

## BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH

August 27, 2023

Worship Leader: Rev. Lorrie Lowes

### “Who Do You Say That I Am?”

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

#### **Gathering Music:**

#### **\* Hymn: Will You Come and Follow Me**

Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you  
and you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?

VU567

Will you let the blinded see  
if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free  
and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean  
and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you  
and you in me?

Will you love the "you" you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in  
you  
and you in me?

Christ, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go where  
your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.

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#### **Lighting of Christ Candle:**

Acolyte: Tamara Connors

*(Jim McKean, Gathering Pentecost 1 2023. Used with permission.)*

As we light this candle, may we be ever mindful of the light of Christ in our collective lives, and in our personal life as well.

May the Christ light shine to peel away the gloom and expose us to Christ's love, so we too may shine today and 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 this thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost – and our last Sunday before Rev. Kim returns from sabbatical! We look forward to seeing her with us again, refreshed and renewed.

It is wonderful to be back after our Partnership Visit to our brothers and sisters in Chipembi, Zambia. Wendy, Alex, Kael, and I have so much to tell you! It was an amazing and productive visit. Camp Chipembi was a great success and we can be very proud of the work Kael and Alex did as part of the leadership team. You will hear more from us in the coming weeks but, since we just arrived home a few days ago, we need a bit of time to gather our thoughts and reflections and organize our photos! We look forward to leading a worship service to tell you all about it in the near future.

Just a few announcements to highlight:

The annual Interfaith Dinner with our friends from Jami Omar Mosque is back again after an absence of a few years because of the pandemic. The Bridge Building Committee has grown to include members from our neighbours at Christ Church Bells Corners and St. Martin de Porres churches. Please check your announcements for the link to purchase tickets to this year's event. It will take place on Saturday, September 30. As one of the founding members of this collaboration, I hope that BCUC will have a big representation at his year's dinner. It's always a great time with friends and always a delicious meal!

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)***

Why are you here?

**It is good to gather with friends and family in this place.**

So, it's a social event?

**There is more to it than that! We gather to hear the word revealed, to share the questions and explore some answers.**

But can't you do that on your own in a more comfortable chair?

**It wouldn't be the same.**

What would be missing? Oh! The music, the candles?

**The sense of community, the support of our faith family, the sense that God is with us, the joy of worshipping together.**

Then let us begin! Let us worship our God with song and ritual in this place of sanctuary.

**Let us celebrate our faith together!**

***Prayer of Approach: (Unison)*** (Richard Bott, Gathering Pentecost 1 2014. Used with permission.)

**Holy One,**

**There are times when you ask us difficult questions,**

**Like, "What do you believe?"**

**Or, "Who am I?"**

**Or, "Who are you?"**

**There are times we know the answers.**

**There are times we aren't sure.**

**There are times we know that we don't know.**

**No matter whether we know or we don't,**

**You are with us,**

**Holding us, teaching us, loving us into being.**

**Thanks be to you, wonderful God! 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:** Take Up His Song MV213

Take up his song of \*peace and go into the world.

Take up his song of \*peace in ev'ry moment.

In ev'ry moment of the journey,

we're laying down our lives,

Lay them down, in \*peace lay them down,

And take up his song. \*hope, faith, love

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***Prayer for Illumination: (Unison)***

Reader: Erin Berard

(Inspired by David Sparks, Gathering Pentecost 1 2017. Used with permission.)

**Living God, as we listen deeply to the reading, as we reflect on what we hear,  
let there be inspiration, let there be understanding, let there be action. Amen.**

***The Scripture Reading:*** Matthew 16:13-20 NRSV (Updated Edition)

**Peter's Declaration about Jesus**

<sup>13</sup> Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" <sup>14</sup> And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." <sup>15</sup> He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." <sup>17</sup> And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. <sup>18</sup> And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." <sup>20</sup> Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

**Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. Thanks Be to God. Amen.**

***Ministry of Music: Arioso – Bach***

violin: Leslie Wade

***Sermon: "Who Do You Say That I Am?"***

Rev. Lorrie Lowes

***Hymn: Christ Has No Body Now But Yours***

MV171

*Refrain* Christ has no body now but yours,  
no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work,  
to serve with the joy of compassion.

No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,  
no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,  
no touch but yours to bind the broken hope  
of the people of God. *Refrain*

No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,  
to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;  
no eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy  
of the city of God. *Refrain*

No feet but yours to journey with the poor,  
to walk this world with mercy and justice.  
Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace  
for the children of God. *Refrain*

Through ev'ry gift, give back to those in need;  
as Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,  
with ev'ry gift a benediction be,  
to the people of God. *Refrain*

***Prayers of the People:***                      Rev. Lorrie

Gracious God,  
We come to you on this August Sunday morning full of praise for this amazing creation,  
Full of gratitude for the family and friends that surround us,  
And for the many blessings of our lives.  
Help us to remember those blessings every day.

Challenging God,  
We also come to you full of questions and concerns.  
We have a difficult time understanding the suffering in the world,  
Violence and hatred and war in the news,  
Forest fires and tornadoes,  
And the illnesses and concerns of those close to us.  
Help us know how to be your hands and feet,  
How to help in the big pictures and in the intimacy of our family and friends.

Justice seeking God,  
Be with those who carry power in this world  
And help them see ways to use this power for the good of all people and this earth we inhabit.  
Give our leaders and all of us open ears, open minds, and open hearts  
As we find our way in this ever-shrinking world.

Loving God,  
We lift up to you all the prayers we express together  
And all the silent prayers of our hearts.  
Amen.

***Musical Offering: Ashokan Farewell – Jay Ungar***

*duet: Leslie Wade & Sarah Parker.* It was used in Ken Burn's "The Civil War" mini-series but was written as a farewell to the composer's summer cottage for the season

***Invitation to Offer:***

Jesus asks the hard questions:

“Who do you say that I am?”

“Why are you following me?”

We answer in the ways we live our lives,

In the way we treat others,

And in the way we share our gifts.

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:** We Give Our Thanks      MV 187 (in English and French)

We give our thanks to God (4X)

Nous rendons grâce à Dieu (4X)

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

(Sandy Ferguson, Gathering Pentecost 1 2014. Used with permission.)

**God, we come before you, ready to serve your call.**

**With the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that we offer to you,**

**We proclaim our willingness to prepare the way**

**For the Kin-dom that is to come**

**And to serve reality today. Amen.**

**\*Hymn:** My Love Colours Outside the Lines      MV138

1. My love colours outside the lines,  
exploring paths that few could ever find;  
and takes me into places where I've never been before,  
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

2. My Lord colours outside the lines,  
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;  
and takes me into places where I've never been before  
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown,  
body and soul need a soaking from time to time.  
And we'll never move the grave stones if we're not prepared to die, and realize  
there are worlds outside the lines.

3. My soul longs to colour outside the lines,  
tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;  
I want to walk beyond the boundaries  
where I've never been before, throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

We'll never walk on water if we're not prepared to drown,  
body and soul need a soaking from time to time.  
And we'll never move the grave stones if we're not prepared to die, and realize  
there are worlds outside the lines.

4. My soul longs to colour outside the lines,  
tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;  
I want to walk beyond the boundaries where I've never been before,  
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

***\*Sending Forth:***

(Nathan Nettleton, 2002, Laughing Bird.net)

Go now, strong in the mercies of God.  
Do not be conformed to the world,  
But be transformed by the renewing of your minds,  
So that knowing the will of God  
Your whole lives may become a sacrifice of praise,  
Holy and acceptable to God.

And may God, the creator of earth and sky, be your help;  
May the son of the Living God ground you on solid rock;  
And may the Holy Spirit equip you with all the gifts and graces of Christ.

**We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,  
In the name of Christ. 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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