

**BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH**  
**Reign of Christ Sunday      November 26, 2023 – 10 am**

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

***Gathering Music***

*\*Indicates stand as able*

**\*Opening Hymn: O A Song Must Rise - More Voices #142**

*Refrain*

Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend  
Oh a song must rise once again (again)  
Singing out God's praises and glory,  
the faithful voices blend, Oh a song must rise  
for the spirit to descend. (descend)

2.From poverty and riches,  
from the voice of young and old,  
a song must rise once again. (again)  
From the free and the imprisoned,  
the timid and the bold,  
a song must rise for the spirit to descend. R

1. From the mountains to the valleys,  
from the desert to the sea,  
a song must rise once again.  
From the voices of our leaders,  
the voice of you and me,  
a song must rise for the spirit to descend. R

3.From ev'ry house of worship,  
in ev'ry faith and tongue,  
a song must rise once again.  
From the villages and cities  
a new song must be sung,  
a song must rise for the spirit to descend. R

*Words & Music: Paul B. Svenson, 1995; arr. Bryn Nixon, 2006*

***Lighting of Christ Candle:***      Acolytes: Sue & Rick Morrison

We light this Christ candle reminding us that God's light reigns in our hearts.  
We long for God's love and justice to come to our world,  
to break through and reign over us in this time and in this place.  
May this flame renew our faith that we may live in Jesus' way.

***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:***      Rev. Kim Vidal

Good morning! I welcome and greet you in the name of Jesus Christ as we worship together on this Reign of Christ Sunday. We gather from many places, distant yet connected by the spirit of God's love that calls us to gather. Join us for coffee and fellowship after the service in the main hall.  
...some announcements...

***Centering for Worship:***

Friends, in the quiet of this moment, in the stillness of our hearts, I now invite you to centre yourself in the presence of God who calls us to gather in Spirit and in Truth. Let us gather in worship.

***Call to Gather: (Responsively)***      Erin Berard

We come, for God gathers us here, into this community called faithful:

**where the hungry are served first,  
where the thirsty drink life's water.**

We come, for God welcomes us here into that home called grace:

**where the naked are clothed in robes of hope;  
where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.**

We come, for God reunites us here, sisters and brothers in that family called love:

**where the imprisoned model justice,  
where the sick are cradled in God's peace.**

We come, for God gathers us here.

**Opening Prayer: (Unison)** Erin (Gord Dunbar, Gathering, Pentecost 2, Year C, 2013).

**Knit us together, O God, joining us as one body in Christ's name.**

**Breathe into us your inspiration for work and worship.**

**Light our lives with grace-filled self-giving.**

**Fire our hearts with the Good News of your love.**

**Unlock our minds with your revelation.**

**Gift us with your presence, we pray. Amen.**

**Special Music: Companions on the Journey** Bell Canto - director: Erin

**Time for the Young at Heart:** Erin Berard

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: When I Needed a Neighbour – Voices United #600**

1 When I needed a neighbour,  
Were you there, were you there?

When I needed a neighbour, were you there?

*Refrain:*

And the creed and the colour

And the name won't matter, Were you there?

2 I was hungry and thirsty,  
Were you there, were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty, were you there? *Ref*

3 I was cold, I was naked,  
Were you there, were you there?

I was cold, I was naked, were you there? *Ref*

4 When I needed a healer,  
Were you there, were you there?

When I needed a healer, were you there? *Ref*

5 Wherever you travel,  
I'll be there, I'll be there.

Wherever you travel, I'll be there.

*And the creed and the colour*

*And the name won't matter, I'll be there.*

*Composer © 1962 Sydney Carter, All rights reserved.*

**Prayer for Illumination: (Unison)** Reader: Will Wightman

(Richard Bott, Gathering, Pentecost 2, Year B, 2015)

**Holy God,**

**you are the Storyteller,**

**you are the Word.**

**Bless the reading.**

**Bless the listening.**

**Bless the sharing.**

**Bless the love in Christ's name. Amen.**

**Responsive Psalm Reading:** Psalm 100 (Voices United pg824)

**Refrain2: Re-joice, re-joice , re-joice, give thanks, and sing.**

Shout to God, all the earth:

**worship with gladness and joy.**

Come before God with laughter,

**our maker to whom we belong.**

To the Shepherd who tends us like sheep,

**let us raise our voices in song. R**

Come to God's gates with thanks;

**come to God's courts with praise.**

Praise and bless God's name.

**"Truly you are good:**

you are always gracious,

**and faithful age after age." R**

**Scripture Reading: Matthew 25: 31-46 (NRSVUE)**

**The Judgment of the Nations**

<sup>31</sup> "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. <sup>32</sup> All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, <sup>33</sup> and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. <sup>34</sup> Then the king will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world, <sup>35</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, <sup>36</sup> I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' <sup>37</sup> Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? <sup>38</sup> And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? <sup>39</sup> And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' <sup>40</sup> And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.' <sup>41</sup> Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels, <sup>42</sup> for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, <sup>43</sup> I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' <sup>44</sup> Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?' <sup>45</sup> Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' <sup>46</sup> And these will go away into eternal punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

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

**Ministry of Music: The King of Love my Shepherd is** – ancient Irish Hymn melody

words Baker, arr. Bairstow

BCUC Choir

flute : Erin Berard

**Sermon:** "When Did We See You?"

Rev. Kim

**Prayers of the People: (Responsively)**

Rev. Kim

"Imagine Integrity" (A prayer by Bruce Sanguin, *If Darwin Prayed*)

Mighty and tender God, You, the deep within all,

You, the encompassing heart of all,

**we enter now into Your kin-dom,**

**your community of wholeness, a realm of peace.**

*(Moment of Silence)*

We bring our hunger, **and the hunger of our world.**  
We bring our inner stranger, **and the exiled of the world.**  
We bring our hurting selves, **and the hurting of the world.**  
**We open to healing.**     *(Moment of Silence)*

Inspired, we dare to imagine integrity  
**in our inner life, our relationships,**  
**our planet, and our political systems.**     *(Moment of Silence)*

We dare to imagine the reign of Christ, Love's Servant,  
Your heart, For an unfolding cosmos. **Amen.**

**Musical Offering: The Gentle Face of Love** – Farquharson/Klusmeier     BCUC Choir

**Invitation to Offer:**     Rev. Kim

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)** (Kate Gregory, Pentecost 2, Gathering 2017, Year A. Used with permission.)  
**Creator God, you gave us gifts and we have used them: we offer them now to you in love and wonder. Be pleased to accept our gifts in Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Hymn: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love - Voices United #593**

*Refrain:* Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve  
the neighbours we have from you.

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends,  
silently washes their feet,  
master who acts as a slave to them. R

2. Neighbours are rich and poor,  
varied in colour and race,  
neighbours are near and far away. R  
3. These are the ones we should serve,  
these are the ones we should love,  
all are neighbours to us and you. R  
4. Kneel at the feet of our friends,  
silently washing their feet,  
this is the way we should live with you. R

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**\*Sending Forth: (Responsively)**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, as you leave this place,  
offer to God your hopes and dreams for a better world.

**We will keep our hearts steadfast on the priorities to which Jesus Christ taught us:  
to love God and our neighbours, to do justice, and to walk the talk.**

Go forth with confidence in the name  
of God the Creator, of Jesus Christ, Love Incarnate,  
and of the Holy Spirit, Comforter and Sustainer. **Amen!**

**Sung Blessing: Let There be Peace on Earth - Songs for a Gospel People #128**