

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH
TRINITY SUNDAY – June 4, 2023 – 10 am

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

Gathering Music:

**indicates stand as able*

*** Hymn: It's a Song of Praise to the Maker - More Voices #30**

1. It's a song of praise to the Maker,
The thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker,
The gray whale sings in the sea.
2. It's a call of life to the Giver
When waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver
When high tides break on the shore. *R*
3. It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
The bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
The summer breeze joins the song. *R*
4. It's the chorus of all creation;
It's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation;
A song the universe sings. *R*

Refrain: And by the Spirit, you and I
Can join our voice to the holy cry
And sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

Lighting of Christ Candle: Acolytes: The Davidson Family

(Mary Anderson, gathering Pentecost 1 2023. Used with permission.)

We light this candle remembering
That God created light
The Saviour loved light
And the Spirit offers us the fire to stir us from complacency.

Sung Response: Holy, Holy, Holy - Voices United #315

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Welcome & Centering for Worship: Rev. Lorrie Lowes

Good Morning! Please join us in the Main Hall after the service for coffee, refreshments and conversation.
announcements... Property survey ... June 11 Sunday School Outdoor Picnic service
Chipembi visit and Camp Chipembi - Sponsor a child... Susan Young re: Affirming Process.
Friends, I now invite you to centre yourselves for worship.

Call to Gather: (Responsively) (Richard Bott, Gathering Pentecost 1 2021. Used with permission.)

In the holy name of God:
Father, Mother, Life-Giver...
We gather in this place.
In the holy name of Jesus the Christ:
Son, Redeemer, Teacher, friend...
We gather in this place.
In the holy name of the Spirit:
Holy One, Sustainer, Daily Guide, Wisdom...

We gather in this place.

In the holy name of the One who is Three
And the Three who are One...

We gather to celebrate new life.

Prayer of Approach: (Unison) (Karen Boivin, Gathering Pentecost 1 2023. Used with permission.)

O God, who makes us a reflection of the Trinity!

Gather us as Christ's Body.

Unite us in worship by your Spirit.

Show us how our diversity expands the opportunities

For us to be creators of goodness.

Make us more aware of what it means to live in your image.

Then send us out, please, Holy Trinity,

To reflect your unity and your diversity. Amen.

* *Special Music: One Single Light – Dave and Jean Perry*

BCUC Choir

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: The Whole World is in God's Hands (non-gendered version)

The whole world is in God's hands,
Yes, the whole, wide, world is in God's hands,
The whole world is in God's hands,
The whole world's in God's hands.

The grown-ups and the children are in God's hands,
Yes, the grown-ups and the children are in God's hands,
The grown-ups and the children are in God's hands,
The whole world's in God's hands.

Prayer for Illumination: (Unison) **Reader:** Ian Howes

Triune God,

You speak to us in three ways, three voices, three movements.

As we receive your Word,

Enable us to understand the ways in which you are calling us to share your love.

Amen.

The Gospel Reading: Genesis 1:1-2:4 (New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition)

Six Days of Creation and the Sabbath

1 When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so.

¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humans in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humans in his image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the

face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

2 Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation. ⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

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:

Sermon: “True Stories”

Prayers of the People:

Holy Mystery,
Today we sing of you in three persons
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit...
Creator, Brother, and Guide...
Source, Inspiration, and Motivator...
As we celebrate your Creation,
May we hear your Truth,
May we be inspired to live your Dream for this world.

We pray for this planet we call home
We know it is suffering and we know that much of that suffering has been caused by us, the very ones
you gave the responsibility to care for Creation.
Help us go beyond lament.
Help us do our part in healing the deep wounds of climate change
Help us to deliver peace to the places that need it most
Help us to inspire those around us to work toward the goals of peace and justice in the world.

We pray for our country and our communities.
We watch as people are displaced for the comfort of home because of violence, or fire, or flood, or lack
of the resources needed to sustain life.
Help us go beyond pity
Help us open our hearts and our borders to offer safety and care.
Help us open our eyes to the ways we contribute to the problems
Help us open our imagination to ways the abundance in the world can be shared equitably.

We pray for this congregation and all those we hold dear.
We are concerned for the people we are connected to by blood, by love, and by faith.
Help us support all who are struggling – with health, with work, or with life choices,
With loneliness or grief, with worry or with their mental health.
Help us find ways to reach out in comfort – with love, with understanding and with resources.
Help us see where connections have broken and how we can bridge the gaps.

We pray for ourselves.
We want to be the people you need in this world.
We want to live in the way Jesus showed us.
Help us recognize the gifts we have, the gifts we can share with the world.
Help us find the courage and the confidence to use those gifts.
Give us the inspiration we need to go into this world, boldly sharing your love with others.

Creator of this amazing universe.
We are often caught in awe of the immense beauty that surrounds us – majestic mountains and peaceful valleys, thundering waterfalls and vast oceans, towering icebergs and deserts that go on for miles...
Help us notice the small miracles too – budding flowers, tiny eggs in a nest, and the little moments where a stranger's smile can bring light to a gloomy day.
Open our eyes, our minds, and our hearts to the wonder around us and the potential it holds for the future. Help us create moments of beauty too.

All these things we ask in the Holy Mystery that is above us, that surrounds us, and that lives within us, the Ground of our Being that we struggle to put in words. Amen.

Musical Offering: Sing to the Lord a Joyful Song – Thoburn BCUC Choir

Invitation to Offer: (Peter Chynoweth, Gathering Pentecost 1 2023. Used with permission.)

We have gathered in the name of the One who moves around and within us, the One who breathes life into us as individuals and into this community, and the One who brings warmth, hope, and love. In gratitude for the One at work in our lives, we present our offering.

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: Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow – Voices United #541***

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures, high and low;
Give thanks to God in love made known: Creator, Word, and Spirit, One.

****Offertory Prayer: (Unison)*** (Gord Dunbar, Gathering Pentecost 1 2021. Used with permission.)

**Loving God, Three-in-One, One-in-Three,
We offer our gifts for your blessing.
As you have transformed us by your Spirit's presence –
Weaving us into a beautiful tapestry of relationship –
May you bless us and our giving for all our relations.
By your blessing,
May we become ever more the people Jesus called us to be,
Ever more intentionally aware of our interdependence. Amen.**

**** Hymn: God of the Sparrow – Voices United #229***

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| 1. God of the sparrow, God of the whale God of the swirling stars, How does the creature say Awe How does the creature say Praise | 2. God of the earthquake, God of the storm God of the trumpet blast How does the creature cry Woe How does the creature cry Save |
|--|---|

3. God of the rainbow, God of the cross
God of the empty grave
How does the creature say Grace
How does the creature say Thanks

4. God of the hungry, God of the sick
God of the prodigal
How does the creature say Care
How does the creature say Life

5. God of the neighbour, God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

6. God of the ages, God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

***Sending Forth and Blessing:** (Wetaskiwin Writers, Gathering Pentecost 1 2023. Used with permission.)

God calls us all beloved.

We go to love what God loves.

Accept your calling to love, to heal, to seek justice, and to reconcile.

We answer God's call in all we say and do.

The courage of Christ attend you.

The love of God surround you.

The Holy Spirit guide you.

Amen.

*** Sung Blessing: Like A Rock - More Voices #92**

Like a rock, like a rock, God is under our feet.

Like the starry night sky, God is over our head.

Like the sun on the horizon, God is ever before.

Like the river runs to ocean, our home is in God evermore.

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