

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH

Creation Time 5

All-Ages Thanksgiving Sunday

October 9, 2022 – 10 am

(Children stay with their family / Nursery is open for toddlers and infants)

***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*

Spark for the Congregation:

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

How do we acknowledge God as the source of goodness and life? What are the sustaining sources of our faith practice? The concept of “source” can inspire us to reflect upon a number of things: sources of tradition for which we are thankful for or sources of life within creation with whom we share this world.

Eco-Challenge:

People often express that they find a sense of peace when they are out in nature, experiencing God’s creation. Yet today, creation is in distress. How do we bring God’s peace to creation, sharing peace with creation rather than taking it from creation?

Announcement Slides

Gathering Music: BCUC Band

**Opening Hymn:* God of the Sparrow VU 229

(Words: Jaroslav Vajda, 1983; Music: Carl F. Schalk, 1983)

1. God of the sparrow

God of the whale

God of the swirling stars

How does the creature say Awe

How does the creature say Praise

3. God of the rainbow

God of the cross

God of the empty grave

How does the creature say Grace

How does the creature say Thanks

2. God of the earthquake

God of the storm

God of the trumpet blast

How does the creature cry Woe

How does the creature cry Save

4. God of the hungry

God of the sick

God of the prodigal

How does the creature say Care

How does the creature say Life

5. God of the neighbour
God of the foe
God of the pruning hook
How does the creature say Love
How does the creature say Peace

6. God of the ages
God near at hand
God of the loving heart
How do your children say Joy
How do your children say Home

Welcome and Centering for Worship: Rev. Kim Vidal

Good morning! I welcome and greet you in the name of Jesus Christ on this Fifth Sunday of Creation Time in the Season of Pentecost. Today, we are celebrating Thanksgiving 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 Thanksgiving Sunday, we come with grateful hearts, not just for all the blessings that we have received, but for who God is within us. We gather now in worship to show our gratitude in song, in word and in prayer.

Lighting of Christ Candle: Wightman Family

Creation responds to God's call.
Live, grow, dance, sing!
Let this light of Christ remind us
of God's wonderful works
around us and within us.

Thanks be to God!

Call to Gather: (Responsively) Heidi & Katrina TeGrotenhuis
(Phil Hobbs, Gathering, Pentecost 2, Year C, 2016. Use with Permission.)

We gathered this morning to celebrate the Harvest Home!

We are surrounded by the beauty and bounty of the earth.

We gather with hearts filled with gratitude as our senses take in all that we've received;

the warm embrace of our church family;

the sight of produce fresh from garden, orchard and field;

the aroma of roast turkey and fresh baked pumpkin pie;

the sound of wild geese overhead and the crunch of leaves beneath our feet;

the expectation of a feast awaits us.

For the bountiful blessings, in praise and thanksgiving,

Let us worship God!

**Embodied Echo Prayer:*¹ Leader: Erin Berard

Please repeat after me...

Holy God,

you were with us when we were born,

you are with us as we grow,

you are with us when we hurt,

you are with us when we are whole.

Thank you! Thank you! THANK YOU!

Would you help us to see?

Would you help us to hear?

Would you help us to love?

So we might change ourselves.

So we might change the world! Amen.

Special Music: CGS / Bell Canto

Time for the Young at Heart: Erin Berard

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.

**Children's Hymn:* Rejoice in the Lord Always VU 249

(Words & Music: traditional, anon.)

Rejoice in the Lord always

and again, I say rejoice! (clap, clap)

Rejoice in the Lord always

and again, I say rejoice! (clap, clap)

Rejoice, rejoice,

and again, I say rejoice! (clap, clap)

Rejoice, rejoice,

and again, I say rejoice! (clap, clap)

¹ Whole People of God, October 4, 2015.

Prayer for Illumination: (Unison) Reader: Kaylee Brown
**Loving God, open our hearts to receive your word this day.
Teach us to give thanks and rejoice. Amen.**

Scripture Reading: Philippians 4: 4-9 (The Living Bible)

Rejoice and give thanks!

⁴ Always be full of joy in the Lord; I say it again, rejoice!

⁵ Let everyone see that you are unselfish and considerate in all you do. Remember that the Lord is coming soon.

⁶ Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything; tell God your needs, and don't forget to thank him for his answers.

⁷ If you do this, you will experience God's peace, which is far more wonderful than the human mind can understand. His peace will keep your thoughts and your hearts quiet and at rest as you trust in Christ Jesus.

⁸ And now, brothers and sisters, as I close this letter, let me say this one more thing: Fix your thoughts on what is true and good and right. Think about things that are pure and lovely, and dwell on the fine, good things in others. Think about all you can praise God for and be glad about.

⁹ Keep putting into practice all you learned from me and saw me doing, and the God of peace will be with you.

Hear what God Creator is saying to all of us.

We listen and we respond with action.

Ministry of Music: BCUC Choir

Sermon: "Creation implores: Rejoice and give thanks!" Rev. Kim Vidal

Moment of Reflection

*A Prayer of Thanksgiving: "Choose Thanks"*² Rev. Kim with Noah & Nicholas Berard

Kim: God, there are days we do not *feel* grateful. When we are anxious or angry. When we feel alone. When we do not understand what is happening in the world or with our neighbors. When the news is bleak, confusing. God, we struggle to *feel* grateful.

Noah: *But this Thanksgiving, we choose gratitude.*

Kim: We choose to accept life as a gift from you, and as a gift from the unfolding work of all creation.

Nicholas: *We choose to be grateful for the earth from which our food comes; for the water that gives life; and for the air we all breathe.*

Kim: We choose to thank our ancestors, those who came before us, grateful for their stories and struggles, and we receive their wisdom as a continuing gift for today.

² Diana Butler Bass

Noah: We choose to see our families and friends with new eyes, appreciating and accepting them for who they are.

Nicholas: We are thankful for our homes, whether humble or grand.

Kim: We will be grateful for our neighbours, no matter how they voted, whatever our differences, or how much we feel hurt or misunderstood by them.

Noah: We choose to see the whole planet as our shared commons, the stage of the future of humankind and creation.

Kim: God, this Thanksgiving, we do not give thanks. We choose it. We will make this choice of thanks with courageous hearts, knowing that it is humbling to say “thank you.”

Nicholas: We choose to see your sacred generosity, aware that we live in an infinite circle of gratitude.

Noah: That we all are guests at a hospitable table around which gifts are passed and received.

Kim: We will not let anything opposed to love take over this table. Instead, we choose grace, free and unmerited love, the giftedness of life everywhere. In this choosing, and in the making, we will pass gratitude onto the world.

All 3: We choose thanks. Amen.

Musical Offering:

Invitation to Offer: Rev. Kim Vidal

In this season of harvest and plenty when we are grateful for God’s amazing bounty, we are called to share the gifts we have been given with others. Time, talents, and treasures are all wonderful ways to further the mission of this church and the building of God’s kin-dom in the world. 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: What Can I Do? MV191*

**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**

**Offertory Prayer: (Unison)*

**Fill us with gratitude, O God. From you, all blessings flow.
To you, all gratitude shall return. Empower us, as a gracious people,
overflowing with compassion and love, to shape our lives and the world for good. Amen.**

**Closing Hymn: For the Fruit of All Creation VU 227
(Words: Fred Pratt Green, 1970; Music: Welsh folk melody, 1784)*

1 For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.

For these gifts to every nation,
thanks be to God.

For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safe-keeping,
thanks be to God.

2 In the just reward of labour,
God's will is done.

In the help we give our neighbour,
God's will is done.

In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

3 For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

**Sending Forth: (Responsively)*

Rev. Kim Vidal

Let us leave this time and place of worship
remembering God's goodness to us:

a goodness known in Creation, in relationships.

Let us commit ourselves to lives of thanksgiving and thanks-living,

remembering that when we are simply grateful, life is simply great!

Let us go now with smiles on our faces,

with joy in our hearts,

with purpose and in kindness,

To be God's people in all the places life calls us to be.

May you go forth in peace. **Amen**

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

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.