

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH

EASTER 5 - May 7, 2023 – 10 am

BCUC 173rd Anniversary Sunday

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

Gathering Music:

** indicates stand as able*

Hymn: Let Us Build a House - More Voices #1

1. Let us build a house where all can dwell and all can safely live
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions: All are welcome... in this place
2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: All are welcome... in this place
3. Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
A banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are welcome... in this place
4. Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
To heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
Let us bring an end to fear and danger: All are welcome... in this place
5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
And loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
Let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: All are welcome... in this place.

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Lighting of Christ Candle:

Acolytes: McGugan Family

We light this Christ candle to honour and to celebrate who we are as people of faith.

We do so by giving thanks for the varieties of gifts that we share and of the love that binds us together.

Sung Response: Lord Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary - More Voices #18

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy tried and true;

with thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

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Welcome & Centering for Worship:

Rev. Kim Vidal

Good morning! The psalmist declares: "O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home"

I welcome and greet you in the name of Jesus Christ as we worship together on this 5th Sunday of Easter. Today we are celebrating 173 years of ministry at Bells Corners United Church.

We give thanks for the many ways God has blessed and continues to bless this congregation through the years. A warm welcome all. Please join us in the Main Hall after the service for cake, coffee, refreshments and conversation ...announcements... Concert – tonight 7 pm, Garage Sale – May 13 Friends, I now invite you to centre yourselves in the presence of our welcoming God who journeys with us. Let us worship together.

Call to Gather: (Responsively) Rev. Lorrie Lowes

From before the beginning, and beyond the end,
you are our God, the God who claims us as yours.

We come, as faithful people have come,
for many generations.

We may break our promises and abandon our covenants,
but you meet all our endings with a new beginning.

Stir in us a joyful celebration for what you have done
and continue to do so among us;

From before the beginning, and beyond the end,
you are our God. We delight in you.

Prayer of Approach: (Unison)

**Companion God, through the years, you have loved us dearly
and have nurtured us since the beginning.**

**The abundance that surrounds us is astounding,
and all we can do is marvel and give thanks.**

With joy-filled hearts let us proclaim the Good News that you are among us.

Dance with us as we embrace one another in love and in thanksgiving.

Walk with us as we celebrate your promises of grace and hope.

Pray with us as we journey together as followers of Jesus. Amen.

Special Music: Roll Over the Ocean – traditional

CGS director: Erin Berard

Time for the Young at Heart

Rev. Lorrie Lowes

The Lord's Prayer in Movements Wendy Morrell & the Sacred Dancers (YouTube video)

***Song: Where Two or Three Are Gathered - More Voices #14** (Words & Music: Bruce Harding, 2002).

Where two or three are gathered in my name,

I am there, I am there. *repeat*

Prayer for Illumination: (Unison)

Reader: Brian Lipsett

Let grace, let love, let hope flow through your Word to us, O God.

Let your Word transform us today and always. Amen.

The Gospel Reading: Acts 2: 41-47 (NRSV Updated Edition) **Life Among the Believers**

⁴¹ So those who welcomed Peter's message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added. ⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. ⁴³ Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done

by the apostles. ⁴⁴ All who believed were together and had all things in common; ⁴⁵ they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. ⁴⁶ Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, ⁴⁷ praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

May these words renew us and give us assurance of hope in this time and in this place. **Thanks be to God!**

Ministry of Music: A Welcome Place – Williams/Raney

BCUC Choir

Sermon: “Breaking Bread”

Rev. Kim

Prayers of the People: Let us gather our hearts in prayer.

Holy God, on this Anniversary Sunday, we reflect on your past help, your indwelling Spirit in the present and the courage to seek hope for the future. Through the years O, God, you have blessed and continue to bless your people in this congregation – a community of faithful believers, a heritage of outreach and service, a haven of creativity, vibrant worship services with amazing music and loving fellowship. Continue to bless us with your presence, as you come to us in Word and sacraments, and make of us a community of love and care, a light that cannot be hidden, that others may know of your great love.

Holy God, we remember all those who help this church grow in wisdom and in faith. And so we pray for our leaders, the board and committee members, our music director and the choirs, Sunday School teachers, and many others who provide leadership and support to this faith community. We give thanks for all of the members and adherents, young and old alike, who fulfill each day the vision of being an active Christian presence in the community. May we be a church where the good news of Jesus Christ for all people is made real amongst us. May we be a church which manifests unity through diversity. May we be a church where the gift of friendship flourishes and nourishes us as we make friends in many different ways.

God of peace, we are grateful: for our family, children in our midst, friends and loved ones who bless and enrich our lives; for the challenges of living together; for your call to work for peace and justice in our world. Help us to look beyond boundaries, beyond denominations, beyond doctrines and beyond our own self-interest. Protect us not to lose heart in the face of so many challenges: the threat of war, famine, environmental destruction, diseases and natural disasters. God who journeys with us, hold our lives together in the thread of your rainbow grace. We rejoice with hope and great joy, remembering Jesus Christ, the mover and shaker of our faith as we abide in his love now and in the years to come. All these things we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Musical Offering: You Shall Go Out with Joy (concert sample) – Hayes BCUC choir

Invitation to Offer:

Let us joyfully share our gifts of time, talents and resources as expressions of our gratitude 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: What Can I Do? - More Voices #191**

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.

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***Offertory Prayer: (Unison)**

Loving God, on this our Anniversary Sunday, may these gifts of time, talents and treasures be bright threads shining in the tapestry of life as your people. Bless these gifts as we use them to bless others. Amen.

***Hymn: I the Lord of Sea and Sky – Voices United #509**

1. I the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry
All who dwell in deepest sin, my hand will save.
I who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.

2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have heard my people's pain.
I have wept for love of the; they turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"
3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame,
I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

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New Dawn Music

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

Go forth into the world,
rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
Be strong and of good courage,
**for the God of yesterday, today
and tomorrow walks with us.**
Be filled with the peace of Christ now and always. **Amen!**

***Sung Blessing – Go Now in Peace (Besig)**

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love, and show you believe.
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there Spirit from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen.