

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH
February 11, 2024, 10 am Transfiguration Sunday / All-Ages Service
Celebrating Black History Month

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

Gathering Music: Open the Eyes of My Heart

BCUC Band

**Indicates stand as able*

***Hymn: A Light is Gleaming** – Voices United #82 (Words & Music: Linnea Good, 1992)

Refrain:

A light is gleaming,
spreading its arms throughout the night,
living in the light.
Come share its gladness,
God's radiant love is burning bright,
living in the light.

1 When light comes pouring into the darkest
place, it hurts our eyes to see the glow.
Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our
fears, our memories and tears. R

2 When night is round us and every shadow grows,
a star is there to light our way.
It tells a story of Jesus who came near to say:
"God's light will ever stay." R

3 And Jesus showed us a brighter path to walk.
He showed us things we hadn't seen.
Now we, like Jesus, can help creation shine,
and this will be a sign: R

4 So let us live in the brightness God has giv'n,
and let us rise to see the dawn.
We trust that God is here a sparkle and a blaze,
warming all our days. R

Lighting of Christ Candle: Acolytes: Amelia & Georgia Baynes

Voice 1: Remember, our Message is not about ourselves; we're proclaiming Jesus Christ, the Leader.
All we are is messengers, errand runners from Jesus for you.

Voice 2: It started when God said, "Light up the darkness!" and our lives filled up with light as we saw
and understood God in the face of Christ, all bright and beautiful. (2 Corinthians 4: 5-6).

Sung Response: This Little Light of Mine - verse 1 (Trad)

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine (3X)
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Welcome: Rev. Kim

Good morning! On behalf of BCUC, I welcome and greet you in the name of Jesus Christ on this All-Ages Transfiguration Sunday when we once again reflect on that story of Jesus being changed into a radiant form on top of a mountain. Today, we are also celebrating Black History Month as we honour the legacy and contributions of black Canadians and their communities. This is also our way of showing our solidarity with all black peoples in their continuing struggles against racism.

Welcome to our guests and visitors. Join us for soup and sandwich lunch hosted by the Stewardship Team, coffee and conversations after the service in the main hall.

announcements. Ash Wednesday – Feb 14, 6 pm First Sunday in Lent / Communion – Feb 18

Centering for Worship:

Friends, as we gather today wherever we are, let us ask the Divine Presence to lead us into that radiant light, where God's love is revealed to all who follow the transfigured Jesus, light of the world.
Let us gather in worship.

Call to Gather: (Responsively) Jordan & Nicholas Berard (Richard Bott, Gathering ACE 2020-2021. Used with permission)

Who is Jesus for us?

The continuation of the covenant.

The promise of something new.

The presence of God's love.

Who are we for him?

The continuation of the covenant.

The promise of something new.

The presence of God's love.

In God's love – Jesus was changed, transfigured, and transformed.

In God's love – we are changed, given hope, made new.

As people changed and changing,
as followers of Jesus' way, we all say:

It is good to be here!

Come, let us worship God!

Opening Prayer: (Together)

O God, open our eyes to see the transfigured Jesus.

With his leading, let us be transformed as your beam of light to the world.

May your light shine upon us. Amen.

Special Music: I See the Light – Menken arr. Huff Bell Canto & Erin Berard

Time for the Young at Heart: Rev. Lorrie Lowes

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 Song: Behold, I Make All Things New* – More Voices #115 (*Words & Music, John Bell, 1995*)

Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)

I make all things new,
beginning with you and starting from today.

Behold, (behold,) behold, (behold,)

I make all things new,
my promises true,
for I am Christ the way.

Prayer for Illumination: (with the congregation) Thy Word – Grant (*based on Psalm 119:105*) BCUC Band

Scripture Reading: Mark 9: 2-10 (The Message) Reader: Virginia Davidson **The Transfiguration of Jesus**

²⁻⁴ Six days later, three of them *did* see it. Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain. His appearance changed from the inside out, right before their eyes. His clothes shimmered, glistening white, whiter than any bleach could make them. Elijah, along with Moses, came into view, in deep conversation with Jesus. ⁵⁻⁶ Peter interrupted, "Rabbi, this is a great moment! Let's build three memorials—one for you, one for Moses, one for Elijah." He blurted this out without thinking, stunned as they all were by what they were seeing. ⁷ Just then a light-radiant cloud enveloped them, and from deep in the cloud, a voice: "This is my Son, marked by my love. Listen to him." ⁸ The next minute the disciples were looking around, rubbing their eyes, seeing nothing but Jesus, only Jesus. ⁹⁻¹⁰ Coming down the mountain, Jesus swore them to secrecy. "Don't tell a soul what you saw. After the Son of Man rises from the dead, you're free to talk." They puzzled over that, wondering what on earth "rising from the dead" meant. May the Light of Christ dwell where the Word is spoken. **Thanks be to God!**

Ministry of Music: Indescribable - Tomlin

BCUC band

Reflection Through a Skit: Rev. Kim & the UP Youth
Mya, Fiona, Inara, Noah, Samantha & Kael

Prayers of the People:

Rev. Kim

Radiant God, It is good that we are here
It is indeed right and good that we give you thanks for the many blessings you bestow upon us.
We thank you for this amazingly diverse world with its kaleidoscope of colour and texture and culture.
Open our minds to see how everything in Creation is interconnected according to your plan.
Open our hearts to fuller understanding and our eyes to see Jesus in the many ways he comes to us –
through people, known and unknown, familiar and different, near and far - through the beauty and
abundance of Creation - through the love and generosity of others.
Give us the courage to radiate the beauty of the transfigured Jesus in all that we do.

God of Light,

We bring to you the week we've had with all of its mountain-top highs and deep valley lows.
We offer to you the week ahead with our excitement of anticipation as well as our fears and worries.
We bring to you all those in our hearts who are suffering through these days in many ways and
circumstances – named and nameless, expressed, and in the silence of our hearts.
Give us opportunities to be your hands, feet and heart in the world.
Give us the clarity to see that you are with us in all that we do and experience.

Illuminating God,

Help us to cope with the disturbing and sometimes frustrating events in our world.
Give us courage to speak up for those whose voices are not heard and whose needs are great.
Give us the vision to see the places where your light shines in the darkness.
Help us to be that light for those around us.
All these things we ask in the name of the transfigured Jesus who helped the world to see the way to
fulfill your dream for Creation. Amen.

Musical Offering: My Lighthouse – Rend Collective

BCUC Band

Invitation to Offer:

Rev. Lorrie

We, the United Church of Canada,

have made a commitment to becoming an anti-racist denomination. Another way of saying this is that we are committed to developing healthy relationships with individuals and communities, especially those experiencing marginalization, because this was a focus of Jesus' redemptive work. Thank you for being invested in this transformative work, and thank-you for being dedicated to living out this incredible vision for our community and the world.¹ I now invite you to offer your gifts of time, talents, and treasures in making a huge difference. You will find the offering plates on the table as you enter the sanctuary. 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.**

***Offertory Prayer: (Together)** Pearl & Florence McGugan

**Here is the work of our hands,
the love of our hearts,
our desire to make a better world.
Bless our gifts, our giving and our hopes
for a world in which your will is done. Amen.²**

¹ Rev. Adam Kilner. Black History Month Service 2021, United Church of Canada website.

² Kate Crawford. Gathering, ACE 2017-2018. Used with permission.

***Closing Hymn: We Are Marching / Siyahamba** - Voices United #646

We are marching in the light of God
(4X)

We are marching, we are marching oo-oo,
we are marching in the light of God. (2X).

Siyahamba ekukhanyen' kwenkhos'. (4X)
Siyahamba, hamba, siyahamba, oooo -
siyahamb' ekukhanyen'
kwenkhos'. (2X)

Nous marchons dans la lumière de Dieu. (4X)
Oui, nous marchons, marchons;
oui, nous marchons, oooo-
nous marchons dans la lumière de Dieu. (2X)

We are marching in the light of God
(4X)

We are marching, we are marching oo-oo,
we are marching in the light of God. (2X).

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

As we leave this time of worship,
May we be transformed so that we might embrace our calling:

**To see with new eyes,
Reach out with gentle hands,
Imagine with transformed minds,
Be still with hallowed presence,
And be filled with grateful prayers.**

Go, knowing that the wisdom of the Spirit,
the light of Christ, and the unending love of God
bless us in our work each and every day.³ **Amen!**

Sung Blessing: One More Step Along the World I Go – Voices United #639 verse 5

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

³ Based on Bruce Sanguin's "Light Transfusion", *If Darwin Prayed*.