

**BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH**  
**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost    November 19th, 2023 – 10 am**

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

**Gathering Music – Come Now is the Time to Worship – Brian Doerksen**

*\*Indicates stand as able*

**\*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? R

*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 borne my people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them, 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? R

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? R

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***Lighting of Christ Candle:***                      ***Acolytes: Mya /Inara***

There once was someone who said and did such amazing things that others began to follow him.  
When asked who he was, he responded "I am the Light of the World". We light this Christ candle reminding us that the spirit of Jesus reigns in our hearts. We long for God's love to come to our world, to break through and reign over us with compassion, justice, kindness and peace.

**The light of Christ shines on!**

***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.

***Welcome:***    ***Kael***

Good morning! My name is Kael Fowler, UP Youth Leader. I welcome you to this sacred place of belonging where we embrace God's presence and the sacredness of life. I welcome you in the spirit of Jesus Christ in whom we live and move and have our being.  
Today we are celebrating Children and Youth Sunday at BCUC as we commemorate the United Nation's declaration of the rights of children. Everyone is invited to stay in the sanctuary for the service. A warm welcome to all who are visiting us today for the first time. Join us for fellowship & coffee after the service in the main hall. Reminder to Youth, we will be gathering for Pizza in the UP room, immediately after the service. I now call on Rev. Kim to highlight some announcements...

***Centering for Worship:***                      ***Kael***

Friends, in the church and in the world, in our tears and in our joy, we meet God, who offers love.  
Let us come as faithful people, centering ourselves on this love as we worship together.

**\*Call to Gather & Opening Prayer: (Responsively) David & Dana Ducette**

Come! Share the joy of the Lord!

**Delight in God's goodness!**

Praise God who gives each person a special gift to be nurtured and shared.

**Lord, we thank you for these gifts!**

Come, let us worship God who entrusts us with so much.

**Lord, strengthen up to be able to carry your love as your disciples into this community and into the world.**

Let us pray together:

**O Lord, we gratefully acknowledge the gifts you have given to each of us for service in your world. Gifts of teaching, healing, inspiring, challenging and creating are all among the myriad of things you have placed in our lives. Direct our lives to use these gifts as we reach out to our neighborhood and nation, witnessing to your love and your healing mercy. We pray this in Jesus' name. AMENI.**

**Special Music: Let the People of God**

Bell Canto w/CGS director: Erin

**Time for the Young at Heart:**

Rev. Camille Lipsett

The Prayer of Jesus / Lord's Prayer:

***Our Creator, Our Mother, 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: This Little light of Mine**

This little light of mine I'm gonna let it shine (3X) Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Hide it under a bushel – No! I'm gonna let it shine (3X) Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Everywhere I go, I'm gonna let it shine! (3X) Let it shine, let it shine, Let it shine!

**Prayer for Illumination: (Unison) Reader: Samantha Jones**

**God of sacred story, open our hearts and enable us to get ready to receive your Word in our hearing. Help us to listen as we seek to follow and trust. Amen.**

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 25: 14-30 (NRSVUE) The Parable of the Talents**

<sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them;

<sup>15</sup> to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.

Then he went away. At once <sup>16</sup> the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup> In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.

<sup>18</sup> But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup> After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

<sup>20</sup> Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying,

‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ <sup>21</sup> His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>22</sup> And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’

<sup>23</sup> His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ <sup>24</sup> Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did not scatter, <sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup> But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter?’

<sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup> For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup> As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Hear what the gracious God is saying to all of us. **We listen and we respond with action.**

### **Ministry of Music: Seek Ye First – Voices United #356**

1 Seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and God’ righteousness;  
and all these things shall be added unto you. Hallelu, hallelujah!

2 Ask and it shall be given unto you; seek and ye shall find;  
knock and the door shall be opened unto you. Hallelu, Hallelujah!

3 We do not live by bread alone, but by every word  
that proceeds from the mouth of God. Hallelu, Hallelujah!

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### **Short Reflection:**

Dana Ducette

### **Prayers of the People:**

Kael

Wise and Patient God, we know what you want us to do, but we are far too often hesitant to follow through for you. You give us multiple blessings and ask that we develop these gifts and use them to help others. In times of great crisis, we come through, we mobilize. But in the intermediate times, we hold back. We develop a "let someone else do it" attitude. We often think of our gifts, our talents as things that are less than worthy. How blind we are, Lord! To each one of us you have given gifts which can be used to help others. Each gift and talent is precious in your sight. Rather than compete with others to see who has the greater talent, let us use the gifts we have been given joyfully and abundantly.

One of the greatest gifts is the gift of prayer. And we have brought before you, Lord, the concerns which have been weighing on our hearts. We pray this morning for those lives are in the middle of wars and conflicts around the world, for people displaced from their homes and community by seismic quakes and are awaiting a volcanic event. We pray for the people in this community who are struggling to cover the costs of living and are fearful for what lies ahead. We pray for the students who are struggling to balance the demands of their lives, school, work, relationships with anxiety and fear for the future. We pray for this community of faith and its leadership, for acts of bravery and boldness. We pray for all the ministries of this church and specifically your blessing for the leaders and children in Sunday School and the leaders and youth in the UP Group. May they be led through Christ’s example embodied in this community of faith to share without reservation their talents, gifts and love of Christ. Let us now take a moment to pray for those names are written on our hearts and minds.

*PAUSE FOR 30 SECONDS (COUNT SLOWLY)*

Touch the lives of all these people and situations with your healing love. Give each one a sense of your powerful presence. Flood their lives with hope and peace. Change their perspectives and release them from their chains of burden so that they may live in abundance and peace. Help each one of us to be workers for you using the gifts we have been given. Help us to trust in your abiding presence and love for us. Challenge us to use the gifts and to honor the giver, for we ask these things in Jesus’ Name. AMENI.

## ***Musical Offering: Awesome God – Rich Mullins***

### ***Invitation to Offer:***

Noah

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***

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: (Unison)***

Noah

**Loving God, accept these gifts we offer and help us to be generous givers of our time, talents, money and our lives, that we might make a difference in the world. Amen.**

### ***\*Closing Hymn: Lord of the Dance – Voices United #352***

1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun,  
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,  
and I came from heaven and I danced on the earth;  
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

3 I danced on the Sabbath and I cured the lame;  
the holy people said it was a shame;  
they whipped and they stripped and they hung me high,  
and left me there on a cross to die. *R*

*Refrain:* Dance, then, wherever you may be;  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,  
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,  
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

4 I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;  
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;  
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,  
but I am the dance and I still go on. *R*

2 I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,  
but they would not dance and they would not follow  
me; I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;  
they came with me and the dance went on. *R*

5 They cut me down and I leap up high;  
I am the life that will never, never die;  
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;  
I am the Lord of the dance, said he. *R*

### ***\*Sending Forth:*** ALL Youth participants.

Blessing & Witness, Discipleship & Peace,  
Hope & Healing Comfort & God's love  
As you have been blessed, now go to be a blessing to others.  
Carry your gifts into the world.  
Go, bringing the news of peace and hope, of healing and love.  
Where you go and the God of peace will always go with you.  
May the Lord bless you and keep you,  
may the Lord's face shine upon you and give you peace this day and always.

### ***Sung Blessing: Let There be Peace on Earth (Miller/Jackson)***

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me  
Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our creator, children all are we  
Let us walk with each other, in perfect harmony  
Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now,  
With every step I take let this be my solemn vow.  
To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me