

**BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH**  
**ALL-AGES EASTER SUNDAY / COMMUNION**      **March 31, 2024 – 10 am**  
*\* The live service will be broadcasted and recorded on YouTube, check your email for the link.*

**Gathering Music: A Festive Introit for Easter – Besig/Price**      BCUC Choir

*\*Indicates stand as able*

**\*Hymn: This is the Day - More Voices #122**

1 This is the day that God has made; we will rejoice and be glad! 2x

Singing hallelu, singing hallelu, singing hallelu!

We will rejoice and be glad! 2x

2 Voici le jour que Dieu a fait; nous le vivrons dans la joie. 2x

Chantant Al-le-lu! (3x); nous le vivrons dans la joie.

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**Lighting of Christ Candle: (Responsively)**      **Acolytes: Hanson Family**

*(Fern Gibbard, Gathering L/E 2019, p 41. Used with permission.)*

On this Easter morning,

We shout and sing the glad news:

**Jesus Christ is risen indeed!**

We light the Christ candle because he is here among us.

**Hallelujah! Amen.**

**Sung Response: Halle, Halle, Hallelujah – Voices United #958**

Halle, halle, halle-lu-jah (3X)

Hallelujah, hallelujah!

*Words trad, liturgical text and Music arr. © 1990 IONA Community, GIA Pub All rights reserved*

**Welcome & Centering for Worship:**      **Rev. Kim Vidal**

Good Morning! What a joy it is to greet you on this all-ages Easter Sunday in the name of Jesus Christ, the Risen One! Today is a day where hope and joy rise: spring is here, trees and plants are budding, flowers are blooming, the days are getting longer, and warmer weather will be with us. Today, we are celebrating the sacrament of communion. Everyone is invited to join the sharing the bread and the drink – God’s gifts of Easter. Welcome friends and guests.

Please join us for a time of coffee and fellowship after the service in the main hall. *announcements...*

As Easter people, we gather to celebrate the joy and the hope that the Risen Christ bring!

Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

**Call to Gather: (Responsively)**      **Samantha Jones & Inara Wightman**

*(Richard Bott, Gathering L/E 2019, p43. Used with permission.)*

Risen in joy,      **we come before you God and rejoice!**

Risen in hope,      **we come before you God in anticipation!**

Risen in love,      **we come before you God with thankful hearts!**

Risen for the world,      **we come to give thanks!**

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!      **Christ is Risen indeed!**

**Embodied Prayer with Wendy Morrell**

**Special Music: Sunrise, Resurrection -**

Bell Canto director : 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.*

**\*Hymn: Hey Now! Singing Hallelujah! – More Voices #121**

*(Words and Music: Linnea Good)*

- Refrain:* Hey now! Singing hallelujah!  
 Hey now! The morning has come!  
 Hey now! Singing hallelujah!  
 The tomb was empty at the rising sun.
1. Jesus loved people and he made them friends  
 Hey now, the tomb was empty.  
 He called to the children and the women and men.  
 Hey now, the tomb was empty. *Refrain*
  2. Jesus healed people and he helped them be well.  
 Hey now the tomb was empty.  
 He taught about God in the stories he'd tell.  
 Hey now, the tomb was empty. *Refrain*
  3. Jesus loved people and they said he was a king.  
 Hey now, the tomb was empty.  
 He turned all the tables on everything.  
 Hey now, the tomb was empty. *Refrain*
  4. Jesus had power and they took him away.  
 Hey now, the tomb was empty.  
 They nailed him on a cross and they killed him one day.  
 Hey now, the tomb was empty. *Refrain*
  5. Jesus loves people and he lives again!  
 Hey now, the tomb was empty.  
 Calls us disciples and he calls us his friends.  
 Hey now, the tomb was empty. *Refrain*

***Prayer for Illumination:***

**Reader: Amelia Baynes**

**God of joy and delight, open our hearts to receive your Word anew,  
 and give us hope as your Easter people. Amen.**

***The Gospel Reading: John 20: 1-18 (Modern English Version)    The Resurrection of Jesus***

20 Early on the first day of the week, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb while it was still dark and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. <sup>2</sup> So she came running to Simon Peter and to the other disciple whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have put Him."

<sup>3</sup> So Peter came out with the other disciple and they went toward the tomb. <sup>4</sup> They both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. <sup>5</sup> Stooping down and looking in, he saw the linen cloths lying. Yet he did not enter. <sup>6</sup> Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went inside the tomb. He saw the linen cloths lying there, <sup>7</sup> and the cloth that was around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but wrapped in a place by itself. <sup>8</sup> Then the other disciple, who came first to the tomb, went in also. He saw and believed. <sup>9</sup> For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise from the dead. <sup>10</sup> Then the disciples went away again to their own homes.

**The Appearance of Jesus to Mary Magdalene**

<sup>11</sup> But Mary stood outside at the tomb weeping. As she wept, she stooped down and looked into the tomb, <sup>12</sup> and she saw two angels in white sitting where the body of Jesus had lain, one at the head and one at the feet. <sup>13</sup> They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have put Him." <sup>14</sup> When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing, but she did not know that it was Jesus.

<sup>15</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?"

Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have put Him, and I will take Him away."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Mary." She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which means Teacher).

<sup>17</sup> Jesus said to her, “Stop holding on to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father. But go to My brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.’”

<sup>18</sup> Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord and that He had said these things to her.

Hear the good news of the Easter Story! **Christ is Risen! Hallelujah!**

**Ministry of Music: A Never-ending Alleluia – Williams/Martin**

BCUC Choir

**Monologue Sermon: Rev. Kim & Erin Berard**

**An Easter Prayer: (Responsively) “Sunshine on Snow” Rev. Kim**

*(Kate Crawford, Drama File- Gathering L/E 2016. Used with permission)*

Let us gather our hearts in prayer:  
God who has loved us into life  
and who walks our journey with us,  
hear us as we join our hearts in prayer.

**We are your children –  
no matter how old we are or how old we feel.**

**We turn to you with trust,  
and a deep longing for justice in the world.**

We pray for people who are struggling this week,  
perhaps with loss or grief;  
perhaps with mental illness or disability;  
perhaps with broken promises, love lost or the end of a marriage;  
perhaps with the end of a job and the fear that comes with uncertainty,  
not knowing how to pay the bills  
or feed the family.

**Be with those who struggle, God.  
Let them rest gently in your hand.**

We pray for those who are ill this week,  
perhaps in hospital, receiving medical care;  
perhaps at home, waiting for test results or an appointment in a few months' time;  
perhaps dealing with a chronic condition that never goes away,  
living with pain or hurt.

**Be with those who are ill, God.  
Let them rest gently in your hand.**

We pray this week in thanksgiving,  
for those shining moments when we know you are near.  
We give you thanks for friends who remember us,  
for family who treasure us,  
for sunshine on snow,  
for the miracle of each new day,  
and each breath we take.

**We pray in thanksgiving, God.  
Let us rest gently in your hand.**

Hear all our prayers,  
those we have given voice to,  
and those which we speak in our hearts -  
**hear our prayers and move in our world,  
this Easter and always. Amen.**

**Communion Hymn: Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ – Voices United #468**

(Words: Fred Kaan, 1975; Music: Jamaican Folk Melody)

1. Let us talents and tongues employ,  
reaching out with a shout of joy:  
bread is broken, the wine is poured,  
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.  
*Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound! (x2)*
2. Christ is able to make us one,  
at the table he sets the tone,  
teaching people to live to bless,  
*love in word and in deed express.  
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound! (x2)*
3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out,  
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
gives us love to tell, bread to share:  
God (Immanuel) everywhere!  
*Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound! (x2)*

***The Sacrament of Communion***

*Invitation: Kim*

This is the table of the risen Christ.

In this feast comes the root of our joy.

**In this feast gleams the promise of the earth and the glory of all creation.**

In this feast comes the Christ, Saviour and Friend to all.

*Call to Give Thanks: Kim*

Christ is risen!

**He is risen indeed!**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving: Lorrie*

Hallelujah, thanks and praise, ever-living God,

worker of wonders, maker of miracles, author of all life and giver of life eternal!

Out of chaos and fear you bring beauty and hope.

Out of despair and death you create courage and new life.

And so, with the risen Christ, who makes all things new by the power of his resurrection,  
we join in the song of a new day to sing your praise:

**\*Kingsfold Communion (More Voices #203)**

**O holy, holy, holy God,**

**O God of time and space.**

**All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace.**

**Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.**

**And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always.**

*Remembering Jesus at Table: Kim*

We do what Jesus did the night before he died.

He took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said,

**“Take, eat; remember me.”**

Then he took the cup, and said,

**“Take, drink; remember.”**

By sharing this bread and cup,

**We proclaim Jesus, Crucified and risen,**

**Our judge and our hope.**

*Prayer for Transformation: Lorrie*

Holy God, pour your Spirit on us, that we may know Christ in the breaking of bread, and that, in word and deed, we may be channels of your love, peace, and justice in the world. Amen.

*Breaking the bread and Filling the Cup: Kim*

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life,  
Whoever comes to me will never be hungry;  
Whoever comes to me will never be thirsty."  
The gifts of God for the people of God.

*Sharing the Bread and Cup*

The Bread of Life!  
The Cup of Blessing!

*Prayer After Communion: (Unison) Lorrie*

**Life-giving God,  
May we who share Christ's body, live his risen life;  
May we who drink his cup, bring new life to others;  
May we, whom the Spirit lights, give light to the world.  
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,  
So that we and all your children shall be free,  
And all creation will live to praise your name. Amen**

*Easter Memorial Flowers*

**Musical Offering: Sing Forth, Every Voice, for the Lord is Risen - Hopson**

BCUC Choir

*Invitation to Offer:* Rev. Lorrie

On this Easter Sunday, we come 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: What Can I Do? More Voices #191**

*(Words & Music: Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy; arr. Alan C. Whitmore, 2005)*

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: (In Unison)**

**Rejoicing! Celebrating! Giving thanks!  
Gracious God, hope and new life are your amazing gifts to us.  
As we offer our gifts back to you, remind us that we are Easter people  
and you call us to sow seeds of love and justice in the world. Amen.**

**\*Hymn: Hallelujah, Hallelujah, Give Thanks – Voices United #179**

*Refrain: Hallelujah, Hallelujah, give thanks to the risen Christ;*

*Hallelujah, Hallelujah, give praise to God's name.*

1. Jesus is Lord of all the earth.  
First born of all creation. *Refrain*

3. We have been crucified with Christ.  
Now we shall live forever. *Refrain*

2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth.  
Jesus has died and is risen. *Refrain*

4. Come, let us praise the living God,  
Joyfully sing to our Saviour. *Refrain*

**\*Sending Forth:** Rev. Kim (*Peter Chynoweth, Gathering, L/E 2020 Year A. Used with Permission*)

Christ is risen!

**Christ keeps on rising through us!**

The drama is not concluded.

**It has become our own.**

As the body of Christ,

**we respond as doers of the Word.**

Go now knowing that God goes with you. **Amen.**

**\*Sung Blessing: I've Got the Joy** BCUC band