

**BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH**      **Black History Month**  
**February 5, 2023 – 10 am**      **5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**\*Indicates stand as able**

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

**Acknowledgement of Territory:**      **Rev. Lorrie Lowes**

(Jamie Miller, Gathering, ACE 2022/2023 Year A. Used with permission.)

As we begin our worship service, we acknowledge that we are gathered on the unceded lands of the Algonquin-Anishinaabe peoples. For thousands of years, they have cared for the land even as the land cared for them. Guided by the wisdom of their traditions and their ancestors, they have been taught that the circle of life is embraced and embracing. Let us carry on this wisdom. Let us live into right relations with love and respect.

**\*Opening Hymn: Many Are the Lightbeams - Voices United #588**

1. Many are the lightbeams from the one light.      Many are the gifts given, love is all one;  
Our one light is Jesus.      We are one in Christ.

Many are the lightbeams from the one light;  
We are one in Christ.

2. Many are the branches of the one tree.  
Our one tree is Jesus.

Many are the branches of the one tree;  
We are one in Christ.

3. Many are the gifts given, love is all one.  
Love's the gift of Jesus.

4. Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one,  
Servant spirit of Jesus.

Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one;  
We are one in Christ.

5. Many are the members, the body is one,  
Members all of Jesus.

Many are the members, the body is one;  
We are one in Christ.

*Words: Cyprian of Carthage, 252, Swedish para., Anders Frostenson, 1972. English trans. © David Lewis, 1983; Music © Olle Widestrand, 1974, arr. by Leonard Lythgoe, 1995.*

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**Lighting of the Christ Candle:**      **Acolytes: Ruby and Simon Linforth**

(Jim McKean, Gathering, ACE 2022/2023, Year A. Used with Permission.)

As we light this candle, may its warmth symbolize the love that radiates from our very being.  
This candle represents the light of the soul.

It also represents the light of life, the light of Christ, that sparks us into a place of grace.

As we light this Christ candle, may its light be an inspiration for our worship this day.

**Welcome & Announcements**      **Rev. Kim Vidal**

Good morning! I welcome and greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, on this 5th Sunday after Epiphany as we reflect on Jesus' challenge to be light of the world and salt of the earth. Join us for coffee and fellowship after the service in the main hall.

*some announcements - Committee Fair after service - Celebration Hymn-Sing Feb 12*

Friends, as worship this day, remember that you are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. May we commit to respond to God's call and share the Good News with others. Let us now gather in worship.

**Call to Gather: (Responsively) Rev. Lorrie Lowes** (Caldwell United Methodist Church website)

But if salt isn't salty?

**It isn't what it's meant to be.**

And if a light doesn't shine?

**It isn't what it's meant to be.**

Jesus says we are salt of the earth, light of the world.

Briny and bright, we are God's faithful people.

**We shall be who we are meant to be in Christ:**

**a welcoming oasis, a compassionate community, a justice-making people.**

Our faith, our love, our hope, essential as salt and light.

**Prayer of Approach: (Unison)**

Used with permission

(Inspired by the prayers of Wanda Winfield and Robert Wardlaw, Gathering, ACE 2016-2017)

**Gracious God, you call us the salt of the earth, even when we have lost our flavour.**

**You call us the light of the world, even when we have let that light grow dim.**

**Empower us and help us to season the world with justice and illuminate it with love.**

**Amen.**

**Special Music: The Light of God's Love - Burrows** CGS/Bell Canto : director Erin Berard

**Time for the Young at Heart: Rev. Lorrie**

*Prayer of Jesus /The Lord's Prayer: (Unison)*

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.

**Song: Shout for God - Voices United #246**

1 Shout for God! (Shout for God!)

Make a happy sound! (Make a happy sound!)

Clap for God! (Clap for God!)

God is all around! (God is all around!)

3 Sing for God! (Sing for God!)

Sing a pleasant song. (Sing a pleasant song.)

Work for God. (Work for God.)

Good replaces wrong. (Good replaces wrong.)

2 Hush for God! (Hush for God!)

Let the quiet sing. (Let the quiet sing.)

Wait for God. (Wait for God.)

Deepest feelings bring. (Deepest feelings bring.)

4 Praise our God! (Praise our God!)

Care for all God's friends! (Care for all God's friends!)

Love our God! (Love our God!)

God's love never ends! (God's love never ends!)

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**Prayer for Illumination: (Unison)**

**Reader: Bob Wright**

**Holy God, you call us to be salt and light to the world.**

**As we ponder on your Word, give us courage to respond,**

**so that your presence may be revealed to all. Amen.**

***The Reading: Matthew 5: 13-16 (NRSV Updated Edition) Salt and Light***

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled underfoot.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

<sup>15</sup> People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

<sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

May God’s wisdom dwell where the word is spoken. **Thanks be to God!**

***Ministry of Music:***

***Sermon: “Salty Radiance” Rev. Kim***

***Prayers of the People: Rev. Kim***

Let us gather our hearts in prayer:

Gracious God, persistent in love, steadfast in kindness, Spirit of endless possibility, we give you thanks this day. We thank you for your presence in hard times and in good times. We thank you for the struggles and challenges we encounter in our faith journey. We thank you for all those who have prayed, offered music and praises, preached Your Word, and shared your love and service to others. May our hearts yearn to follow your ways, and by your grace may we be able to listen deeply to one another.

God who is Love, you call us to be salt of the earth and light of the world. May you empower us to offer zest to our world through our acts of kindness and healing. Let our lives illumine your love for those who are lonely and lost. Teach us to listen to your voice, that we may hear the cry of the needy and respond. Teach us to love that we may offer care that brings others to you for healing. Teach us to lead, with your vision so that we not lead others blindly through life.

God of compassion, help us to hold on to your promises: The promise of care for those in nursing homes and treatment facilities; the promise of positive attitude for those undergoing medical treatments; the promise of patience for those who are slow to heal; the promise of comfort for those who have lost loved ones; the promise of renewed strength to those who are recovering from illness. We pray for those facing life’s challenges, those who live in the darkness of poverty and loneliness. And now in silence, hear the deepest longings and concerns of our hearts.

God of Shalom, we pray that peace may reign in the world, where the poor may have food on their tables, roofs over their heads, where hearts of stones are transformed into hearts of compassion; where weapons of war are changed into ploughshares that heal instead of kill; where hatred and violence are turned into moments of grace that bring comfort to those in need and afflict those who are in power so they may exercise their leadership with integrity and with your wisdom.

Life-giving God, may you join us in our celebrations, in our friendships and in our personal journeys. We pray for your continued guidance and blessings to sustain us as a community you have formed, that we may serve you and each other with confidence, with love and with courage, so we may accomplish your will in whatever endeavour we have pledged to pursue. All these we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. Amen.

***Musical Offering: This is the Day – arr. Hayes BCUC Choir***

**Invitation to Offer:**

**Rev. Kim**

We offer ourselves with our gifts, knowing that God has a purpose for us and for others. I now invite you to offer your time, talents and treasures as a sign of our gratefulness to God's blessings. 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: Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands - Voices United #537**

(Words: Calvin Weiss Laufer, 1927; Music: Neil Dougall, 1831)

Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,  
And some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.

**\*Offertory Prayer: (Unison)**

**Source of Blessings, for the talents and gifts delightfully given to us,  
we bring you our offering. May we use them  
to spread your love and hope for the world. Amen.**

**Hymn: "Go Make a Difference" - More Voices #209**

*Refrain 2x:* Go make a difference.

We can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world.

1- We are the salt of the earth,  
called to let the people see  
the love of God for you and me.  
We are the light of the world,  
Not to be hidden but be seen.

Go make a difference in the world. *R*

2- We are the hands of Christ reaching out  
to those in need, The face of God for all to see.  
We are the spirit of hope; We are the voice of  
peace. Go make a difference in the world. *R*

3 – So let your love shine on, let it shine for all  
to see. Go make a difference in the world. And  
the spirit of Christ will be with us as we go.  
Go make a difference in the world! *R*

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*spiritandsong.com*

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**\*Sending Forth: (responsively)**

**Rev. Kim**

Liturgy Alive, <http://www.bibleclaret.org/liturgy/CycleA/>

May your love be like salt

**that makes life tasty and worthwhile.**

May your life be a light

**to those who live in darkness.**

May our church community

**be a place of light as a sign that God lives and works in us.**

Go now, and let the light of Christ shine on all those who live around you.

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**\*Sung Blessing: Peace Be With You – More Voices #215** *sing twice*

Peace be with you, peace forever, Peace be with you, my friends.

Till we meet again, may God be with you. Peace, peace, peace.