

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT **March 12, 2023**

**Check the audio recording and link to video recording of this service at bcuc.org*

***Opening Hymn: Eat This Bread and Never Hunger - Voices United #471**

(Words & Music: Charles Damon, 1992)

Refrain: Eat this bread and never hunger,
drink this cup and never thirst;
Christ invites us to the table
where the last become the first.

Walking down a desert highway,
Jesus healed a man born blind;
soon the man became a witness
to the truth we seek and find. *R*

Asking for a cup of water,
Jesus touched forbidden ground;
and the woman, with a question,
told the world what she had found. *R*

Weeping for his friend at graveside,
Jesus felt the pain of death;
yet he knew God's power to waken:
living water, living breath. *R*

Lighting of the Christ Candle:

We give thanks for the light of Christ,
sign of God's presence in the world,
our guide in this season of Lent.

Let us celebrate the light of Christ within us as we light up the world.

Acolytes: Ellen & Bob Boynton

Song of Assurance: Don't Be Afraid – More Voices #90

(Words; John Bell & Graham Maule, 1995; Music: John Bell, 1995)

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger, my love is stronger than your fear.

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger and I have promised, promised to be always near.

Welcome & Centering for Worship

Rev. Kim Vidal

Good morning! I welcome and greet you in the name of Jesus Christ on this Third Sunday in Lent.

We are glad you have come today. Join us for coffee and fellowship after the service in the main hall.

announcements...

Friends, in this season of Lent, we are called to receive the living water that Jesus offers.

Let us now worship together in spirit and in truth.

Call to Gather: (Responsively)

Rev. Lorrie Lowes

(Rt. Rev. Richard Bott, Gathering, Lent/Easter 2017. Used with permission)

Woman at the well, woman at the deep,
pulling up your water, searching to quench your thirst.

We are that woman.

Woman at the well, woman changed by life,
surprised by the presence of Jesus,
the stranger who knows her well.

We are that woman.

Woman at the well, woman called by Jesus,
drink deep of the living water, share it with your world!

**We are that woman. Open to possibility,
open to the hope that God would change our lives.**

Come to the Living Water as we worship together.

Prayer of Confession: (Unison) Rev. Lorrie (Jim Lochhead, Gathering, LEP 2004. Used with permission)

**Holy God, coming out of the cold, we seek the flames of faith to warm us,
to comfort us and to disturb our complacency.**

We hunger and thirst for you, searching in what is often a desolate world.

**Be present to us that we might find ourselves nourished in the midst of
parched and barren places to which our Lenten journey leads. Amen.**

A Moment of Silence

Ministry of Music: Grace Us, O Lord – Martin **BCUC Choir**

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

Prayer for Illumination: **Reader: Marion Dugas**

(Beth Johnson, Gathering, Lent/Easter, Year A 2017. Used with permission)

God of the ages, you send refreshing water to quench the thirst of your people.

Open us to the words of the scripture so that they may refresh us on our faith journey.

Allow these words to meet the dry places in our lives. Amen.

The Gospel Reading in Skit: Jesus and the Samaritan Woman **John 4: 5-42**

Narrator – Marion Dugas

Jesus – Brian Lipsett

Samaritan Woman – Erin Berard

Disciples – Abe TeGrotenhuis & Jordan Berard

May the Spirit of Love and Wisdom dwell where the Word is spoken. **Thanks be to God!**

The 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: There is Room for All – More Voices #62**

English:

There is room for all

in the shadow of God's wing;

there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.

And I rejoice and sing,

"My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."

There is room for all, there is room for all!

French:

Chacun a sa place

à l'abri sous l'aile de Dieu;

Chacun a sa place en l'amour de Dieu.

De joie, je chanterai:

"Mon refuge en lequel je me confie".

Chacun a sa place, chacun a sa place.

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Sermon: “The Samaritan Woman”

Rev. Kim

Prayers of the People:

Rev. Kim

Let us gather our hearts in prayer.

Thirst-quenching God, like the woman at the well, we come as needy people. Our hearts hunger for love. Our minds thirst for peace. Our dry spirits long to be watered by your grace. In times when certainties are few and difficult, keep us mindful of your faithfulness. In times when we see hopelessness around us, fill us with the living water so we can be witnesses of your love to the world. Compassionate God, we long for this community to be a sanctuary of your inclusive love, forgiveness and the embodiment of the holy spirit, As in Jesus’ day, this longing can often be met with resistance, hostility and rejection, So we ask that you strengthen our faith and give us the gift of courage to face challenges and difficult times.

Healing God, we pray for all who suffer, for the sick and the lonely, for those who have suffered loss, for those trapped in anxiety and fear, for those downtrodden by hopelessness and despair. We pray for those of us who yearn for your healing touch and those of us unnamed in this prayer who long to seek recovery, comfort and wellness. We pray for the McNeil Family as they mourn the death of our friend, Bridget. We pray for those who walk beside us on our journey, whose lives are a blessing to us. In silence, we lift up to you the deepest concerns of our hearts...

God of peace, we pray for the world – especially for all those caught in the many kinds of devastation and acts of violence. We plead for the ceasing of violence we pray that you might give us a desire for peace and a willingness to work and hope and pray for peace each day.

We pray for ourselves and those close to our hearts. We come before you O God, thirsty, empty and afraid. We have crosses to carry and wounds that need healing. We have hard, moral choices to make and promises to keep. Uphold us and enfold us. Empower us with your Spirit and give us living water for the journey. These we ask in the name of Jesus, our prime example. Amen.

Musical Offering: Gentle Voice – Susan & Lee Dengler

Choir : violin – Leslie Wade

Invitation to Offer:

Rev. Kim

God’s love has always been abundant, in every age. We are grateful to a generous and loving God for every sign of new life. 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: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross – Voices United #149 (v4)***

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small:
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

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

Holy One, accept these gifts we offer as a token and a symbol of the offering of ourselves in the name of love and justice. May all that we offer of ourselves and our resources, be acceptable, and blessed by you, Amen

Hymn: My Love Colours Outside the Lines – More Voices #138

1 My love colours outside the lines,
exploring paths that few could ever find;
and takes me into places
where I've never been before,
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

2 My Lord colours outside the lines,
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;
and takes me into places
where I've never been before
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

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Bridge: We'll never walk on water
if we're not prepared to drown, body and soul
need a soaking from time to time.
And we'll never move the grave-stones
if we're not prepared to die, and realize
there are worlds outside the lines.

3, 4 My soul longs to colour outside the lines,
tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine;
I want to walk beyond the boundaries
where I've never been before, throw open doors
to worlds outside the lines. *Bridge*

Sending Forth: (Responsively)

Rev. Kim

Go now and bring with you the gift of the Living Water.

Our thirst forever quenched. Spirit and truth remain.

Go now in God's goodness.

Live out the grace offered by Jesus.

Sing gladly of the Spirit's presence,

this day and always. **Amen.**

Sung Blessing: Depart in Peace *words: Ruth Duck , music: Ron Klusmeier*

Depart in peace to do God's will; Walk ever in the light;

For Christ is with you ever more, To guide you day and night.

A-men, A-men, A-men, A-men.