

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH

Celebration Hymn-Sing Sunday

February 12, 2023 – 10am 6th SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

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

***Indicates stand as able**

Gathering Music: You Raise Me Up (Words: Brendan Graham; Music: Rolf Lovland)

In memory of Rene Butler (Jean Butler)

The gathering song, You Raise Me Up, was composed by Norwegian composer Rolf Lovland after he was inspired by the Irish ballad *O Danny Boy*. The words were written by Irish lyricist Brendan Graham. Both Lovland and Graham were a popular duo known as Secret Garden and they first performed this song in 2002. However, it was Josh Groban who made it famous in 2003. Let us listen to the choir as they sing this song in memory of *Rene Butler*.

***Hymn: How Great Thou Art - Voices United #238 verses 1, 2, 4**

In memory of Peggy Tomes (Cindy Pelletier & Bryan Donovan)

The next hymn of praise which is based on a Swedish traditional melody and a poem was written by Carl Gustav Boberg in 1885. It was voted second, next to Amazing Grace, as the most popular hymn ever sung. Please rise in body or in spirit as we sing verses 1, 2 and 4 of this hymn in memory of *Peggy Tomes*.

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| 1. O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy power throughout the universe displayed. | 2. When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze. R |
|--|---|

Refrain Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

4. When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, "My God, how great thou art!" R

(Words: Carl Gustav Boberg, 1885; English trans. Stuart K. Hine, 1939; Music: Swedish melody, arr. Stuart K. Hine, 1949)

Lighting of the Christ Candle: (Ephesians 5:19-20) Acolytes: Dana Ducette & Family

"Let us sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs singing and making melody to God in our hearts, giving thanks to God at all times and for everything in the name of Jesus Christ."

Hymn: Come Touch Our Hearts – More Voices #12 verses 1, 2, 3

In memory of Loved Ones (Barbara Bole & David Stafford)

The next hymn was composed in 2002 by Canadian songwriter Gordon Light, past bishop of the Anglican parishes in British Columbia, who attended Carleton University in Ottawa and Trinity College in Toronto. The music was arranged by Canadian musician, Andrew Donaldson in 2002. Remain seated as we join our voices in singing the first 3 verses of Come Touch Our Hearts in memory of *Barbara & David's loved ones*.

1. Come touch our hearts that we may know compassion,
from failing embers build a blazing fire;
love strong enough to overturn injustice,
to seek a world more gracious, come touch and bless our hearts.

2. Come touch our souls that we may know and love you,
your quiet presence all our fears dispel;
create a space for spirit to grow in us,
let life and beauty fill us, come touch and bless our souls.

3. Come touch our minds and teach us how to reason,
set free our thoughts to wonder and to dream;
help us to open doors of understanding,
to welcome truth and wisdom, come touch and bless our minds.

(Words and Music: Gordon Light, 2022; arr. Andrew Donaldson, 2002)

Welcome and Centering for Worship Rev. Kim Vidal

Good morning! I welcome and greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, on this 6th Sunday after Epiphany as we gather our voices to sing the well-loved hymns and songs in memory of loved ones and to celebrate our joys in many forms. Join us for a soup and sandwich lunch provided by the Stewardship Team after the service in the main hall. *Highlight announcements.* - Transfiguration Sunday is All-Ages worship service – Feb 19
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper – Feb 21

Pastoral Care Moment: We offer our sincerest condolences to the Jol Family as they grieve the passing of Helen Jol. Helen sang with the Ladies Chorus in addition to her many involvements at BCUC. She'll be missed. - We also lift up in our thoughts and prayers the families and communities of those who perished in Turkey and Syria due to the tragic earthquake that killed over 11,000 people. Friends, on this Hymn-Sing Sunday, let us give thanks to God, the composer and singer of love.

***Hymn: In the Bulb, there is A Flower - Voices United #703** (Natalie Sleeth, 1986)

In memory of Parents & Siblings (Ruth & Ian Howes)

A wonderful child-like simplicity permeates this newer hymn written and composed by Natalie Sleeth in 1985. Sleeth had a gift for composing texts on complex theological ideas that were still accessible to children. This hymn is one of the most memorable hymns written by an American United Methodist in the last part of the twentieth century, and it promises to be sung for many years to come. Let us rise as we sing this hymn in memory of the parents and siblings of Ruth & Ian Howes.

1. In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree;
in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free!
In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

2. There's a song in every silence, seeking word and melody;
there's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me.
From the past will come the future; what it holds, a mystery,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

3. In our end is our beginning; in our time, infinity;
in our doubt there is believing; in our life, eternity.
In our death, a resurrection; at the last, a victory,
unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see.

Words and Music © 1986 Natalie Sleeth

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Call to Gather: (responsively) Rev. Lorrie Lowes

Inspired by the prayer of Joanna Harader, <http://spaciousfaith.com/>

We sing from the depths of our sorrow.

We sing from the abundance of our joy.

We sing in voices separate and unique.

We sing with one voice as Christ's body.

May the words of our mouths, whether in speech or song,

and the meditations of our hearts, whether in prose or poetry,

be pleasing to God. Come, let us sing!

Special Music: Your Love is Amazing – More Voices #26 Bell Canto & Band

In celebration of BCUC's young voices (Erin Berard)

Contemporary songwriters Brian Doerksen and Brenton Brown co-wrote this praise song in 2000 that made it to the More Voices hymnbook. Doerksen commented that this song springs from the intensity of emotions and convictions that cannot be contained.

Join in with the Bell Canto accompanied by the band as they sing Your Love is Amazing!

1. Your love is amazing, steady and unchanging,
your love is a mountain, firm beneath my feet.
Your love is a myst'ry, how you gently lift me.
When I am surrounded your love carries me.

Refrain (2x) Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah
Your love makes me sing.

2. Your love is surprising, I can feel it rising,
all the joy that's growing deep inside of me.
Ev'ry time I see you all your goodness shines through.
I can feel this God song rising up in me. *Ref*

(Words and Music: Brenton Brown & Brian Doerksen, 2000)

Prayer of Jesus /The Lord's Prayer: (Unison)

**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: O Beautiful Gaia – More Voices #41** (Carolyn McDade, 2006; arr. Lydia Pedersen, 2006)

In memory of our parents (Ellen & Bob Boynton)

The word "gaia" represents Mother Earth, inviting us to live into our care and respect for all creation. Let this contemporary hymn, written by maritime composer Carolyn McDade published in the More Voices hymnbook inspire us to give thanks for the earth we live in.

Let us sing verses 1, 2 & 4 of this hymn in memory of the parents of Bob & Ellen Boynton.

Refrain: O beautiful Gaia, O Gaia, calling us home. Waves crashing on granite, O Gaia, calling us home.
O beautiful Gaia, calling us on. Waves crashing on granite, calling us on. R
Soil yielding its harvest, O Gaia, calling us home. Loon nesting in marshland, O Gaia, calling us home.
Soil yielding its harvest, calling us on. R Loon nesting in marshland, calling us on. R

Children dismissed for activity

* **Hymn: I Feel the Winds of God Today - VU#625** (Words:Jessie Adams; English & Irish melody)
In memory of Shirley Hughes (David Hughes, Sally & Victor Lujetic)

The haunting and flowing melody of this traditional English tune known as Kingsfold is set to a rippling accompaniment emulating wind and the stirring of the Spirit. The lyrics of this hymn was written in 1906 by Jessie Adams, a Pacifist Quaker from York, England. The hymn particularly suit services connected with mariners and the sea and is a favorite among protestant churches in the Maritimes. Please rise as we sing this hymn in memory of *Shirley Hughes*.

1 I feel the winds of God today; today my sail I lift,
though heavy oft with drenching spray and torn with many a rift;
if hope but light the water's crest, and Christ my bark will use,
I'll seek the seas at his behest, and brave another cruise.

2 It is the wind of God that dries my vain regretful tears,
until with braver thoughts shall rise the purer, brighter years;
if cast on shores of selfish ease or pleasure I should be,
O let me feel your freshening breeze, and I'll put back to sea.

3 If ever I forget your love and how that love was shown,
lift high the blood-red flag above; it bears your name alone.
Great pilot of my onward way, you will not let me drift;
I feel the winds of God today, today my sail I lift. R

Hymn: Precious Lord, Take My Hand - VU#670 (Words:Thomas Dorsey; Music:George N. Allen)
In memory of Young Hoon Kim (Kim Family)

In 1932. Thomas A. Dorsey wrote this song in Chicago, Illinois, after his wife Nettie died while giving birth to a child (who also died shortly thereafter). Dorsey sang the song for his friend, Gospel singer Theodore Frye. Dorsey adapted the tune Maitland to accompany the lyrics by George N. Allen in 1844. Let us remain seated as we sing this hymn in memory of Young Hoon Kim.

1-Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn;
through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

2-When my way grows drear, precious Lord, linger near,
when my life is almost gone,
hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

3-When the darkness appears, and the night draws near,
and the day is past and gone,
at the river I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand:
take my hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

Musical Offering: Go Rest High On That Mountain -Vince Gill (Instrumental)

In memory of my brother (Linda Ward)

"Go Rest High On That Mountain" is a song written and recorded by American country music artist Vince Gill. It was released in August 1995. The song was a tribute to an unnamed person closed to Vince Gill who died. Let us listen in memory of Linda Ward's brother.

Prayer for Illumination: (In Unison) Reader: Rev. Victor Lujetic

Your Word, O God, sheds light to our spirit and brings healing to our hearts. Open our hearts and minds in contemplation, in praise, in wonder, and in reflection. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 10: 26-33 (NRSV Updated Edition) Whom to Fear

²⁶ "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell. ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² "Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

May the Light of God dwell where the Word is spoken. Thanks be to God!

Hymn: His Eye is On the Sparrow (Words: Civilla D. Martin, 1905; Music: Charles H. Gabriel, 1905)

In memory of Efraim A. Vidal Sr. (Kim Family)

"His Eye Is on the Sparrow" is a gospel hymn written in 1905 by lyricist Civilla D. Martin and composer Charles H. Gabriel. The theme of the song is inspired by the words of Matthew read to us by Rev. Victor. Remain seated as we join our voices together in singing this beautiful hymn in memory of the Vidal Sister's father, Efraim Vidal Sr.

Why should I feel discouraged
Why should the shadows come
Why should my heart feel lonely
And long for heaven and home.

When Jesus is my portion
A constant friend is he

His eye is on the sparrow
And I know he watches over me.

I sing, because I'm happy
I sing, because I'm free

His eye is on the sparrow
And I know he watches over me.

Reflection

Rev. Kim

Hymn: Spirit of Gentleness VU 375, verses 1, 2, 4 (James K. Manley, french by Andrew Donaldson)

In memory of Jan Mitchell (UCW Unit 3 Pat Atkinson)

The Rev. James K. Manley, ordained minister of the United Church of Christ in the USA wrote this hymn in 1978. It was particularly sung during the season of Pentecost in many protestant denominations all over the world. Remain seated as we sing verses 1, 2 and 4 in memory of Jan Mitchell.

Refrain: Spirit, spirit of gentleness, blow through the wilderness, calling and free,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea.

1-You moved on the waters, you called to the deep
Then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
And over the eons you called to each thing;
Wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings. R

2-You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,
and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
then you spoke through your prophets to open their eyes. R

4-You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow all the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions; our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise. R

Music Prayer: The Berard Family

Let us gather our hearts in this Music Prayer:
Thank you for the music all around us.
Each morning we hear it from the moment we open our ears;
the low notes of wind around the eaves
the whoosh of water as it comes from the tap
the glug glug as it drains
the throaty whistle of the boiling kettle
the metallic tap of the spoon against the cup
the jazz percussion of our feet on the steps.
The sounds of our day, so familiar we hardly pay attention.
Thank you for the ability to hear.
Thank you for the sounds of life
the chatter of the squirrel
the deep purr of a cat
the sharp calls of a blue jay
the sound of someone we love laughing.
Give us wisdom to enter this day with good sounds,
tones and pitches and words that affirm, encourage, cherish,
our sounds affecting the world in a positive way.
We pray for all who sing a sad song today;
the grieving, the lonely, the lost.
We pray especially for those who have lost their voice
and feel silenced or oppressed.
There are many singing freedom songs around our world,
and so today we pray for the safety of these singers.
Give their song the strength to convince and convert,
the power to ward off war.
There are too many war songs,
we don't want to hear another one.
Thank you for your songs, love songs, which we are invited to sing.
Thank you for all the parts you've made for the song;

soprano, alto, tenor, bass.

Thank you for the children's part and the senior's part,
thank you for the youth part and the part for middle agers,
thank you for the crazy baby descant
that we all love to hear.

You are the Great Composer.

We long to be composed each day in your image,
singing your elegant score truly, clearly,
following your rhythm by heart,
finding our voice in your beautiful world.

Hearing you in the music of life.

This is our prayer in the name of Jesus Christ who taught us a song of love. Amen.

Ministry of Music: We Rise Again (Leon Dubinsky, 1985) **BCUC Choir**

In memory of son, Gregory (Eithne & Charles Barker)

This song was written by Leon Dubinsky, a songwriter from Sydney, Nova Scotia, for a 1984 stage musical titled *The Rise and Follies of Cape Breton*, as an anthem of resilience and hope at a time when Cape Breton Island was going through an economic crisis. The song was popularized by the Rankin Family. Let us listen to the BCUC Choir in their rendition of *We Rise Again*.

***Hymn: I Danced in the Morning – Voices United #352 (vs 1,2,5)**

In memory of Marion Routledge (UCW Unit 3)

The next hymn is a shaker melody written by folk singer Sydney Carter in 1963 famous for its original title, *Lord of the Dance*. The words are written as though Jesus was singing them and pictures the Christian life as a dance with Jesus as the leader. Please stand if able and sing verses 1, 2, 3 of this hymn, *I Danced in the Morning*, in memory of Marion Routledge.

1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

2 I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on. R

Refrain: Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

5 They cut me down and I leap up high,
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he. R

(Words: Sydney Carter, 1963; Music: Shaker Melody adapt. and harm. Sydney Carter, 1963)

Invitation to Offer:

We offer ourselves with our gifts, knowing that God has a purpose for us and for others. I now invite you to offer your time, talents and treasures as a sign of our gratefulness to God's blessings. 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 Prayer: (Unison)

**Like the rhythm of music that inspires the soul, we offer our gifts of love.
May they transform and touch many people and places. Amen.**

*** Hymn: Will Your Anchor Hold – Voices United #675 verses 1, 2 & 4**

In memory of Donald Miller (Linda Miller)

Our closing hymn was written by Priscilla J. Owens in 1882 and music by composer William James Kirkpatrick in the same year. The words were inspired by Hebrews 6: 19 a that says: *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.* The hymn has always been closely associated with the Boys' Brigade in Glasgow, Scotland, which has the motto, "Sure and Steadfast". Let us stand and sing verses 1, 2, and 4 in memory of Donald Miller.

1 Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?
When the clouds unfold their wings of strife,
when the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
will your anchor drift or firm remain?

2 It will surely hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers tell and the reef is near;
though the tempest rave and the wild winds blow,
not an angry wave shall our bark o'erflow? R

Refrain: We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the Rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

4 When our eyes behold, through the gathering night,
the city of gold, our harbour bright,
we shall anchor fast by the heavenly shore,
with the storms all past for evermore. R

(Words: Priscilla Jane Owens, 1882); Music: William James Kirkpatrick, 1882)

***Sending Forth: (Responsively)**

Go into the world: dance, laugh, sing and create.

We go with the music of God's blessing.

Go into the world: risk, explore, discover, love.

We go with the music of God's grace.

Go into the world: believe, hope, struggle, remember.

We go with the music of God's love. Amen!

***Sung Blessing: This Day God Gives Me – Voices United #410 verses 1, 2, 3**

In memory of our parents (Bill & Nora McGee)

The words of this hymn are attributed to St. Patrick, adapted by James Quinn, a Scottish Jesuit priest in 1969. The tune *Bunessan* is a traditional Gaelic melody composed in 1888. We go forth from this Celebration Hymn-Sing Sunday by singing the first 3 verses of this hymn offered by Bill & Nora McGee in memory of their parents.

1 This day God gives me strength of high heaven,
Sun and moon shining, flame in my hearth,
Flashing of lightning, wind in its swiftness,
Depths of the ocean, firmness of earth.

3 God's way is my way, God's shield is round me,
God's host defends me, saving from ill.
Angels of heaven, drive from me always.
All that would harm me, stand by me still.

2 This day God sends me strength to sustain me,
Might to uphold me, wisdom as guide.

Your eyes are watchful, your ears are listening,

Your lips are speaking, Friend at my side.

(Words: attrib. St. Patrick; adapt. James Quinn, 1969; Music: BUNESSAN)