**BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH**

**August 13, 2023 Worship Leader: *Tamara Connors***

**(Trans-formations)**

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

***Gathering Music*: Woodland Flute Song by Smith -** Sandra Dean

***\* Hymn: Let Us Build A House (All are welcome) MV #1***

***Lighting of Christ Candle*:** Acolyte:

**As we prepare to hear God’s word spoken in our midst, we are aware that we often fall short of its call. Let us prepare ourselves to be open to transformation. Let us be fully truthful with God as we listen for God’s Word.**

**Frances Flook**, Emo/Devlin P.C., Emo, ON

***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. Tamara Connors

Good Morning! I welcome you this morning, friends, family and visitors to our worship service. Most of you are familiar with me leading the UP Group but I am also an ordained deacon in the Anglican Diocese of Ottawa and it is very much my pleasure to lead you here this morning as Rev Kim is on sabbatical and Rev Lorrie is in Chipembi working together with the people there whom you have a really incredible partnership with. I have been following the fb updates they have been posting, it is an exciting journey to follow but even more so it is the global partnership that you have entered into and continue to support of which you should be excited and proud.

**Announcements from the pews!**

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

***Call to Gather:* (Responsively)**

All you who delight in the Sacred Strange, come and worship the Creator.

**Thanks be to God who blesses the peculiar and rejoices in the uniqueness of every body and being.**

The Holy takes on flesh in every gender and sexual orientation, every race and ability, every body-size and body type.

**Each embodied difference is a unique glimpse of Holy Wonder.**

Blessed are those who search for God among the lives of the oppressed, the betrayed, the turned-away, and the condemned.

**Blessed are those who receive with joy the gifts of God enfleshed among us.** The Sacred is with us. Let us worship and be transformed.

***PieDay 2020,*** *Service 2, enfleshed.com*

***Prayer of Approach:* (Unison)**

 **Beloved One, your embrace is a refuge from violence and hatred. Those who have been turned away, forgotten, or persecuted find belonging in you. We hope to embody such love in this place. May we be a sanctuary, a shelter, a safe place to turn. May we endeavor to learn from each other and grow together in love that protects and uplifts. Amen.**

***PieDay 2020,*** *Service 1, enfleshed.com*

**God of the exiled, you are at home everywhere and nowhere. Make your home in us this day. Grant us courage to wrestle with what we do not understand. Open our hearts to respond with thoughtful and lasting change. Teach us patience and respect as we care for others and ourselves. Mark us with your love that we might live as signs of your kin-dom come. Amen**

**Wetaskiwin Writers,** Grace Lutheran CHurch and First U.C., Wetaskiwin, Alta.

***Time for the Young at Heart***

*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**

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

**God of wisdom strange and surprising, come and move us. Enliven our faith. Stir our spirits. Stretch our minds and the capacity of our hearts. Let your Word renew our hope and lead us on paths of justice and truth. Amen.**

***The Scripture Reading*: Matthew 25:31-46** Reader:

**31** ‘When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. **32** All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, **33** and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. **34** Then the king will say to those at his right hand, “Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; **35** for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, **36** I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.” **37** Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? **38** And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? **39** And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?” **40** And the king will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family,[[g](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+25&version=NRSVA#fen-NRSVA-24046g)] you did it to me.” **41** Then he will say to those at his left hand, “You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; **42** for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, **43** I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.” **44** Then they also will answer, “Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?” **45** Then he will answer them, “Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.” **46** And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’

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

***Ministry of Music*:** Organ prelude:  Virginia Thurston and Lorraine Griffith --J. S. Bach -- Erstanden ist der Heil'ge Christ

***Sermon: Trans-formation Tamara Connors***

***Hymn:* My Love Colours Outside The Lines #138 MV**

***Prayers of the People:***

To the One who is Love, we bring the prayers of our communities. Where we share in joy or concern, let us respond together, “**God, hear our prayers**.”

We pray…

for all the queer, trans, and intersex children and youth across the globe. For the ones who are struggling with feelings of isolation and shame. For those who have no safe place or people to retreat to. For those who must be teachers to the adults in their lives. For those who are unsafe in their communities.

**God, hear our prayers.**

We pray for all those who hunger for justice and liberation today. For the ones who lay down their lives for their friends. For the ones who tell the truth. For the ones who take risks, who dream, who feed and pray, who fight for bread and roses, both. For the ones who are eager to learn and grow and offer their gifts to the work of your kin-dom.

**God, hear our prayers.**

We pray for all who are suffering in the church and the world at the hands of white supremacy. For those imprisoned by the state. For those whose land has been taken. For the earth that groans beneath us. For those without food or housing. For those who have yet to repent.

**God, hear our prayers.**

We pray in gratitude for all that nourishes and sustains us. For the gifts of beauty and friendship, shared meals, art, and love. For laughter. For pleasure. For the friends and comrades who lift our spirits, always by our side when the days are heavy. For the freedom we have in Christ.

**God, hear our prayers.**

For your presence within and around us, in our highs and lows, our hope and our despair, God, we give you thanks. Hear our prayers and deepen our willingness to show up with and for one another, sharing in each other’s burdens and working for one another’s protection and care. **Amen**.

[***https://enfleshed.com/liturgy***](https://enfleshed.com/liturgy) ***adapted***

***Musical Offering:*** Vocal Solo:  Brenda Griffith, accompanied by Lorraine Griffith -- Pietro Mascagni -- Intermezzo (Sancta Maria) from Cavalleria Rusticana

***Invitation to Offer:***

**Generous God, whose love knows no boundaries, work in us to remove the limits of our love. Bless this offering that it may bring healing to those who have been rejected as undeserving, and dismissed as incomprehensible. Expand our love and our offering so that others may experience your love in the world and we may serve you in our lives. Amen**

**Gill Le Fevre,** Walton Memorial U. C., Oakville, ON

…

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)**

**Take these gifts, Loving God, and receive them as treasures of our commitments to you; take our lives and transform them into your healing power. May we be empowered to bring wholeness to those who need your healing touch. May we lose ourselves in serving others, not counting the cost, but knowing that you reveal yourself in each gift. May we remember that stewardship is a way of life, our grateful response rooted in our life-giving faith. Bless our givings and our actions, we pray in Jesus’ name. Amen**

**Bill Steadman,** Goulais River U.C.’ Goulais RIver, ON

***\*Hymn:***  ***For The Healing of The Nations VU #678***

*\*****Sending Forth****:*

*Beloveds, let us go with hearts full of courage, that we might practice love that disrupts bigotry. Let us go with minds open to experiencing God in ways strange and unexpected, in ways ordinary and everyday. And let us go with joy, for the Creator of all life goes with us. Amen.*

*PieDay2020 Worship Service 1- enfleshed.com*

***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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***Departing Music: Trumpet Voluntary by Gordon Young -*** Sandra Dean