

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH

July 9, 2023

Worship Leader: Rev. Lorrie Lowes

Women in the Bible – Naomi and Ruth

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

Gathering Music:

* Hymn: God of the Bible MV28

1. God of the Bible, God in the Gospel
Hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
You are our centre, daylight or darkness,
Freedom or prison, you are our home.
2. God in our struggles, God in our hunger,
Suffering with us, taking our part.
Still you empower us, mothering Spirit,
Feeding, sustaining, from your own heart. *Refrain*
3. Those without status, those who are nothing,
You have made royal, gifted with rights,
Chosen as partners, midwives of justice,
Birthing new systems, lighting new lights. *Refrain*
4. Not by your finger, not by your anger
Will our world order change in a day,
But by your people, fearless and faithful,
Small paper lanterns, lighting the way. *Refrain*
5. Hope we must carry, shining and certain
Through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
Bonding us gladly one to the other
Till our world changes facing the cross. *Refrain*

Refrain:

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change. (Repeat)

Lighting of Christ Candle: Acolyte: Vicki Martin

On this ordinary Sunday in July, we light this candle as a reminder that God is with us – here in this sanctuary as we gather for worship, and all through the week as we go about our busy lives... a reminder that God is with us in times when living seems easy, and in times when the road seems difficult... a reminder to keep our hearts and minds open to the presence of God who is with us always.

Sung Response: Where Two or Three are Gathered – More Voices 14

Where two or three are gathered in my name
I am there, I am there. (Repeat...)

Welcome & Centering for Worship: Rev. Lorrie Lowes

Good Morning! I welcome you this morning, friends, family and visitors, for the second service in our series on women in the Bible. This week, we will hear about two women, Naomi and Ruth – and also a third, who is a part of their story but often passed over, Orpah.

Please join us in the Main Hall after the service for coffee, refreshments and conversation. announcements... Camp Awesome starts tomorrow! Summer office hours...

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) (Maggie Watts-Hammond, gathering Pentecost 1 2017. Used with permission.)

Every morning, God calls you to be,
And, when you rise and as you become, God gives you a promise:

As I live and as you live, I will never abandon you.

And each day, we may respond:

As you live and as I live, I will go with you.

And each day, we may say to one another:

As God lives and as I live, let us worship and serve together.

Prayer of Approach: (Unison) (Richard Bott, Gathering Pentecost 1 2021. Used with permission.)

**We give you thanks and praise, God most Holy!
For the beauty of the day,
For those who love us,
And for those whom we love, thank you!
For the safety of this place,
For the knowledge of your presence,
And for the gift of your love, thank you!
Bless us in this time together, that we might have
Open hearts, Open spirits, And open lives.
In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

Time for the Young at Heart Erin Berard

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:** One More Step Along the World I Go - VU639

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|---|---|
| 1. One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go,
From the old things to the new,
Keep me travelling along with you. | 3. As I travel through the bad and good,
Keep me travelling the way I should;
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way , I know. <i>Refrain</i> |
| <i>Refrain:</i>
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you. | 4. Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough,
Leap and sing in all I do,
Keep me travelling along with you. <i>Refrain</i> |
| 2. Round the corner of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn;
All the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me. <i>Refrain</i> | 5. You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me,
Ever old and ever new,
Keep me travelling along with you.. <i>Refrain</i> |

Prayer for Illumination: (Unison)

Reader: Connie Davidson

(Sheryl McLeod, Gathering Pentecost 1 2021. Used with permission.)

We gather this day to experience something new in the old, old stories.

We gather this day to simply be with you.

Open our senses, Loving God, so that we may experience you extravagantly and know you more deeply. Amen.

The Scripture Reading: Ruth 1:6-18 (NRSV, Updated Edition)

⁶Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the LORD had considered his people and given them food. ⁷So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. ⁸But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, "Go back each of you to your mother's house. May the LORD deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ⁹The LORD grant that you may find

security, each of you in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. ¹⁰ They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” ¹¹ But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? ¹² Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, ¹³ would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the LORD has turned against me.” ¹⁴ Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her. ¹⁵ So she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” ¹⁶ But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people and your God my God.

¹⁷ Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried.

May the LORD do thus to me, and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!”

¹⁸ When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

May we find wisdom in the ancient stories of our faith. Amen.

Ministry of Music:

Sermon: Rev. Lorrie Lowes

Hymn: Wherever You May Go – More Voices 216

Refrain Wherever you may go, I will follow

And your people shall be my people too.

Wherever you may go, I will follow,

For I will be faithful, loyal and true.

We will travel side by side

And God’s love will be our guide. *Refrain*

1. Say the word and I will stay,
I will never go away,

2. From the beginning to the end

I will always be your friend,

When you need me I’ll be there,

You can trust my faithful care. *Refrain*

Prayers of the People: Rev. Lorrie

Holy One, As we hear the ancient stories through our modern lens, we are struck by the roles that people in the background played in the history of our quest to know you and follow your path to building your kin-dom on earth. Be with us this month as we uncover the stories of women who heard your call and took the risk to answer at a time when women’s voices were suppressed.

We pray for those throughout the world who are facing the hardships of war and violence, of hunger and homelessness, of all the hardships caused by things beyond their control. Help us be communities of welcome, of support, and of care.

We pray for our home country of Canada and for our leaders as they try to guide us through the problems of wildfires, housing and food insecurity, crises in health care, and the rise in crime. Remind us of the blessings we experience living in a country rich in resources and beauty. Remind us of the value of the diversity in our population and the richness it provides to the culture of us all. Help us support those who take on the work to keep this country one of the best places in the world to live and work.

We pray for those we know and love. Keep our families safe and happy as they enjoy the freedom of summer vacations. Be with those who are grieving and lonely, those who are suffering from illness or injury. Help us see how we can be their supporting partners on the journey.

All these things we ask in the name of our brother Jesus who is our support as we journey through each day.
Amen

Musical Offering:

Invitation to Offer: (Beth W. Johnston, Gathering Pentecost 1 2021. Used with permission.)

Our offering today, and every day, is an act of love. We give from what we have and as we are able; but always we give in hope, faith, and love.

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 – VU #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)** (adapted from Beth W. Johnston, Gathering Pentecost 1 2017. Used with permission.)

May your love, as proclaimed in the scriptures, prompt us to be loving.

May your call, as given in the scriptures, prompt us to leave our comfort zone and take risks for the future of this world. May your generosity inspire ours, O God.

Receive these gifts and multiply them toward a future where no one lives in want. Amen.

***Hymn: We are Pilgrims on a Journey - VU595**

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| 1. We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
We are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load. | 4. I will weep when you are weeping,
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
Till we see this journey through. |
| 2. Sister, let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too. | 5. When we sing to God in heaven,
We shall find such harmony,
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony. |
| 3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear. | 6. Brother, let me be your servant,
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant too. |

***Sending Forth:** (adapted from David Lander, Gathering Pentecost 1 2015. Used with permission.)

Go forth encouraged; be an encourager.

Know you are loved and be a lover.

Be aware of the spirit in you and go forth spirited in all you are and do and say.

Go forth knowing that the blessing of God, Creator, Teacher and Guide, is always with 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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