

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH

September 24, 2023 – 10 am

Creation Time 3 – Zambia Partnership Celebration

“Celebrating with Gratitude”

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

Gathering Music: (Time for Silent Reflection)

* **Hymn:** Alleluia, Praise to God More Voices #59 Traditional Yoruba song
Alleluia, praise to God. Beat the drums, sing out to God.
Alleluia, praise to God Beat the drums, sing out to God.
Praises, high praises, Praises, high praises
we bring you, O God. we bring you, O God.
Alleluia, praise to God. Beat the drums, sing out to God.

Songs of joy sing out to God. Alleluia, praise to God.
Songs of joy sing out to God. Alleluia, praise to God
Dancing and singing, Praises, high praises,
we praise you, O God. we bring you, O God.
Songs of joy sing out to God. Alleluia, praise to God.

Words & Music © Traditional Yoruba song, Nigeria translation © Emmanuel Badejo All rights reserved.

Lighting of Christ Candle: Acolytes: Alex Price & Kael Fowler

(Mary Grant, gathering Pentecost 2 2023. Used with permission.)

With thankful hearts, we gather here where the doors are wide open to all.

We come with open hearts and open minds, thankful that we are children of the light of Christ.

Sung Response: A Light is Gleaming – Voices United #82 (*Refrain only*)

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night, living in the light.
Come share its gladness, God’s radiant love is shining bright. living in the light.

Welcome & Centering for Worship: Rev. Lorrie Lowes

Good morning! Welcome to this time of worship and a time to celebrate with us our recent trip to our partners in Chipemba Zambia. We are excited to tell you about our experience!

Welcome friends and guests. We hope you will join us for coffee and fellowship after the service in the main hall. We look forward to getting to know you! announcements ...

- The West Ottawa Interfaith Bridge dinner is happening on Saturday, September 30th from 5:30 to 8:30pm at the Jami Omar Mosque. To purchase your tickets, please look for Alison Bridgewater after the service in the main hall.
- Two Canoes – One River Event

Friends, today, we celebrate with gratitude, the joy that comes with loving our neighbours near and far. We celebrate the opportunities to show that love through the many ministries of BCUC and today we especially celebrate the growth in understanding and empathy that can happen when we work together with those neighbours we love. Let us now gather in worship.

Call to Gather: (Responsively) Wendy Morrell

It is good to see you gathered here today!

We gather as a faith community,

Ready to hear the stories of God’s work in the world.

That’s wonderful, but today we are taking you on a journey!

A journey? Where are we going?

We are taking you to see the work you have done in Chipembi, Zambia!
But we've never been to Zambia. How could we have done work there?

It's true that just four of us from BCUC traveled last month.

And what an amazing experience it must have been!

Oh, it was!

We wish we could have joined you.

Our journey was your journey too. Without you, we never could have gone. Without your support and care, the work would not have happened. Without you, new friendships would not have been forged.

We want to know more!

Come, gather together to hear the stories that your work has created!

Prayer of Approach: (Unison) Kael Fowler

God, you touch our lives

With mystery and hope.

We come to this place today,

Ready to see your power working through us.

Help us to be open to your Word,

And to answer your call among us.

In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Special Music: "How Then Shall I Live?" – Linnea Good CGS and Bell Canto

Time for the Young at Heart: Wendy Morrell with help from the team

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.

Hymn: Draw the Circle Wide – More Voices #145

Refrain

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

2. Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call. *R*

1. God the still-point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms. *R*

3. Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door. *R*

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Prayer for Illumination: (Unison)

Reader: Alex Price

(Richard Bott, Gathering Pentecost 2 2015. Used with permission.)

You are the Storyteller,

You are the Word.

You are God.

Alleluiah!

Bless the reading

Bless the listening

Bless the sharing

Bless the love.

In Christ's name. Amen.

Psalm Reading: Let's Sing it! Psalm 100 Make A Joyful Noise Voices United #820

Refrain: Make a joyful noise all the earth!

Worship your God with gladness.

Make a joyful noise all the earth.

Come to this place with a song!

2. Enter these gates thanks giving.

Enter these courts with praise.

Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy name. Worship your God with a song! R

1. Know that your God has made you.

Know it's to God we belong.

And come to this place with joyfulness and praise. Worship your God with a song! R

3. Ages through endless ages,

Seasons of endless years,

The love of our Maker ever shall endure.

Worship your God with a song! R

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The Scripture Reading: Habakkuk 3:17-19

New International Version

¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not bud
and there are no grapes on the vines,

though the olive crop fails

and the fields produce no food,

though there are no sheep in the pen

and no cattle in the stalls,

¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD,

I will be joyful in God my Savior.

¹⁹ The Sovereign LORD is my strength;

he makes my feet like the feet of a deer,

he enables me to tread on the heights.

May these words challenge us to act out our faith. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: Reflections from the Travelers:

Rev. Lorrie

Kael Fowler

Alex Price

Wendy Morrell

Prayers of the People: Rev. Lorrie & Wendy Morrell

(*The People - Meditations from Africa - Michael Colpey and Guy Gibbon*)

Our prayer this morning is a meditation from Africa by Michael Colpey and Guy Gibbon. Let us pray:
May we heal the fissures and cracks in our collective soul
May we see ourselves from a different point of view
May we let go of outmoded beliefs
May we recognize the opportunities our stories offer for growth and acceptance
May we release the love
May love replace fear
May we each accept our personal responsibilities to make a difference
May we see that there is enough for everybody
May we eradicate poverty consciousness from our destiny path
May we be open to receive abundance from the law of sharing
May we dedicate ourselves to the Earth and her changes
May we make a leap of faith into a new way of relating to our planet and her people
May we stand in our truth and not be afraid to dream big
May we acknowledge that each person has something beautiful to offer
May we not be blind to these sacred gifts
May we not put limits on our creator
May we remember our true purpose
May each soul be like a bead strung on the necklace of cooperation and teamwork
May humility have its way
May we experience balance and beauty
May we commit ourselves to peace
May we celebrate our diversity in the oneness of love
May we be ourselves and flower freely
May we resonate and glow
May we take the next step
Amen.

Musical Offering: Ride the Chariot – spiritual arr. Henry Smith *BCUC Choir*

Invitation to Offer: Rev. Lorrie

In a world where the gap between abundance and need are keenly felt, we offer our gifts of time, talents, and resources to do our part in building God's kin-dom here at home and in places far away. You will find the offering plates on the table as you enter the sanctuary. 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: “Every Day is a Day of Thanksgiving”*** **More Voices #185**

Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.
God, you've been so good to me. Ev'ry day you're blessing me.
Ev'ry day is a day of thanksgiving.
I will glorify you, O my Lord, today! *(Repeat)*

You keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.
You opened the door that I might see you're blessing me.
And you keep blessing me, blessing me, blessing me.
I will glorify you, O my Lord, today! *(Repeat)*

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***Offertory Prayer: (Unison)**

An African proverb tells us, O God, that “it takes a village to raise a child”.
We know that it takes all of us to care for your world and for each other.
Accept these gifts as a part of the ministry
To which you call each one of us. Amen.

***Hymn: Come All You People - Voices United #2**

Come all you people,	U-ya-i-mo-se,
Come and praise your maker (3X)	ti-na-ma-ten Mwa-ri (3X)
Come now and worship your God.	U-ya-I mo-se zvi-no.

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***Sending Forth (Responsively) Rev. Lorrie**

On my first visit to Zambia, I heard another African proverb that says, “I see you and you see me, so therefore we shall be concerned for each other.” It is the concept of *ubuntu* that calls us to live in right relationship with all of creation and all who dwell in it.

As we leave this place of worship, let us take this message out into our lives.

Let us build relationship with our neighbours near and far, knowing that, as we do so, we are building God’s kin-dom in the world.

May God’s blessing be on each one of us and on everyone we meet as we go about this holy work.
Amen.

Sung Blessing: Shalom Cheverim – Songs for a Gospel People #114

Shalom good friends! Shalom good friends! Shalom, Shalom!
Till we meet again, till we meet again, shalom, shalom.

Sjalom chers amis! Sjalom chers amis! Sjalom, sjalom!
Jusqu’aurevoir, jusqu’aurevoir, sjalom, sjalom.