

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH
June 25, 2023 **Indigenous Sunday**
Worship Leader: Rev. Lorrie Lowes

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

Gathering Music: Song of the Land - Brown, Emerson and Morrison (recorded 1992 Susan Aglukark)

Somewhere there's a land where the sun brightly shines	It's the song of the land
And across the tundra, slow rivers wind	In the heart of the common man.
And love lives forever and dreams never die,	Raise your voice and join hands,
Somewhere there's a land for you and I.	Sing the song of the land.

Somewhere there's a land where the snow softly falls,	Somewhere there's a land where the wind gently blows.
Elders are cherished and the past recalls	We'll raise a family in a home of our own;
Tomorrow is sparkling in the eye of a child	Where people are peaceful and wild geese fly.
Somewhere there's a land for you and I.	Somewhere there's a land for you and I.

**indicates stand as able*

*** Hymn: Called by Earth and Sky - More Voices #135**

<i>Refrain:</i> Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high. This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified, Called by earth and sky.	Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place, Our gathering and our grace. <i>Refrain</i>
1. Precious these waters, endless seas, Deep ocean's dream, Waters of healing, rivers of rain, The wash of love again. <i>Refrain</i>	3. Precious these mountains, ancient sands; Vast fragile land. Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong, Creation's faithful song. <i>Refrain</i>
2. Precious this gift, the air we breathe; Wind born and free.	4. Precious the fire that lights our way, Bright dawning day. Fire of passion, sorrows undone, our faith and justice one. <i>Refrain</i>

A Prayer to Acknowledge the Territory (Mary Anderson, Gathering Pentecost 1 2023. Used with permission.)

Regardless of where we come from, we are all interconnected through the land that we live on, the water we use, and the air we breathe. Generous Creator God, let us celebrate the abundance of this land bursting with new life. Let us feel the cold waters gushing with promises. Let us experience the expanse of sky enfolding us in your love. Abundant Creator God, we remember the Algonquin and Anishinaabe people who love and care for this land. These people have lived lightly and with respect upon this land, a territory upon which we now live. Generous God, help us on the journey to reconciliation with the land, the water and the air, and among the people. Amen.

Lighting of Christ Candle: Acolyte: (Teresa Burnett-Cole, Gathering Pentecost 1 2022. Used with permission.)

Creator, as we light this candle, may it remind us of your Sacred fire.
May the smoke from this flame carry our prayers to you as we gather this day. Amen.

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! I welcome you this morning, in the spirit of truth and reconciliation, to this Indigenous Sunday Service as we mark the Indigenous Day of Prayer and other celebrations of Indigenous culture that have been

taking place this week in Canada. Our relationship with our brothers and sisters whose people were here long before our descendants arrived from Europe to settle in this beautiful land, is a relationship that we continue to strive to heal. This is a commitment that we take seriously in this congregation and one that we continue to work on throughout the year. Today, we celebrate the rich knowledge and wisdom that they bring to us. Please join us in the Main Hall after the service for coffee, refreshments and conversation. announcements... 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) (adapted from Teresa Burnett-Cole, Gathering Pentecost 1 2022. Used with permission.)

The Creator's heart beats within us like the beat of the drum.

With all creation, we gather before God to sing and offer praise.

We come to receive the stories and remember our ancestors in faith.

Let our spirits dance before the Creator with hearts and minds as one.

May Jesus journey with us! Thanks be to God!

Prayer of Approach: (Unison) (adapted from Teresa Burnett-Cole, Gathering Pentecost 1 2022. Used with permission.)

Great Spirit, hear us as we gather before you.

Come to us with the power of the East.

We thank you for the gift of the rising sun.

May it light our path that we may journey in a good way.

Come to us with the power of the South,

We thank you for the warm and gentle breezes.

Warm not only our bodies but our hearts.

Come to us with the power of the West.

We thank you for the beautiful setting sun.

May we move in beauty all the days of our lives.

Come to us with the power of the North.

We thank you for your presence when times are hard.

May we remember that we are never alone.

Come to us with the power of the heavens.

We raise our spirits to you like the hands of a child reach to a parent.

Keep our minds focused with the good and kind.

Come to us with the power of Earth.

All we have comes from her goodness.

Teach us to move gently and respect her.

Our hearts are now open and listening for your word.

We pray in the name of our brother Jesus. **Amen.**

Special Music: O Siem – Aglukark/Irschick 1995 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pBn6v1DC9EU>

Chorus: O Siem, we are all family

O Siem, we're all the same

O Siem, the fires of freedom

Dance in the burning flame

Siem o siyeya, all people of the world

Siem o siyeya, it's time to make the turn

Siem o siyeya, a chance to share your heart

Siem o siyeya, to make a brand new start

And watch the walls come tumbling down. *Chorus*

Siem o siyeya, all people rich and poor

Siem o siyeya, those who do and do not know

Siem o siyeya, take the hand of one close by

Siem o siyeya, of those who know because they try

And watch the walls come tumbling down. *Chorus*

Fires burn in silence Hearts in anger bleed

Wheel of change is turning

For the ones who truly need

To see the walls come tumbling down *Chorus repeat*

Time for the Young at Heart <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITz5uNwPghA>

The Prayer of Jesus / The 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.**

***Song: A Song Must Rise – More Voices #142**

- Refrain:* Oh, a song must rise
for the spirit to descend
A song must rise once again
Singing out God's praises and glory,
the faithful voices blend,
Oh, a song must rise for the spirit to descend.
1. From the mountains to the valleys,
from the desert to the sea,
A song must rise once again.
From the voices of our leaders,
the voice of you and me,
A song must rise for the spirit to descend. *R*
 2. From poverty and riches,
from the voice of young and old,
A song must rise once again.
From the free and the imprisoned,
the timid and the bold.
A song must rise for the spirit to descend. *R*
 3. From every house of worship,
in every faith and tongue,
A song must rise once again.
From the villages and cities
a new song must be sung,
A song must rise for the spirit to descend. *R*

Prayer for Illumination: (Unison) Reader: Barbara Bole Stafford

(Beth W. Johnston, Gathering Pentecost 1 2019. Used with permission.)

**Great, Calling God, The story of your love for all people,
And the ways you reach out to us all
Is so compelling that we cannot put it down.
Open us not only to your love for us, but also to your love for others.
Help us to hear the words in such a way
That we seek to live it out in all that we do. Amen.**

The Scripture Reading: Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 (Living Bible translation)

¹⁻³ Can't you hear the voice of wisdom? She is standing at the city gates and at every fork in the road, and at the door of every house. Listen to what she says: ⁴⁻⁵ "Listen, men!" she calls. "How foolish and naive you are! Let me give you understanding. O foolish ones, let me show you common sense! ²² The Lord formed me in the beginning, before he created anything else. ²³ From ages past, I am. I existed before the earth began. ²⁴ I lived before the oceans were created, before the springs bubbled forth their waters onto the earth, ²⁵ before the mountains and the hills were made. ²⁶ Yes, I was born before God made the earth and fields and the first handfuls of soil. ²⁷⁻²⁹ "I was there when he established the heavens and formed the great springs in the depths of the oceans. I was there when he set the limits of the seas and gave them his instructions not to spread beyond their boundaries. I was there when he made the blueprint for the earth and oceans. ³⁰ I was the craftsman at his side. I was his constant delight, rejoicing always in his presence. ³¹ And how happy I was with what he created—his wide world and all his family of mankind!

**May all I say and all I think be in harmony with thee,
Creator within me, Creator beyond me, maker of the trees.
Thanks be to God!** (Chinook Prayer, Pacific North West Coast, North America)

Ministry of Music: The Prayer – Sager/Foster arr. Chinn BCUC Choir

Minute for Social Action: Message from the Moderator of the UCC
<https://united-church.ca/news/moderators-message-national-indigenous-peoples-day-2023>

Sermon: “Being Ready for Wisdom” Rev. Lorrie Lowes

Prayers of the People:

God, Creator and Great Mystery, we praise you for the Sacred Fires that burn today and for the prayer-filled smoke that you receive and bless. We offer our deep gratitude that the Fire’s light informs and guides our journey. We pray, just as the Elders prayed, for renewal and for the restoration of beauty to the land and its people.

We acknowledge the diverse and abundant gifts of Canada’s Indigenous Peoples. We recognize that their knowledge and wisdom have benefited generations past and present, and that this blessing will continue for generations to come. We remember the many who are committed to the healing of family, community, and nations.

We pray for Mother Earth, the waters, the winds, for our siblings the animals, birds, and fish, and all of life that surrounds us. We pray that we will walk the good Red Road of life, and that we will walk with courage, honesty, humility, love, respect, truth and wisdom.

We offer this prayer in humility and hope, and in the name, of our brother Jesus, the one who lights our path to wholeness, justice and peace. Amen.

—A prayer for [Indigenous Day of Prayer](#) by the Rev. Maggie Dieter, former Executive Minister, Aboriginal Ministries and Indigenous Justice; and Bill Snow, Stoney Nakoda First Nation, Alberta, member of the Indigenous Justice and Residential School Committee

Musical Offering: A Clare Benediction – Rutter BCUC Choir

Invitation to Offer: (Fern Gibbard, Gathering Pentecost 1 2022. Used with permission.)

How privileged we are that the creator, God of all heaven and earth, who cares intimately for all creation, asks and allows us to work to bring the life and hope, the peace and justice of God’s kin-dom into reality.

We take this time now to consider how we offer our time, talents and treasures in response to that call.

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)**

**Through these gifts, O God, May all heed the voice of justice,
Hear the call to compassion, Embrace the way of sharing,
And know solidarity with the loving Christ. Amen.**

***Hymn: O Beautiful Gaia – More Voices #41**

Refrain: O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home.
O, beautiful Gaia, calling us on.

1. Soil yielding its harvest, O Gaia calling us home.
Soil yielding its harvest, calling us on. *Refrain*

2. Waves crashing on granite, O Gaia calling us home.
Waves crashing on granite, calling us on. *Refrain*

3. Pine bending in windstorm, O Gaia calling us home.
Pine bending in windstorm, calling us on. *Refrain*

4. Loon nesting in marshland, O Gaia calling us home.
Loon nesting in marshland, calling us on. *Refrain*

***Sending Forth:**

As we extinguish the candles and leave this sacred place,
carry the holiness of this morning with you. Share it with everyone you meet.
As you go out into your everyday world, take time to listen to the wisdom around you.
Share with others the wisdom in the stories – the ancient and the new, the familiar and the surprising.
Hold the wisdom of creator God in your heart, let it shine in all you do,
knowing that God's blessing accompanies you on your journey. **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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Departing: Buffy Sainte-Marie & Tanya Tagaq "You Got To Run (Spirit Of The Wind)"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-pu067LCBA>