

# BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH

EASTER 7 - May 21, 2023 – 10 am

“That All May Be One”

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

## **Gathering Music:**

\*indicates stand as able

\* **Hymn:** In Loving Partnership We Come – Voices United #603 Jim Strathdee 1982

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|--|--|
| 1. In loving partnership we come,<br>Seeking, O God, your will to do.<br>Our prayers and actions now receive;<br>We freely offer them to you.            | 3. Loving community we seek;<br>Your hope and strength within us move.<br>The poor and rich, the strong and weak<br>Are brought together in your love. |
| 2. We are the hands and feet of Christ,<br>Serving by grace each other's need.<br>We dare to risk and sacrifice<br>With truthful word and faithful deed. | 4. In loving partnership, O God,<br>Help us your future to proclaim.<br>Justice and peace be our desire,<br>We humbly pray in Jesus' name.             |

## **Lighting of Christ Candle:**

Acolytes: Tamara and the UP Group

When the sun rises each day, it lights the whole world and all that is in it.  
When we light this candle, we remember that Jesus brought light to that whole world too,  
and calls us to share his light with the whole world and all that is in it.

## **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.

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## **Welcome & Centering for Worship:**

Rev. Lorrie Lowes

A warm welcome to all on this Ascension Sunday. Like the disciples whom Jesus addressed before he left their sight, we gather to hear words to inspire us and words to raise our spirits.

Please join us in the Main Hall after the service for coffee, refreshments and conversation.  
announcements... - Property survey - Chipembi visit and Camp Chipembi

Friends, I now invite you to centre yourselves in the company of this faith family and in the presence of the Spirit,  
as we gather for worship.

## **Call to Gather: (Responsively)**

Rev. Lorrie Lowes

(Éric Hébert-Daly, Gathering L/E 2023, p44. Used with permission.)

Come to this place with open minds and open hearts.

**We leave our prejudices at the door and open ourselves to God's spirit.**

This is a place where we look deep within ourselves

**Prepared to let the Spirit shape us into the people God calls us to be.**

Come and prepare to be changed.

**With every whisper of God, we are transformed.**

Let us worship God as we come together.

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**Prayer of Approach: (Unison)** (Cheryl Stenson, Gathering L/E 2023, p47. Used with permission.)

Parent God, you've blessed us with Jesus' life to teach us the lessons we need to grow.

**We reach for the wisdom.**

Guiding God, you set us the goal of manifesting your loving will,  
of being your presence in the world.

**We ready ourselves for your direction.**

Powerful God, you offer us the insight and strength of the Holy Spirit.

**We welcome the inspiration.**

Our souls are uplifted by these gifts as we journey toward the ultimate ascension.

**Following the way of Jesus, we are journeying home. Amen.**

**Special Music: We Are One** – Voices United #402 v1,2

**Time for the Young at Heart** Erin Berard

*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: Draw the Circle Wide** – More Voices #145

*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.

2. Let our hearts touch far horizons,  
So encompass great and small;  
Let our loving know no borders,  
Faithful to God's call. (*Refrain*)

1. God the still-point of the circle  
'round whom all creation turns;  
Nothing lost, but held forever,  
In God's gracious arms. (*Refrain*)

3. Let the dreams we dream be larger,  
Than we've ever been before;  
Let the dream of Christ be in us,  
Open every door. (*Refrain*)

**Prayer for Illumination: (Unison)** Reader: Mary Wright

(Beth W. Johnston, Gathering Pentecost 1, 2015, p36. Used with permission.)

Open the scriptures to us, God of the ages, and open us to the scriptures.

Help us as we seek meaning and insight from the scriptures, so that the sacred story can become our story and we can become ever more your people. Amen

**The Gospel Reading: John 17:1-11 (NRSVUE)**

17 After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup> since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. <sup>3</sup> And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. <sup>4</sup> I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do. <sup>5</sup> So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

<sup>6</sup>“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you, <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

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: By Breath – Sara Thomsen***

***Sermon: “That All May be One”***

***Prayers of the People:***

***Musical Offering: Spirit of Faith, Hope, and Love – Jordan/Wilkinson BCUC choir***

***Invitation to Offer: (David Lander, Gathering L/E 2020, p49. Used with permission.)***

Making an offering is a radical act, in response to Jesus’ radical offering. But when we think of offering, is it just money? The money is vital is a symbol, too, for intentional care, for daring to be inclusive, for daring to strive to reach beyond discrimination, sexism, racism, and homophobia. For Jesus did not follow what was popular, do what he was told to do; but rather, he lived with integrity, daring to question the authorities. May our discipleship, too, be more than following, but imitate Jesus’ offering by radically doing what is right and loving. We give.

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.

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***\*Offertory Prayer: (Unison)***

(David Sparks, Gathering L/E 2020, p50. Used with permission.)

**As gifts of time and talent are dedicated,**

**Our spirits rise to fresh opportunity.**

**As gifts of money are offered,**

**Our spirits rise to strengthen the faith community.**

**As we remember the risen Christ,**

**Our spirits rise to work our destiny as Christians.**

**As we ask your blessing on our offering, Gracious God,**

**Our thanksgiving rises in the name of Jesus, the Holy One. Amen**

**\*Hymn:** Though Ancient Walls - Voices United #691 Farquharson/Klusmeier 1974

1. Though ancient walls may still stand proud and racial strife be fact,  
Though boundaries may be lines of hate, proclaim God's saving act!

*Refrain:*

Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!  
Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!

2. When vested power stand firm entrenched and breaks each other's back,  
When waste and want live side by side, it's Gospel that we lack. (*Refrain*)
3. The truth we seek in varied scheme, the life that we pursue,  
Unites us in a common quest for self and world made new. (*Refrain*)
4. The church divided seeks that grace, that newness we proclaim;  
A unity of serving love that lives praise to God's name! (*Refrain*)
5. This broken world needs lasting health and vital unity.  
God's people by God's Word renewed, cast off all slavery!

**\*Sending Forth:** Rev. Lorrie

Go from this sanctuary of worship, go into the world -  
The world that is alive with beauty in all its amazing diversity,  
The world that cries out for healing and justice.  
Go into the world; take the dream of unity, peace, and wholeness with you -  
God's dream for all creation.  
Go into the world, with feet firm on the ground, and spirit ascending.  
Go into the world, following the way of Jesus, that all may be one...  
All my relations. Amen.

**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