

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH
EASTER 2 April 16, 2023 – 10 am
Theme: “Doubting Thomas”

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

Gathering Music:

Acknowledgement of Territory: **Rev. Lorrie Lowes**

As we begin our worship service, we acknowledge that we are gathered on the unceded lands of the Algonquin-Anishinaabe peoples. For thousands of years, they have cared for the land even as the land cared for them. Guided by the wisdom of their traditions and their ancestors, they have been taught that the circle of life is embraced and embracing. Let us carry on this wisdom. Let us live into right relations with love and respect. (Jamie Miller, Gathering, ACE 2022/2023 Year A. Used with permission.)

Hymn: This is the Day More Voices #122

1 This is the day that God has made; we will rejoice and be glad! 2x
Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!
We will rejoice and be glad! 2x

2 Voici le jour que Dieu a fait; nous le vivrons dans la joie. 2x
Chantant Al-le-lu! (3x); nous le vivrons dans la joie.
Chantant Al-le-lu! (3x); nous le vivrons dans la joie.

*Words and music © 2003 Bruce Harding www.evensong.ca French © 2005 David Fines
song# 117875 Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733214. All rights reserved.*

Lighting of Christ Candle (Responsively)

(Beth W. Johnston, Gathering L/E 2023, p43. Used with permission)

Light.

Hope.

Light.

Love.

Light.

Never-ending presence.

Light.

A guide for the way ahead of us.

The light of Christ.

The light of Christ.

Thanks be to God!

Acolyte: Chris Brown

Sung Response: Lord Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary - More Voices #18

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary,
pure and holy tried and true; with thanksgiving,
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

*Words & Music © John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs, 1982 Kruger Organisation Inc
Song #119603 Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733214. All rights reserved*

Welcome & Centering for Worship: **Rev. Lorrie Lowes**

Good morning! Welcome to worship on this second Sunday of Easter as we continue to shout “Hallelujah!” at the news of resurrection.

Welcome to this place where we come together to share our faith
and where we come together to share our questions as we search for meaning and truth.
Welcome to the familiar faces and also to the newcomers and visitors in the pews.
We hope that you will all join us in the Main Hall after the service for fellowship and refreshment.
Let me call your attention to a few of the announcements in the bulletin...

Call to Gather: (Responsively) Rev. Kim Vidal (Richard Bott, Gathering L/E 2017. Used with permission.)

Um, excuse me.

Yes?

Would it be all right if I – no never mind.

Would it be all right...

if I talked with you about something important to me?

Sure!

You'll listen, right?

You won't laugh at me?

You won't think that I'm silly

Or that I don't know what I'm talking about?

We won't think you're silly.

We won't laugh. We'll listen.

What's it about?

It's about... God.

God?

God.

I've got questions and doubts,

And hopes and fears.

I don't know what it's all about

But I need *someone* who'll listen.

Will you?

In this community, we are friends in the Spirit.

In this community, we are people on the Way.

In this community, we search with one another.

In this community, we listen, we love, we pray.

And in all of these things...

We worship God.

Prayer of Approach: (Responsively) (Richard Bott, Gathering L/E 2017. Used with permission.)

O God, help us!

Help us!

From virgin birth to bodily resurrection...

From walking on water to "Lazarus, come out!"

You call our scientific minds to non-rational thought.

You call us to believe the unbelievable.

Help us in our unbelief.

Help us in our unbelief!

Make us into your Easter people...

**That we might see the truth of your presence
In the life that surrounds us.**

For this we believe:

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed!

Alleluia.

Alleluia! Amen.

Special Music: I Send You Out – Angotti arr. Tate Bell Canto/CGS director: Erin

Time for the Young at Heart:

Rev. Kim Vidal

The 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.

***Song: God, I Want to Be**

God, I want to be *more loving* in-a my heart, in-a my heart,

God, I want to be *more loving* in-a my heart,

In-a my heart, in-a my heart,

God, I want to be *more loving* in-a my heart,

Vs 2. ... more faithful ... Vs. 3. ... like Jesus...

Prayer for Illumination: (Unison)

Reader: Sally Lujetic

**God of joy and delight, open our hearts to receive your Word anew and give us hope
as Easter people. Amen**

The Gospel Reading: John 20:19-31 Jesus Appears to the Disciples

¹⁹ When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.”

²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Jesus and Thomas ²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them,

“Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” ²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” ²⁸ Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” ²⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet

have come to believe.”

have come to believe.”

The Purpose of This Book ³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

May these words renew us and give us assurance of hope in this time and in this place. **Thanks be to God!**

Ministry of Music: Song of a Faithful Servant – Besig/Price BCUC Choir/flute: Erin

Sermon: “Room for Doubt?”

Rev. Lorrie

Prayers of the People:

Holy Mystery,

We come to you today with Easter’s Hallelujahs still on our lips.

We have so much to celebrate and so we pray with thanksgiving

For the coming of spring and the new life it brings

For the many milestones and celebrations of our lives

For the many people who work to make this world a just and peace-filled place

For the opportunities that living in this country brings us

We remember too that this is still a world where many suffer and so we pray with concern

For all those in need

For those dealing with illness or mourning the loss of loved ones

For all those who suffer from greed, prejudice or violence

For all prisoners of politics or religion

For those living in the harsh reality of war and conflict

For all refugees and others displaced from the comfort of home

We pray for our church

For the staff, the many volunteers and the committees who help us do your work in the world

For all those raised up in our prayer chalice today

And we pray for ourselves

In our struggle to hear your Word, O God,

bless even our doubts, our wonderings,

our wanderings, our soul-struggles,

life’s deep questions, and deeper mysteries.

Teach us to love our questions

as well as our answers.

Heavenly Father,

receive, we pray, the prayers of your people.

Grant that we may not only understand

the things we ought to do,

but have the grace and power faithfully to do them.

So that the sound of our Hallelujahs will echo everywhere in creation. Amen.

Musical Offering: Rise Up Early in the Morning – Callaway

BCUC Choir

Invitation to Offer:

Rev. Lorrie

In declaring Christ risen, we become both the beneficiaries of resurrection and its legacy.

One way we live out that legacy is by sharing our gifts with others.

I now invite you to offer your time, talents and treasures as a sign of our gratefulness to God's blessings. you will find the offering plates on the narthex table. 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: What Can I Do? - More Voices #191**

What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer. I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

*Words & Music © 2005 Paul Rumbolt & Michele McCarthy, arr. © 2005 Alan C. Whitmore,
Song # 82970 Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733214. All rights reserved*

***Offertory Prayer: (Unison)**

Gracious God, We have no doubt that we have been abundantly blessed.

Accept these gifts we offer in love And help us use them to bless others.

Amen

***Hymn: You Tell Me That the Lord Is Risen – Voices United #185**

1. You tell me that the Lord is risen, that you have seen his face.
Then tell me why you crouch in fear and hide within this place.
You say that he spoke words of peace and stood just as before.
But 'til I touch his very flesh I will not trust your joy.
2. You claim a resurrection here, that God has broken death.
No easy words like these will soothe the pain that tears my breath.
How well do I recall his face, compassion, strength in fear.
How deep my grief that he should die. Spare me your words of cheer!
3. "Now peace be with you. Come my friend, my wounded body see.
Let the rich courage of your doubt bring you to fresh belief.
Fear not to wonder at the Word, to search the depths of grace.
Reach out and touch, here is my hand. Receive the gift of faith!"
4. "How blest are they, how fortunate who know without the sight.
But Thomas, you are favoured too, for searching yields its light."
So may each pilgrim in the Way, each road to Christ be blest,
'til lips declare, "My Lord and God!" Christ's body one at last.

Sending Forth:

We may not have all the answers
But our questions keep us searching
And moving deeper into faith.
Go into the world with this one certainty
The risen Christ who transformed the lives of the disciples
Is still able to transform lives today.
Let the whole world hear our Hallelujah!

***Sung Blessing: Arise, Shine – Voices United #886**

Arise, be clothed in the light. Arise, be clothed in the light.
Your light has come. Your light has come.
Hallelujah