

**BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH**

**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**January 15, 2023 – 10 am**

**\*Indicates stand as able**

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

*Gathering Music: (Announcement Slides)*

*\*Opening Hymn: I Am the Light of the World VU 87*

(Words& Music: Jim Strathdee, 1986)

Refrain:

I am the Light of the World

You people come and follow me.

If you follow and love, you'll learn the mystery

Of what you were meant to do and be.

1. When the song of the angels is stilled.

When the star in the sky is gone.

When the kings and the shepherds

have found their way home.

The work of Christmas is begun! R

2. To find the lost and lonely one,

To heal that broken soul with love,

To feed the hungry children

with warmth and good food,

To feel the earth below the sky above! R

3. To free the prisoner from all chains,

To make the powerful care,

To rebuild the nations with strength and

goodwill,

To see God's children everywhere. R

4. To bring hope to every task you do,

To dance at a baby's new birth,

To make music in an old person's heart,

And sing to the colours of the earth! R

*Lighting of the Christ Candle:*

Acolytes: Susan & George Young

(Jim Mckean, gathering, ACE 2022/2023, Year A. Used with Permission.)

Reader 1: As we light this candle, may its warmth symbolize the love that radiates from our being.

Reader 2: This candle represents the light of the soul.

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

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

*Welcome & Announcements*

Rev. Kim Vidal

Good morning! I welcome and greet you in the name of Jesus Christ, on this 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany. Today, we join Jesus in the gospel of John as he was referred to as the Lamb of God and called his first disciples. Welcome. Join us for coffee and fellowship after the service in the main hall.

Highlight some announcements.

Friends, come and see and let us take this moment to reflect what Jesus, as the Lamb of God means for us in this season of Epiphany. Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

*Call to Gather:* (Responsively)

Rev. Lorrie Lowes

(Heather McClure, Gathering ACE 2016-2017, Year A. Used with permission.)

Epiphany is a time of revelation, a time when we see things for the first time or in a new light.

**Open our eyes to see your light, O God.**

Epiphany is a time when we hear God's call and all that God is calling us to be.

**Open our ears to hear your calling, O God.**

Epiphany is a time when we recognize God's grace, abundant and overflowing.

**Open our hearts to receive your grace, O God.**

Epiphany is a time for worship, that we might be called the light of Christ.

**Let us open our lives in respond to worship God.**

*Prayer of Approach:* (Unison)

(Richard Bott, Gathering ACE 2022-2023, Year A. Used with permission.)

**God of all grace, Spirit of all love, Christ alive in our lives,  
open us to the possibilities of today, we pray.**

**Give us minds that wonder,**

**hearts that seek,**

**and lives that offer healing –**

**so that wherever we go,**

**we might live the invitation to “come and see”**

**and to choose abundant life.**

**Allelulia! Amen!**

Special Music: CGS/Bell Canto

*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.**

\**Hymn:* I Am Walking A Path of Peace MV 221  
(Words & Music: Janet Bauman Tissandier)

I am walking a path of **peace**. (3X)  
Lead me on. Lead me on.  
2- Love      3- Grace

*Prayer for Illumination:* Reader: Ruby Linforth

**God of the ages, we come looking for you and seeking to discover your will for us.  
Encourage and challenge us with a message that we are called to be your disciples. Amen.**

*The Reading:* John 1:29-42 (NRSV Updated Edition)

### **The Lamb of God**

<sup>29</sup> The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him and declared, "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup> This is he of whom I said, 'After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me.' <sup>31</sup> I myself did not know him, but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel." <sup>32</sup> And John testified, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. <sup>33</sup> I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' <sup>34</sup> And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Chosen One."

### **The First Disciples of Jesus**

<sup>35</sup> The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, <sup>36</sup> and as he watched Jesus walk by he exclaimed, "Look, here is the Lamb of God!" <sup>37</sup> The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. <sup>38</sup> When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" (which translated means Teacher), "where are you staying?" <sup>39</sup> He said to them, "Come and see." They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. <sup>40</sup> One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. <sup>41</sup> He first found his brother Simon and said to him, "We have found the Messiah" (which is translated

Anointed). <sup>42</sup> He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, “You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas” (which is translated Peter).

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

*Ministry of Music:* BCUC Choir

*Sermon:* “Come and See!” Rev. Kim

*Prayers of the People:* Rev. Kim

Let us gather our hearts in prayer:

God, ever creating, God, ever loving, God, ever leading.

Your stillness is peace when we are frantic.

Your word is truth when circumstances are twisted by fear.

Your movement is freedom when we are paralyzed by hopelessness.

Your love abides when the world seems abandoned;

and so for who you are, we worship you as the creating God,

the loving and beloved Son, and the leading Holy Spirit.

God of community and friendship, you engage us to be your church of love and service.

We give you thanks for the many gifts and hearts of hospitality that abound in this congregation. You are with us in our joys and celebrations.

You are there for us in our moments of truth and times of uncertainties.

In the blessings and pains we experience, you are indeed our shield and inspiration.

We pray for our congregation here at Bells Corners. Remind us always to “come and see” your goodness, your strength to follow you, your desire for our individual lives. Wherever and whenever we are divided or gone astray, make us whole; where we are torn by conflict and misunderstanding, mend us; and where we are tempted by forms of dishonesty or idolatry, reform us and restore our devotion.

God of compassion, we pray that your Word be fulfilled to those among us who are in need of your presence and healing touch. For our families, our friends, our loved ones and children, we pray that you will give them contentment, peace, and meaning in life. For those who have reason to be anxious due to illness, those who mourn and grieve, and for those who celebrate and rejoice, we pray that you shelter and hold them. And now in silence, hear our thanks and praise and name these as your blessings and our deepest concerns...

God of Shalom, our world needs your love and peace. Use us to be your hands, your feet, your heart to the world so that peace and justice may reign. Come to us, and stay with us. Like the first disciples who chose to follow you, give us the same courage and confidence to follow you. These we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. God-with-us and within us. Amen.

*Musical Offering:* Abe

*Invitation to Offer:* Rev. Kim

There are many signs we claim for our faith but ultimately it is our active love that reveals who we are, just like Jesus who revealed his abundant love for us. I now invite you to offer your time, talents and treasures as a sign of our gratefulness to God's blessings. 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: We Give our Thanks to God MV 187*  
(Words and music: traditional song, Botswana)

We give our thanks to God.  
We give our thanks to God.  
We give our thanks to God.  
We give our thanks to God.

We give our hearts to you.  
We give our hearts to you.  
We give our hearts to you.  
Because you first loved us.

*\*Offertory Prayer: (Unison)*  
(Nora Vedress, Gathering, ACE 2016-2017, Used with permission.)

**Generous God, we offer the treasures of our lives: our resources, our work, our hopes for this community, our dreams for the world. May your light shine upon these gifts and upon those who offer them. Bless what we offer. Amen.**

*\*Hymn: Will You Come and Follow Me? VU 567*  
(Words: The Iona Community, 1987; Music: Scottish traditional)

1 Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?

2 Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer in you and you in me?

3 Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name?  
Will you set the prisoners free and never be the same?  
Will you kiss the leper clean and do such as this unseen,  
and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

4 Will you love the "you" you hide if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

5 Christ, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.  
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.  
In Your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

*\*Sending Forth:* (responsively) Rev. Kim  
(Beth W Johnston, Gathering, ACE 2018-2019, Year C. Used with permission)

Today, let us go from this place of worship,  
**to lives of prayer and action.**  
May we be ready to proclaim the Good News,  
**despite the obstacles in our way.**  
May our lives set free those who are captive  
**and grant vision to those with failing imaginations.**  
May we stand firm and have courage  
**as we live the Good News into reality**  
Today and always. **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.