

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH
Creation Time 4 World Communion Sunday
October 2, 2022 – 10 am

***Indicates stand as able**

** The live service will be broadcasted and recorded on YouTube, check your email for the link.
The audio recording of the live service should be available by phone Monday afternoon at 613- 820-8104*

Announcement Slides

Spark for the Congregation:

(Natasha Pearen, Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2022 Year C. Used with Permission)

The experiences of many people around the world demonstrate the reality that environmental degradation and injustice is going to get worse before it gets better. The reading in Lamentations reflects stories of communities in crisis but it also reassures us that God is ever loving, merciful and faithful, even when we lose our way and forget our responsibilities as good stewards of the earth.

Eco-Challenge:

Do you believe you can help save the earth? How do you celebrate God's creation? Doing little things, one at a time, can have big long-term impacts on our world. What small act of good stewardship can you do to help others and the environment?

Gathering Music: At the Table of the Lord – Martin/Angerman *BCUC Choir*

Acknowledgment of Territory: **Rev. Kim Vidal**

(Peter Chynoweth, Gathering Lent /Easter 2022, p30. Used with permission.)

This land on which we gather is the unceded territory and traditional land of the Algonquin and Anishinaabe people. We worship Creator on this land and acknowledge with respect the thousands of years of ceremony and relationship that are etched in footprint, fire, and faithfulness on the soil and rock that surrounds us. Meegwetch.

****Opening Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth - VU 226 (Tune: VU 81) Leslie Wade: violin***

(Words: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864; Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838)

1 For the beauty of the earth,

for the glory of the skies,

for the love which from our birth

over and around us lies,

Refrain:

God of all, to you we raise

this our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the beauty of each hour

of the day and of the night,

hill and vale, and tree and flower,

sun and moon, and stars of light, R

3 For the joy of human love,

brother, sister, parent, child,

friends on earth and friends above,

for all gentle thoughts and mild, R

4 For each perfect gift sublime

to our race so freely given;

graces human and divine,

flowers of earth and buds of heaven. R

Welcome and Centering for Worship:

Rev. Kim Vidal

Good morning! On behalf of BCUC, I welcome and greet you in the name of Jesus Christ on this Fourth Sunday of Creation Time in the Season of Pentecost. Today, we are celebrating World Communion Sunday. We are glad that you have joined us today. Join us for fellowship & coffee after the service in the main hall.

Highlight some announcements.

Friends, on this World Communion Sunday, as we gather around the table of grace and partake the bread and the cup, may God the Creator nourish us by the sacrament of a welcoming and inclusive love. Let us now gather in worship.

Lighting of Christ Candle: **Chris & Kaylee Brown**

The Light of Christ brings hope.
It is the Light of Life and Love.
A beacon of Creation fire.
That shines for all of us!

****Call to Gather & Opening Prayer: (Responsively)***

Sue Morrison

(Inspired by the prayer of Kate Crawford, Gathering, Pentecost 2, Year A, 2014. Use with Permission.)

In the presence of loaves and drink on our table,
and in the company of all the saints in the world,
we gather in this sacred place to prepare an earthly feast.

Yeast and flour and oil combine, freshly pressed wine,
like hope and love and joy.

The bread of faith rises in our midst.

The cup of grace touches us with hope.

God calls us to come and dine this day
with our brothers and sisters of the global village.

We come and dine in the presence of God whose Spirit ministers to us.

Let us pray: (Together)

**Loving God, as we gather to share bread around this table,
we pause to remember other tables, other times, other hands.**

We come remembering the taste of bread and wine.

We come acknowledging the freedom of forgiveness and the strength of your presence.

Gather us in to be your people: in love, in faith, in service. Amen.

Music Offering: We Give Thanks – O'Brien/Watts

Bell Canto - Director : Erin Berard

Time for the Young at Heart: **Sue Morrison**

The Prayer of Jesus / 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.*

***Children's Hymn: Draw the Circle Wide – More Voices #145**

(Words and Music: Gordon Light, 1994; arr., Michael Bloss, 1998).

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

Prayer for Illumination: (Unison) Reader: Ellen Boynton

God of the global village, your Word is the bread of life.

Your Word is water to our thirst. Refresh us now, and speak to us. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Lamentations 3: 19-26 (NRSV)

Great is God's Faithfulness

¹⁹ The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!

²⁰ My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.

²¹ But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

²² The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;

²³ they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴ "The Lord is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."

²⁵ The Lord is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.

²⁶ It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the Lord.

Hear what God Creator is saying to all of us.

We listen and we respond with action.

Ministry of Music: Abe

Sermon: “Creation prays: Sustain me!” Rev. Kim Vidal

Moment of Reflection

Prayers of the People: Rev. Kim Vidal

In all four corners of the earth on this World Communion Sunday, let our prayers rise before you, renewing, engaging God.

You invite all people to a feast at the banquet of love. You surround us with your abundant blessings. Bread of the World, feed our hunger, enfold us with your fullness of your care. God of our lives, your Word is one of communion, not division. Your gifts are gifts of abundance, peace, and freedom, not scarcity, violence, and oppression.

As we gather around your table of plenty, we hold before you this community, the country and the world we live in. We pray for those who are alone, who are alienated from their families, those who are lost on the streets, those who are bereaved. We pray for those who need your healing touch, those who struggle with emotional and mental illnesses, and those who deal with chronic disability or simply with the fact of growing old. We continue to pray for our ailing sisters and brothers as they seek your healing mercies for their physical well-being and recovery to good health. Strengthen and encourage us, O God, to be the kind of church you want us to be.

We pray for our troubled world, for families who have lost their sons and daughters in war-torn countries; for those who are suffering the tragic reality of natural disasters, particularly those in Atlantic Canada and in Florida; for people of faith who are persecuted and whose human rights have been violated and ignored. We pray for all those who are doing partnership work in different parts of the world so that your presence may be known far and wide.

And now, in silence, listen to the deepest concerns of our hearts....

We close with the inspiring words of Jan Richardson: “And we will become bread for a hungry world. And we will become drink for those who thirst. And the blessed will become the blessing. And everywhere will be the feast.”

In Jesus’ name, we ask all these things. Amen.

***Hymn: Great is Thy Faithfulness – Voices United #288**

(Words: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; Music: William M. Runyan, 1923)

1 Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator,
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou has been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is thy faithfulness!

Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided --
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. R

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow --
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide. R

Sacrament of Communion: Rev. Kim Vidal

Come, Creator God, come into our lives.

Open our hearts and minds to receive your presence.

We come to feast at this table, journeying with our brothers and sisters around the world,

breaking the bread and sharing the cup,

welcoming the Christ who lives within and among us.

Holy are you, God of the wilderness and sacred places.

You bring us together as a faithful community.

You provide for our hunger and sustain us with your amazing grace.

We give thanks to you, O God, lover of all nations and life-giver to the global village, for you have sent your son, Jesus Christ, who in the beginning was the Word incarnate and dwelt among us. He declares that he is the true vine and we are the branches, so that we can abide in him forever.

We remember that when Jesus was with his friends, he took a piece of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

"Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Whenever you eat this, remember me."

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying:

"This cup poured out for you is God's eternal love. Whenever you drink it, remember me."

Loving one of the wondrous stories, we remember the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and we praise him for the love he poured out to all people of colour, race and creed. In solemn vow, we offer ourselves to you that our lives may proclaim our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ reigns in our hearts!

Transforming God, you call us to feast together at the banquet of your love. As we eat and drink, may we become vessels of healing and joy to those who need your grace, proclaiming the good news that Jesus came to give life so we may have it abundantly.

Let us now share and partake the bread and the cup, reminding us of God's presence:

The bread that we break is the sharing in the life of Jesus.

Take, eat and be nourished by God's love.

The cup of blessing is our sharing in the peace of Jesus.

Take, drink and be sustained by God's grace.

Prayer after Communion: (in unison)

We give you thanks, O God, for hope and justice, because the broken bread and the cup poured out have brought us into unity with one another. In our common sharing of the feast, you have graced us with your presence, transforming us into life and the love of Jesus Christ, the True Vine. Amen.

Choral Offering: Welcome Table –Spritual arr. Hayes BCUC Choir

***Invitation to Offer:* Rev. Kim Vidal**

We are called to plant seeds of grace, hope, and justice; to wait for God's mystery to work in the hearts and minds of others. The gifts we offer are seeds that reap a harvest beyond our imagining. The work of the church requires support in many ways: through prayer, through volunteers, and through donations. We are not passing the offering plates this morning as we continue to follow health protocols, but you will find those plates on the table in the narthex. There are many additional ways you can financially support the work of the church – through PAR, by dropping into the office or using the mail slot by the kitchen door, or by e-transfer. Thank you for your continued love and support of Bells Corners United Church.

****Offertory Hymn: VU 541 (Thomas Ken, 1674.)***

**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)***

God of the global village, we bring this offering to join the gifts of others around the world. We offer these gifts and our lives in your service. Amen.

****Closing Hymn: Sent Forth by God's Blessing – Voices United #481* Leslie Wade: violin
(Words: Omer Westendorf, 1964; Music: Welsh folk tune)**

1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended, O now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us
to work for the kingdom and answer its call.

2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.

With your feast you feed us with your light now lead us,
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all living with praise and thanksgiving
give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.

***Sending Forth: (Responsively) Rev. Kim Vidal**

On this World Communion Sunday,
we have tasted God's goodness,
we have seen God's generosity and fairness.
we have been blessed with a legacy of faith,
we have welcomed everyone to the table.

Go out to live love, to serve others, to rejoice in our communion,
in the name of God, Creator, Christ and Companion. **Amen.**

***Sung Blessing – Go Now in Peace (Besig/Price)**

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know He will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen.