'll strengthen and help you, and cause you to stand,  
upheld by my righteous omnipotent hand.

3 "When through the deep waters I call you to go,  
the rivers of sorrow shall not overflow;  
for I will be with you, your troubles to bless,  
and sanctify to you your deepest distress.

4 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,  
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply:  
the flame shall not hurt you, I only design  
your dross to consume, and your gold to refine.

5 "The soul that on Jesus has leaned for repose  
I will not -- I will not desert to his foes;  
that soul, though all hell should endeavour to shake,  
I'll never -- no, never -- no, never forsake!"

***\*Opening Prayer***

God, as your Holy Spirit stirs among us and within us, fill us that we might know the depth of your love.

**As you poured out the waters of creation and the waters of baptism, fill us that we might immerse our families and our conflicted world with your compassion. In Jesus, your Son, with whom you are well pleased...in his Name, we ask it. Amen.**

**\*Introit: Of the Father's Love Begotten** - Voices United #61 (vs.4) *(sing together)*

This is he whom seers in old time  
Chanted of with one accord,  
Whom the voices of the prophets  
Promised in their faithful word,  
Now he shines, the long expected;  
Let creation praise its Lord,  
Evermore and evermore. Amen.

**Prayer of Confession** (seated)

Forgiving God, even though we have read the biblical passages that speak of your will for all creation and for all life, we go our own way and in our hubris go in ways contrary to your will. **When we are afraid, encourage us. When we are selfish, help us to think of others. When we give up too soon, forgive us. Give us patience and a trusting heart. Set us on the right path. In Jesus name, we pray. Amen**

**Kyrie** - Voices United #932 *sing together...twice*

Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.

**Words of Assurance**

Christ is the Light of the World.

**Our shadows are banished by Christ's unconditional love. In Christ there is no rejection. Thanks be to God.**

**Time with Children**

**Children's song...**

A sunbeam, a sunbeam, Jesus wants me for a sunbeam.  
A sunbeam, a sunbeam, I'll be a sunbeam for him. TBC

**First Scripture Reading: Gen. 1: 1-5 or Acts 19: 1-7**

**Scripture Acclamation: Glory to God** *(sing together)*

Glory to God in the highest heaven  
Glory to God in the place where we dwell  
Glory to God, O come let us sing  
Glory to God, sing hallelujah!

**Second Scripture Reading: Mt. 1: 4-11**

**\*Hymn: Hail to God's Own Anointed** – Voices United #30

1. Hail to God's own anointed David's greater Son!  
Hail, in the time appointed, God's reign on earth begun!  
Christ comes to break oppression, to set the captive free,  
To take away transgression, and rule in equity.
2. Christ comes with justice surely to those who suffer wrong,  
To help the poor and needy, and bid the weak be strong,  
To give them songs for sighing, their darkness turn to light,  
Whose souls, condemned and dying, are precious in his sight.

3. Christ shall come down like showers upon the fruitful earth  
And love, joy, hope, like flowers, spring in his path to birth.  
Before him on the mountains shall peace the herald go,  
And righteousness in fountains from hill to valley flow.

4. To him shall prayer unceasing and daily vows ascend,  
His kingdom still increasing, a kingdom without end.  
The tide of time shall never his covenant remove.  
His name shall stand forever: that name to us is Love.

### **Sermon: "Prophet & Loss"**

### **Musical Offering**

#### **Offering:**

You will find the offering plates on the table just outside the sanctuary doors.  
There are many other ways you can financially support the work of BCUC:  
through PAR, by dropping into the office, or by e-transfer.

#### **\*Song of Dedication:** (Voices United #218 vs. 3)

With voices united our praises we offer  
And gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
Our gifts now presenting, we pray for your blessing' 'to you, our great  
Redeemer, forever be praise.

### **Prayers of the People**

#### **\*Hymn: O Radiant Love, Incarnate Word** – Voices United #84

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| 1. O radiant Christ, incarnate Word,<br>eternal love revealed in time:<br>come, make your home within our hearts,<br>that we may dwell in light sublime.          | 3. Your glory shone at Jordan's stream,<br>the font where we were born anew.<br>Attune your church to know you near;<br>illumine all we say and do.        |
| 2. Our bartered, busy lives burn dim,<br>too tired to care, too numb to feel.<br>Come, shine upon our shadowed world:<br>your radiance bathes with power to heal. | 4. O Light of Nations, fill the earth;<br>our faith and hope and love renew.<br>Come, lead the peoples to your peace,<br>as stars once led the way to you. |

#### **\*Sending Forth Blessing**

Rev. Lorrie Lowes

The journey of life may be filled with detours and yield signs  
**The journey is often into the unknown and across uncharted waters**  
May we each know God's presence and blessings  
on all parts of the journey.  
**Thanks be to the God who never leaves us. Amen**

#### **\*Song of Departure: Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah** – Voices United #651 (vs. 3)

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside  
Death of death and hell's destruction, Land me safe on /Canaan's side  
Songs of praises, songs of praises, I will ever sing to thee,  
I will ever sing to thee.