

# BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH

February 25, 2024, 10 am 2nd Sunday in Lent

SOSA Sunday Guest Speakers: Rev. Dianne Cardin & Dr. Sahada Alolo

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

## Gathering Music:

\*Indicates stand as able

\***Hymn: Draw the Circle Wide** – More Voices #145 Words and Music: Gordon Light; Arrangement: Michael Bloss

*Refrain:* Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no one stands alone,  
Standing side by side, Draw the circle wide.

1. God the still-point of the circle, 'round whom all creation turns;  
nothing lost, but held forever, in God's gracious arms. *Ref*
2. Let our hearts touch far horizons, so encompass great and small;  
Let our loving know no borders, faithful to God's call. *Ref*
3. Let the dreams we dream be larger, than we've ever dreamed before.  
Let the dream of Christ be in us, open every door. *Ref*

## Lighting of Christ Candle:

Acolyte: Wayne and Phyllis Digby

(Walter Murray, Gathering Lent/Easter 2018, p 28. Used with permission.)

Lent can be a journey, together and alone.  
Lent can be a temptation for each and every one.  
Lent can be a challenge to see with more than eyes.  
Lent can be a pathway, through sunset to sunrise.  
We light this Christ candle to guide us on our Lenten journey.

## Sung Response: Don't Be Afraid – More Voices #90

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,	N'avez pas peur, mon amour est plus fort,
My love is stronger than your fear.	Il est plus fort que votre peur.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger	N'avez pas peur, mon amour est plus fort;
And I have promised, promised to be always near.	Je vous ai promis d'être toujours là.

**Welcome:** Nicole Beaudry

**Centering for Worship:** Let us prepare our hearts and minds as we gather in worship.

## Call to Gather: (Responsively)

(Wendy MacLean, Gathering Lent/Easter 2018, p28. Used with permission.)

If the Spirit leads us into the wilderness  
Of a life beyond our understanding or control,

**In the spirit of Christ, let us meet each other and journey together.**

If the world judges us as successful  
Because we are rich or beautiful,

**In the spirit of Christ, let us hold up faith and justice as the measure of wealth.**

If rules and traditions tempt us to resist change because transformation is dangerous and unfamiliar,

**In the spirit of Christ, let us welcome this new day trusting God's leading us.**

**Opening Prayer: (Together)** (Richard Bott, Gathering Lent/Easter 2016, p 30. Used with permission.)

**God, you invite us into community with you –  
At your table and in your world.  
The responsibility is awesome to love one another as Christ loves us.  
Thank you – for this community of love.  
Thank you – for being more than we can imagine.  
Thank you, God! Amen.**

The Prayer of Jesus / Lord's Prayer:

*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: For the Fruit of All Creation – Voices United #227**

(Words © 1970 Fred Pratt Green, Hope pub. Music: Welsh folk melody)

1. For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.  
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.  
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping, silent growth while we are sleeping.  
Future needs in earth's safe keeping, thanks be to God.
2. In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.  
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.  
in our worldwide task of caring for the hungry and despairing,  
In the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.
3. For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.  
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.  
For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us,  
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

**Prayer for Illumination: (Together)** Reader: Barbara Bole Stafford

(Beth W. Johnston, Gathering Lent/Easter 2018, p33. Used with permission.)

God has not stopped calling;  
God has not stopped speaking.  
Let us pray for our understanding of God's Word in our day.  
**God of prophets, both ancient and modern,  
Open our spirit to your voice;  
Open our hearts to your call;  
Give us the will and the courage to step up and step forward in faith. Amen.**

**Responsive Psalm Reading: Psalm 22:23-31** Voices United pg746 parts 3&4

*Sung Response: In the presence of your people, I will praise your name (repeat)*

Give praise, all you who fear God!  
Proclaim God's greatness, all you children of Jacob;  
**Stand in awe, all you children of Israel!**  
For god has neither despised nor scorned the poor in their distress.  
**You, O God, have not hidden your face from them.  
You have heard them when they call to you. R**

You are the theme of my praise in the great assembly.

**I will keep my promise in the presence of those who fear you.**

Let the poor eat to satisfaction;

Let those who seek you praise you.

**May they be good in heart forever!**

Let all the ends of the earth remember and turn to you, O God.

Let all the families of the nation bow down before you.

**For yours is the dominion, O God, you rule over the nations. R**

*Sung Response: In the presence of your people, I will praise your name (repeat)*

Even all who sleep in the grave shall worship you;

Those who go down into the dust shall bow before you.

**I too shall live for you.**

Our children shall serve you,

And tell generations yet to come about you.

**To a people yet unborn,**

**They shall make known the saving deeds you have done. R**

**Scripture Reading: 1 John 3:16-20** (NRSV Updated Edition)

<sup>16</sup> We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers and sisters. <sup>17</sup> How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? <sup>18</sup> Little children, let us love not in word or speech but in deed and truth. <sup>19</sup> And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup> whenever our hearts condemn us, for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything.

Gospel words to guide us. **Amen.**

**Ministry of Music: Rain Down** – Cortez arr. Carter

BCUC Choir

**Sermon: Multifaith Housing Presentation**

Rev. Dianne Cardin & Dr. Sahada Alolo

**Special Prayer:** Dr. Sahada Alolo

**Musical Offering: Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying** – Medema arr. Schrader

BCUC Choir

**Invitation to Offer:**

I now invite you to offer your gifts of time, talents and resources as expressions of your gratitude to God’s blessings. You will find the offering plates on the table as you enter the sanctuary. There are many additional ways you can financially support the work of the church – through PAR, by dropping into the office or by e-transfer. Thank you for your continued love and support of Bells Corners United Church.

**\*Offertory Hymn: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross** - Voices United #149, verse 4

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;

Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

**\*Offertory Prayer: (Responsively)** (Carol O’Neil, Gathering Lent/Easter 2023, p 37. Used with permission.)

**Holy One, we know that money alone cannot solve the pain of poverty.**

**We confess that there is also a spiritual poverty that can only be overcome by changing people’s minds and changing the systems that disempower many of us.**

**So, we offer our treasures and the prayers of our hearts that all of your children may live in dignity. On the name of Jesus, who also lived in poverty, we make this prayer. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn: Let Us Build a House.-** More Voices #1      *Words and Music:Marty Haugen 1994*

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,  
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.  
Built of hope and dreams and vision, rock of faith and vault of grace;  
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,  
Where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness and, and as symbol of God's grace;  
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
3. Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;  
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.  
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;  
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
4. Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone  
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.  
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;  
let us bring an end to fear and danger:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.
5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard  
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.  
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;  
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:  
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

**\*Sending Forth:** Rev. Dianne Cardin

**Sung Blessing: Go Now in Peace** – More Voices #211

Go now in peace .. guided by the light .. of Christ,  
So you may be .. nourished by the Word .. of Life.  
*repeat*