

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH

March 3, 2024, 10 am 3rd Sunday in Lent / AGM

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

Gathering Music:

**Indicates stand as able*

Acknowledgement of Territory: Erin Berard (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.

***Hymn: Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness** – Voices United #375 (Souffle, vent doux du Saint-Esprit)

(Words & Music: James K. Manley, Translated in French by Andrew Donaldson)

Refrain: Spirit, spirit of gentleness, and you goaded your people with a law and a land;
blow through the wilderness, calling and free, and when they were blinded with idols and lies,
Spirit, spirit of restlessness, then you spoke through your prophets
stir me from placidness, wind, wind on the sea. to open their eyes. *R (English)*

1-Tu touchas la terre Esprit créateur
Tu dressas les montagne, en gloire et splendeur;
à travers les âges, tu crias à tous vents:
“déployez vos ailes, sortez du néant.”

Refrain: Souffle, vent doux du Saint-Esprit;
Tu grâce me conduit hors du desert.
Souffle, grand vent du Saint-Esprit,
secoue notre apathie, vent, vent sur la mer.

2-You swept through the desert, you stung with the sand,

3-You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill
then you whispered in silence
when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people
on the rush of the wind. *R (French)*

4-You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes.
From the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams;
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes.
With bold new decisions your people arise. *R (English)*

Lighting of Christ Candle: Acolyte: Linda Miller (Peter Chynoweth, Gathering, Lent/Easter 2021. Used with permission)

Light and warmth are returning to the land wherever we are.

Light and warmth are represented in the light of Christ that glows from this flame.

May the symbol of this lit candle remind us of the reality of the land and the light and warmth of our presence with God.

Sung Response: Don't Be Afraid – More Voices #90

Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,	N'avez pas peur, mon amour est plus fort,
My love is stronger than your fear.	Il est plus fort que votre peur.
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger	N'avez pas peur, mon amour est plus fort;
And I have promised, promised to be always near.	Je vous ai promis d'être toujours là.

Welcome: Rev. Kim Vidal Good morning!

I welcome and greet you in the name of Jesus Christ on this Third Sunday in Lent as we gather for our Annual General Meeting right after the service in the main hall. Highlight some announcements...

Centering for Worship:

Friends, in this season of Lent, we know what God desires of us:
That we do justice, and love kindness, and walk humbly with God.
We gather this morning to remind each other about that,
To remember that now is always the right time to do these things.
So with thanks in our hearts, let us worship God.

Call to Gather: **(Responsively)** Erin Berard *(Celebrate God's Presence. A Book of Services. Used with permission.)*

On this Annual General Meeting Sunday, we are summoned here by our Holy God,

Who calls us each by name, and gathers us together in the unity of Jesus Christ.

Young and old and middle-aged, Individuals and families, Soft-spoken and outspoken,

We hear our names being called to join in worship.

This sanctuary of love is a place to pursue God's vision for all people:

unity and joy and faith expressed through different gifts.

Come, let us gather.

Prayer of Confession & Words of Assurance: **(Together)** Erin

Gracious God, we confess that we do not always follow your will. We do not reach out to those in need because we see no connection between their need and our faith.

We have often failed to listen to your whispers which call us to build a community where freedom, equality and dignity for all are assured.

Forgive us. Restore us. Open our eyes to your truth. Amen.

(Moment of Silence)

Hear now the words of God's assurance: As we walk with God, we are transformed day by day.

God's never-ending love journeys with us, making us new, again and again. Thanks be to God!

Special Music: Prayer of Dedication – Cherwien

Bell Canto : director Erin Berard

Time for the Young at Heart:

Erin

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: Jesus Christ is Waiting – Voices United #117**

(Words: John L. Bell, 1984; Music: French Carol, 15th Century)

Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;

No one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.

Listen, Lord Jesus, I am lonely too.

Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you

Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,

Where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.

Listen, Lord Jesus, I am angry too.

In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;

Curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.

Listen, Lord Jesus, I have pity too.

Let my care be active, healing just like you.

Jesus Christ is dancing, dancing in the streets,

Where each sign of hatred he, with love, defeats.

Listen, Lord Jesus, I should triumph too.

On suspicion's graveyard let me dance with you.

Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,

"Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet."

Listen, Lord Jesus, let my fears be few.

Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

Prayer for Illumination: **(Together)**

Reader: Jordan Berard

**God of the Scripture, may your Word grant us courage and conviction
to listen and to act in faith. Amen.**

Responsive Psalm Reading: Psalm 19 (Voices United pg740-741, Refrain 1)

Sung Response: The precepts of our God give joy to the heart

The heavens declare the glory of God, and the vault of the sky reveals God's handiwork.

One day speaks to another, and night shares its knowledge with night,

and this without speech or language, their voices are not heard
But their sound goes out to all the lands, their words to the ends of the earth. R

In the heavens God has pitched a tent for the sun
which comes out like a bridegroom from under the canopy, like an athlete eager to run the race.
**Its rising is the one end of the sky, it runs its course to the other,
and there is nothing that is hidden from its heat. R**

God's law is perfect, refreshing the soul, **God's instruction is sure, giving wisdom to the simple,**
God's precepts are right, rejoicing the heart, **God's commandment is pure, giving light to the eyes,**
God's fear is clean, enduring forever, **God's judgements are true, every one of them righteous,**
more desirable than gold, even much find gold, **Sweeter also than honey, pure honey from the comb. R**

By them is your servant warned, **for in keeping them there is a great reward.**
But who can discern unwitting sins? **O cleanse me from my secret faults.**
Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins, lest they get the better of me.
Then shall I be clean and innocent of great offence. R

All : **Let the words of my mouth and the thoughts of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O God, my strength and my redeemer.**

Gospel Reading: John 2:13-22 Jesus Cleanses the Temple

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, with the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up."²⁰ The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Ministry of Music: Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring – Bach edit:Allen

BCUC Choir

Sermon: "Jesus: A Social Prophet" Rev. Kim

Prayers of the People:

Good caring presence within us, around us, and above us. Hold us in a sense of mystery and wonder. Let the fullness of your goodness inspire and empower us in our daily living. Let the world know your ways of caring, justice and compassion through us. As Jesus have modeled for us in today's gospel story, let righteous and holy anger help us connect with the world especially in those places that need healing.

O God of hope, *on this our Annual General Meeting*, give our church - vision, commitment, and passion for your love and justice. Strengthen our ministries, our leaders, our life together as a faith community. Bless all of our dreams in bringing about transformed lives and healed relationships. Instill in us your spirit of compassion so that we can share your message of abundance with others. As a compassionate community, we continue to pray for our sisters and brothers who long to seek recovery from illness, for comfort and for wellness. We pray for those who have lost their way, physically, emotionally and spiritually. We pray for those who know loneliness, want. or grief. And now in silence, we pray for those we name in our hearts... <Silence>

Dear God, you call us into a journey of faith. With you as our strength and with the light of your love, and the knowledge that you are always with us, we can strive to do your work and attain wholeness. We pray for leaders who are less interested in being powerful and more interested in being caring and doing right. We pray for ourselves. Help us to not forget your ways. Let us walk with you. Incline our hearts to your steadfast and upright

understanding. May we treasure your words in our hearts in whatever we say and do, so that our lives may reflect your way of light and love to others. These we ask in the name of Jesus, the Social Prophet. Amen.

Musical Offering: This is (God's Wondrous) World – arr. Berry BCUC Choir, Flute : Erin Berard

Invitation to Offer: Rev. Kim Vidal

The Holy Scripture contains stories about God's own generosity. We are recipients of the gifts of a beautiful creation, the good green earth and all living things that live here with us. On this winter morning, we come together to thank God and to offer our gifts so that the ministry of this church will continue to grow and be a blessing to the world. I now invite you to offer your gifts of time, talents and resources as expressions of your gratitude to God's blessings. 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: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross - Voices United #149, verse 4**

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:**

Generous God, we have learned that when we give away, we are enriched;
and when we let go, we receive. Bless what we give and let go this day. Amen.

***Closing Hymn: Though ancient Walls – Voices United #691**

Words © 1974 John Farquharson; Music © 1974 arr. 1995 Ron Klusmeier

Though ancient walls may still stand proud and racial strife be fact,
Though boundaries may be lines of hate, proclaim God's saving act!

Refrain: Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!

When vested power stand firm entrenched and breaks each other's back,
When waste and want live side by side, it's Gospel that we lack. (*Refrain*)

The truth we seek in varied scheme, the life that we pursue,
Unites us in a common quest for self and world made new. (*Refrain*)

The church divided seeks that grace, that newness we proclaim;
A unity of serving love that lives praise to God's name! (*Refrain*)

This broken world needs lasting health and vital unity.
God's people by God's Word renewed, cast off all slavery! (*Refrain*)

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

As we leave this place, God says to you and me:
I am with you. I hold you. I care for you.
I am on this journey with you.
My steadfast love is always with you. Go in peace.
This is Lent. This is the journey. Amen.

Sung Blessing: Go Now in Peace – More Voices #211

Go now in peace .. guided by the light .. of Christ,
So you may be .. nourished by the Word .. of Life.
repeat