

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH

EASTER 3 - April 23, 2023 – 10 am

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

Gathering Music: You'll Never Walk Alone – Rodgers/Hammerstein II

*** Hymn: Morning Has Broken - Voices United #409**

1 Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
Sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from Heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.

3 Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning,
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's re-creation of the new day!

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Lighting of Christ Candle: Acolytes: Davidson Family (Bob Root, Gathering, L/E 2022 Year C. Used with permission.)

Each new day reminds us of the light that dwells within us –

the light God has placed deep within our hearts.

We light the Christ candle, remembering that we are made of light and love,

Remembering that we are called to bring light and love to others and the world.

Sung Response: Lord Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary - More Voices #18

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy tried and true;
with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

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Welcome & Centering for Worship: Rev. Kim Vidal

Good morning! I welcome and greet you in the name of the Risen One
on this 3rd Sunday of Easter as we continue to celebrate our life as Easter people.

A warm welcome all. Please join us in the Main Hall after the service for coffee,
refreshments and conversation. *Highlight some announcements...*

Friends, I now invite you to centre yourselves in the presence of our welcoming God
who calls us to gather with a joyful heart and shouts of alleluias. Let us gather in worship.

Call to Gather: (Responsively) Sue Morrison Based on Psalm 1

Listen people of faith! Happy are those who walk in the ways of God.

God's ways are just and merciful.

Those who walk in God's ways are continually nourished in faith.

In all that they do, they prosper.

Come, let us open our hearts to compassionate love.

Let us celebrate God's mercy and justice.

Prayer of Approach: (In Unison) (Inspired by a prayer of Kate Crawford, Gathering Pentecost 1, 2018. Used with Permission)

**God in us, you have walked with us in our journeys and traveled side by side with
this community. Open our spirits so that your own Spirit might move over us and**

within us. Let our gathering be worthy, let our reflections be wholehearted, let our songs be sincere, let our prayers be honest, as we give ourselves again into your care and keeping. Amen.

Special Music: Jesus is Alive Today – traditional CGS - director: Erin Berard

Time for the Young at Heart: Sue Morrison

The 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: “One More Step” - Voices United #639

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 traveling along with you.
And it's from the old I travel to the new,
keep me traveling along with you.

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.
And it's from the old I travel to the new,
keep me traveling along with you.

3. As I travel through the bad and good,
keep me traveling the way I should;
where I see no way to go,

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you'll be telling me the way, I know.
And it's from the old I travel to the new,
keep me traveling 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 traveling along with you.
And it's from the old I travel to the new,
keep me traveling along with you.

5. You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me,
Ever old and ever new,
keep me traveling along with with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me traveling along with you.

Prayer for Illumination: (Unison) Reader: Dan Lanoue

Amazing Creator, send your Spirit to create us anew this day. With your life-giving Word, transform our hearts and minds as we follow the Risen Christ, making the earth a place of your reign of love and peace. Amen.

The Gospel Reading: Luke 24: 13-35 (from Eugene Peterson's *The Message*)

The Road to Emmaus ¹³⁻¹⁶ That same day two of them were walking to the village Emmaus, about seven miles out of Jerusalem. They were deep in conversation, going over all these things that had happened. In the middle of their talk and questions, Jesus came up and walked along with them. But they were not able to recognize who he was. ¹⁷⁻¹⁸ He asked, “What’s this you’re discussing so intently as you walk along?” They just stood there, long-faced, like they had lost their best friend. Then one of them, his name was Cleopas, said, “Are you the only one in Jerusalem who hasn’t heard what’s happened during the last few days?” ¹⁹⁻²⁴ He said, “What has happened?” They said, “The things that happened to Jesus

the Nazarene. He was a man of God, a prophet, dynamic in work and word, blessed by both God and all the people. Then our high priests and leaders betrayed him, got him sentenced to death, and crucified him. And we had our hopes up that he was the One, the One about to deliver Israel. And it is now the third day since it happened. But now some of our women have completely confused us. Early this morning they were at the tomb and couldn't find his body. They came back with the story that they had seen a vision of angels who said he was alive. Some of our friends went off to the tomb to check and found it empty just as the women said, but they didn't see Jesus." ²⁵⁻²⁷ Then he said to them, "So thick-headed! So slow-hearted! Why can't you simply believe all that the prophets said? Don't you see that these things had to happen, that the Messiah had to suffer and only then enter into his glory?" Then he started at the beginning, with the Books of Moses, and went on through all the Prophets, pointing out everything in the Scriptures that referred to him. ²⁸⁻³¹ They came to the edge of the village where they were headed. He acted as if he were going on but they pressed him: "Stay and have supper with us. It's nearly evening; the day is done." So he went in with them. And here is what happened: He sat down at the table with them. Taking the bread, he blessed and broke and gave it to them. At that moment, open-eyed, wide-eyed, they recognized him. And then he disappeared. ³² Back and forth they talked. "Didn't we feel on fire as he conversed with us on the road, as he opened up the Scriptures for us?"

A Ghost Doesn't Have Muscle and Bone ³³⁻³⁴ They didn't waste a minute. They were up and on their way back to Jerusalem. They found the Eleven and their friends gathered together, talking away: "It's really happened! The Master has been raised up—Simon saw him!" ³⁵ Then the two went over everything that happened on the road and how they recognized him when he broke the bread.

May these words renew us and give us assurance of hope in this time and in this place. **Thanks be to God!**

Ministry of Music: Put Your Hand in the Hand – MacLellan Band

Sermon: "Walking on Emmaus"

Rev. Kim

Musical Offering: I Can See (on the Emmaus Road) – Gaither/Meece Victor Lujetic

Prayers of the People: Let us gather our hearts in prayer:

Gentle God, we greet you with deep gratitude for this time together, this community of faith, and this place where we live. We feel the vibrancy of spring surrounding us, as the sun touches our skin... as it sparkles on water...as it enlivens the rich colours around us... As the gifts of spring nourishes the earth, so we look to your love to nourish us – to help us gain strength to face challenges, to find joy even in times of struggle, and to stretch and grow in your love. May your love blossom forth into our hearts so we can lovingly and faithfully serve you and others.

Tender- loving God, you teach us to walk together in this journey we call life. You call us to serve others in those places where the Spirit blows the winds of change. The time we walked together saw our laughter and tears, our hopes and disappointments, our moments of joy and times of uncertainties. We give thanks for the countless ways our lives have been woven together in the tapestry of love. Guide us as we hold these cherished memories, but move us in new directions. Continue to inspire us with your goodness that we may continue to be your people of faithful actions.

God of compassion, we come to you with hopeful and trusting hearts. In our spoken words and in our deepest thoughts, we lift up to you the needs of others and ourselves. You know the desires of our hearts, the longings and anxieties we harbour, the need for compassion, care and love where there is illness in body, mind and spirit. We pray for those lifted up in our prayer chalice that they may know and feel the power of your healing presence.

Help us O God, in season of growing to find time with you, in quietness and surprising moments, be our strength. Walk with us in love. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Invitation to Offer:

God is gracious and good, and no one is insignificant in God's eyes. So, we respond to everything God is doing in the life of this faith community and the world by offering a portion of the bounty we have received. 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 Hymn: What Can I Do? - More Voices #191**

What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing?

I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer. I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

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***Offertory Prayer: (Unison)**

Holy One, accept these gifts we offer as a token and a symbol of the offering of ourselves in Christ's service. May all that we offer of ourselves and our resources, be acceptable, and blessed by you, Gracious God. Amen

***Hymn: Walk with Me – Voices United #649** (Words: John Rice; Music: John Rice, arr. John Fluker, 1988)

Refrain: Walk with me, I will walk with you
and build the land that God has planned
where love shines through.

1 When Moses heard the call of God
he said, "Lord, don't send me."

But God told Moses, "You're the one
to set my people free." R

2 Now Peter was a most
Unlikely man to lead the flock.

But Jesus knew his holiness
and he became the Rock. R

3 Young Mary Magdalene was sure
her life could be much more,
And by her faith she dared to let
God's love unlock the door. R

4 And when you share your faith with me
and work for life made new,
The witness of your faithfulness
calls me to walk with you. R

***Sending Forth: ¹ (Responsively)**

Go forth and walk each day in communion with God and others.

**No matter where we go or what we do,
God's light will shine through us.**

And may the blessing of God – Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer –
be with us all, now and always. Amen!

Sung Blessing: Arise, Shine – Voices United #886

Arise, be clothed in the light. Arise, be clothed in the light.

Your light has come. Your light has come.

Hallelujah

¹ Whole People of God 2015.