

## **Bells Corners United Church**

**January 1, 2023 10:00am**

**Worship Leader: Jessica Knoyle, LLWL**

**Happy New Year!**

*The live service is being broadcasted and recorded on YouTube. Please check your email for the link.*

### **Gathering Music**

### **Words of Welcome & Announcements**

### **Lighting the Christ Candle**

### **Sung Response: Voices United #82**

A Light is Gleaming (chorus, vs 4, chorus)

### **Call to Worship** *Bob Root, Gathering, A/C/E 2021/22*

ONE: A new day, a new week, the beginning of a new year, and we have come to worship.

**MANY: May our hearts be open to all the wonders God would have us experience in this time and when we go out from this place to serve in the world.**

ONE: Come, let us worship God!

### **Gathering Prayer (Unison)**

God of New Beginnings,  
we come together on this new day of this new year joining our hearts and voices as one people – your people.

And, yet, in all of this newness, in all of the wonder of what this year might hold for us, we rest in the comfort of your familiar presence with us, in us, and around us.

We celebrate that we are not alone on this new journey. You have given us the greatest gift, your son, Jesus, to help guide us through our living, our loving, and our learning as people of faith.

As we enter into this new year, we do not leave behind what has been, but instead, invite it along with us. All that we have lived is a blessing from you which helps us learn and grow and enter into the newness more fully as your people.

Thank you for blessing us once more with your presence and love as we worship together in your name this morning. Amen.

### **Gathering Hymn** Voices United #345

Come, Children, Join to Sing

### **Time for the Young at Heart** New Year Resolutions?

**Hymn** More Voices #122 This is the Day (sing twice)

### **Prayer for Illumination (Unison)**

Loving God,  
As we hear the messages of your word both spoken and in song, may what we believe become what we

know. May the words, songs and reflections of all our hearts be blessed and your message give us inspiration as we strive to be your hands and feet in this world. Amen

### **Scripture Readings:**

Revelations 21:1-6a & Ecclesiastes 3:1-13

*Response following the readings:*

ONE: May God's light and love dwell where this message is heard and said and experienced.

**MANY: Thanks be to God!**

### **Ministry of Music**

**Sermon** New Year, New Me?

### **Prayers of the People**

**Lord's Prayer (Unison)** (*Alternate version, VU 916*):

Eternal Spirit,  
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,  
Source of all that is and that shall be.  
Father and Mother of us all,  
Loving God, in whom is heaven:  
The hallowing of your name echo  
Through the universe!  
The way of your justice be followed  
By peoples of the world!

Your heavenly will be done

By all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom

Sustain our hope and come on earth.

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love,  
now and for ever. Amen.

**Hymn:** MV 83 Let My Spirit Always Sing

### **Invitation to Offer**

**Offertory Hymn** VU 55 In The Bleak Midwinter, vs 4

### **Offertory Prayer**

Gracious God, bless these gifts of time, talent and treasure we offer you today. May they be used to help make your kin-dom one of hope, peace, joy and love for all. Amen.

**Closing Hymn** More Voices #173

Put Peace Into Each Other's Hands

### **Sending Forth**

**Sung Blessing:** More Voices #213 Take Up His Song