

**BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH**  
**January 22, 2023 – 10 am     3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

\*Indicates stand as able

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

**Hymn: Come Touch Our Hearts - More Voices #12**

1.    Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,  
      from failing embers build a blazing fire;  
      love strong enough to overturn injustice,  
      to seek a world more gracious, come touch and bless our hearts.
  
2.    Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,  
      your quiet presence all our fears dispel;  
      create a space for spirit to grow in us,  
      let life and beauty fill us, come touch and bless our souls.
  
3.    Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,  
      set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;  
      help us to open doors of understanding,  
      to welcome truth and wisdom, come touch and bless our minds.
  
4.    Come touch us in the moments we are fragile,  
      and in our weakness your great strength reveal;  
      that we may rise to follow and to serve,  
      steady now our nerve, come touch and bless our wills.
  
5.    Come touch us now, this people who are gathered,  
      To break the bread and share the cup of peace;  
      That we may love you with our heart, our soul, our mind, our strength, our all,  
      Come touch us with your grace.

*Words Music © 2002 Gordon Light, arr © 2002 Andrew Donaldson Common Cup Co.*

*Song #118062 Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733214. All rights reserved*

***Lighting of the Christ Candle:***

**Acolytes: Rev. Victor & Sally Lujetic**

(Peter Chynoweth, Gathering A/C/E 2021/22, p43. Used with permission.)

Light to soften the shadows

Light to warm the air.

Light to warm our hearts.

Light of presence, refining light, light of Christ.

***Welcome & Announcements***

**Rev. Lorrie Lowes**

Good morning! I welcome and greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, on this 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany. Welcome. Join us for coffee and fellowship after the service in the main hall.

*(announcements.)*

Friends, ...

**Call to Gather: (Responsively) Rev. Kim Vidal**

(Kate Gregory, Gathering A/C/E 2018/19, p46. Used with permission.)

Listen!

**Who is it?**

Come join the circle!

**Is it Jesus?**

Come and follow me!

**We will! Show us the way!**

**We want to experience and learn about God's love.**

**Prayer of Approach: (Unison)**

(Catherine Tovell, Gathering A/C/E 2017/18, p42. Used with permission.)

**Gracious God,**

**You call us from many places and circumstances and invite us to follow you.**

**We come now to worship from many different life situations.**

**We come to be open to your Word, surprised by your grace,  
and humbled by your forgiveness.**

**Call us out of ourselves and our concerns, even for this hour,  
so that we may be transformed by your grace. Amen.**

**Special Music: Come and Follow Me - Bell Canto**

**Time for the Young at Heart: Rev. Kim**

Prayer of Jesus /The Lord's Prayer: (Unison)

**Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.**

**Thy kin-dom come, thy will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread, And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kin-dom, the power and the glory,**

**Forever and ever, Amen.**

**Hymn: Jesus Saw them Fishing - More Voices #113**

1. Jesus saw them fishing by the shore of Galilee,  
casting out their nets into the sea.

Simon Peter, Andrew and the sons of Zebedee,  
waiting in their boats so patiently. *R*

*Refrain* And Jesus said, "Oh, come and follow me.

Oh, leave behind your nets, I call you.

Oh, come and fish with me,

and your life will never be the same again."

2. A rich young person came to Jesus looking for advice,  
"How can I obtain eternal life?" Jesus told him,

“Honour the commandments of the Lord.  
Then sell off all your riches for the poor.” R

3. “If you want to follow me, deny your very self.  
Take up your cross and walk the walk with me.  
This might seem a hardship, an impossibility,  
but nothing is impossible with God.” R

*Words & Music © 2002 Ken Canedo spiritandsong.com*

*Song # 85904 Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733214. All rights reserved.*

### ***Minute for Social Action* – Clarke and Ellie Topp**

#### ***Prayer for Illumination:* Reader: Charles Barker**

As we read these words from long ago,  
Words that have become familiar to us through many hearings,  
Open our ears to hear them anew,  
Open our minds to find new meaning,  
Open our hearts to understand their message for us today. Amen

#### ***The Reading: Matthew 4:12-23 (NRSV Updated Edition)***

##### **Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee**

<sup>12</sup> Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. <sup>13</sup> He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, <sup>14</sup> so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

<sup>15</sup> “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—  
<sup>16</sup> the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.”

<sup>17</sup> From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

##### **Jesus Calls the First Disciples**

<sup>18</sup> As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers. <sup>19</sup> And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” <sup>20</sup> Immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>21</sup> As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. <sup>22</sup> Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

##### **Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People**

<sup>23</sup> Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

May God’s wisdom dwell where the word is spoken. **Thanks be to God!**

***Ministry of Music: God Made our Hands* – Jackson/Miller arr. Ades BCUC Choir**



**Sermon: “Leaving Our Nets Behind” Rev. Lorrie**

**Prayers of the People: Rev. Lorrie**

Amazing Creator,  
We give you thanks and praise this morning -  
for the beauty of this world we inhabit,  
the sight of sun on fresh snow, the wonder of each unique snowflake,  
and the complexity that allows life to continue beneath the surface until the warmth of springtime  
awakens it – animals sleeping, roots sustaining tall trees, seeds waiting to burst open with new life.  
Help us see the wonder and hope that each season brings.

Loving Parent,  
We give you thanks for the people around us  
for our families and friends,  
for this faith family and the communities in which we live,  
for the diversity of people who make up this world, near and far, known and stranger.  
Help us to be a blessing to all.

Caring Healer,  
We ask that you be with all those who suffer today  
Those who are ill or injured,  
Those who are lonely or grieving,  
Those who are facing violence and fear,  
Those who live in poverty or oppression,  
Those dealing with difficult choices.  
Bless them with courage and resilience,  
Comfort them with hope and support.

Patient Guide,  
Be with each of us as we make our way in this world.  
Guide the leaders and the followers,  
The parents and the children,  
The providers and the consumers,  
The teachers and the learners,  
The caregivers and the vulnerable,  
The insiders and outsiders,  
Give us compassion;  
Give us wisdom;  
Give us clear vision  
As we strive to build your kin-dom.  
Amen.

**Musical Offering: Clap Your Hands - Roberts**

**BCUC Choir**

**Invitation to Offer: Rev. Lorrie**

As individuals, we are called to share our gifts, each in our own unique way. As a community of faith, we are called to share our resources in ways that will spread God’s love and transform the world. I now invite you to offer your time, talents and treasures as an answer to that call. We are not passing the offering plates this morning as we continue to follow health protocols, but you will find those plates on the table in the narthex. There are many additional ways you can

financially support the work of the church – through PAR, by dropping into the office or using the mail slot by the kitchen door, or by e-transfer. Thank you for your continued love and support of Bells Corners United Church.

**Offertory Hymn: We Give Our Thanks - More Voices #187**

1. We give our thanks to God, (4X)

5. We give our hearts to you, (3X) because you first loved us.

*Words and Music © traditional Botswana Daisy Nsazonque, English © 1986 I-To Lah*

*Song #109417 Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733214. All rights reserved*

**\*Offertory Prayer: (Unison)** (Kate Crawford, Gathering A/C/E 2017/18, p46. Used with permission.)

**We are grateful to be your people,**

**To be called to be generous,**

**To be in ministry in your world.**

**Bless our gifts, our giving, and our hopes for a world in which your will is done. Amen.**

**Hymn: Jesus You Have Come to the Lakeshore – Voices United #563**

1. Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore  
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones.  
You only asked me to follow humbly. R

2. You know so well my possessions;  
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;  
You will find there my nets and labour. R

*Refrain*

O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,  
and while smiling, have spoken my name; now  
my boat's left on the shoreline behind me; by  
your side I will seek other seas.

3. You need my hands, full of caring,  
through my labours to give others rest,  
and constant love that keeps on loving. R

4. You, who have fished other oceans,  
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,  
my loving friend, as thus you call me. R

*Words & Music © 1979 Cesáreo Gabaráin, harmony © 1987 Skinner Chávez-Melo*

*trans. ©1987 Gertrude Suppe, George Lockwood, Raquel Gutiérrez-Achon,*

*Song #6905 Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733214. All rights reserved.*

**\*Sending Forth: (responsively) Rev. Lorrie**

(Gord Dunbar, Gathering A/C/E 2019/20, p53. Used with permission.)

Go from this place filled by the Holy Spirit.

**We go inspired and ready to breathe out God's grace.**

Go from this place filled by Jesus' call to service.

**We go strengthened and receptive in humility.**

Go from this place filled by God's grace.

**We go blessed and commissioned in faith. Amen.**

**\*Sung Blessing: Peace Be With You – More Voices #215** *sing twice*

Peace be with you, peace forever, Peace be with you, my friends.

Till we meet again, may God be with you. Peace, peace, peace.