

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH

July 23, 2023

Worship Leader: Rev. Lorrie Lowes

Women in the Bible – Bathsheba

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

Gathering Music: "Land of Rest" Trad. arr. R. Hebble

*** Hymn:** Come and Seek the Ways of Wisdom MV10

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1. Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,
she who danced when earth was new.
Follow closely what she teaches,
for her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice,
Showing us what love must do.
2. Listen to the voice of Wisdom,
crying in the market-place.
Hear the Word made flesh among us,
full of glory, truth, and grace.
When the word takes root and ripens,
peace and righteousness embrace.
3. Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;
nurture all who seek rebirth.
Spirit guide and close companion,
bring to light our sacred worth.
Free us to become your people,
holy friends of God and earth.

Lighting of Christ Candle: Acolyte: Chris Brown

We gather in this place to open ourselves to the presence of God,
And so, we light this Christ candle as a symbol of that presence.
In its light, may we be
Open to feel
Open to know
Open to listen
Open to see
Open to be all that we are called to be.

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 fourth service in our series on women in the Bible. This week, we will continue with women from the Hebrew Bible - or Old Testament – as we explore the character of Bathsheba.
announcements... Zambia Partnership Visit ... Summer office hours...

Please join us in the Main Hall after the service for coffee, refreshments and conversation.

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)

(Elaine Bidgood Sweet, Gathering Pentecost 1 2023. Used with permission.)

Psalm 133 reminds us:

“How very good and pleasant it is, when kindred live together in unity!”

How good it is to be together.

How good it is to be in this place, this special place.

How good it is to worship together.

How very good and pleasant it is when the people of God gather to worship.

With gladness, we worship today.

Prayer of Approach: (Unison)

(Wetaskiwin Writers, Gathering Pentecost 1 2023. Used with permission)

We turn from spreading ourselves too thinly,

Hoping that you, O God, will spread your grace.

We turn from cultivating affluence,

Hoping that you, O Spirit, will cultivate you passion in us.

We turn from making a living,

Hoping that you, O Christ, will live in us this morning.

Grow in us and through us to bless this world you love. Amen.

Special Music: "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir" - Staines
(Berard/Linforth family)

Time for the Young at Heart

Sue Morrison

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:** Listen, God is Calling MV 97

(Listen) Listen, God is calling,
Through the world inviting,
Offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.
Repeat

Prayer for Illumination: (Unison) Reader: Tamara Glanville
(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: 2 Samuel 11:1-13 (The Living Bible)

11 In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem.

² It happened, late one afternoon when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. ³ David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." ⁴ So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. ⁵ The woman conceived, and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant."

⁶ So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. ⁷ When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared and how the war was going. ⁸ Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. ⁹ But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord and did not go down to his house. ¹⁰ When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" ¹¹ Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths, and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house to eat and to drink and to lie with my wife? As you live and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing." ¹² Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, ¹³ David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk, and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house.

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

Ministry of Music: Fur Elise - Beethoven (Noah Berard, piano)

Sermon: Bathsheba – An “Affair” with a King Rev. Lorrie Lowes

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.

Throughout the world, there are people who, like David, make decisions without considering the adverse effects they may have on others; sometimes, God, we are the ones who do this. In our decision-making, help us consider the broader view and the consequences that filling our own wants and desires have on the world and all its inhabitants.

We pray that those in leadership, who hold the power to make decisions that can help or harm, have the wisdom and foresight to wield that power in ways that will heal the planet and provide justice for all. Give us the courage to use our voices in a way that moves creation and humanity in that positive direction.

We pray for our community and ask that you accompany all those who are traveling or enjoying vacations. We pray that their journeys outside the usual routine are rich in ways that bring them back to us safe, refreshed, and whole, ready to begin the cycle of the year once again.

We pray for all those suffering in any way: through isolation or loneliness, through illness or injury, from grief or anxiety, or from injustices that make each day difficult. Help us see where we can be your hands and feet to make a difference.

Help us keep the vision of your kin-dom clear in our minds as we go about our daily lives.

All these things we ask in the hope for love and justice for our hurting world.

Amen.

Musical Offering: "How Can I Keep From Singing?" Trad. arr. J. Herrington
(Berard/Linforth family)

Invitation to Offer:

In response to God’s generosity and as a sign of our commitment to follow in the way of Jesus, we take this time to offer our gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

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 Frances Flook, Gathering Pentecost 1 2015. Used with permission.)

**God of justice, God of grace,
We pray that through this offering we will begin to be more fully your people.
Through these gifts and our lives may we help in bringing the dream of your kin-dom to
this world.**

***Hymn: Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands** MV 173

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1. Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it,
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.

2. Put peace into each other's hands
With loving expectation;
Be gentle in your words and ways,
In touch with God's creation.

3. Put peace into each other's hands
Like bread we break for sharing;
Look people warmly in the eye:
Our life is meant for caring.

4. Give thanks for strong yet tender hands,
Held out in trust and blessing.
Where words fall short, let hands speak out,
The heights of love expressing.

5. Reach out in friendship,
Stay with faith in touch with those around you.
Put peace into each other's hands;
The Peace that sought and found you.

***Sending Forth:**

(Susan Ivany, Gathering Pentecost 1 2023. Used with permission.)

Friends, go from here knowing you are loved.

Go from here knowing that amidst all of life's uncertainties, God's love for you is constant and unchanging. **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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