

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH
November 5, 2023 – 10 am REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

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

Gathering Music: Remembering our Veterans and those Active in Uniform (Photo Slides)

*Indicates stand as able

***Hymn: Like A Healing Stream - More Voices #144**

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives
as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth
like a healing stream | 3. Like a river strong with a restless current,
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,
God is carving out a channel
in a new direction,
calling for an end to hate and war
like a river strong. |
| 2. Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil
to coax a new creation
yearning for an end to want and need
like a gentle rain. | 4. Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts
to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream. |

Acknowledgement of Territory:

Rev. Kim Vidal

(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.

Lighting of Christ Candle: Acolyte: Kael Fowler (Air Cadet)

We light this Christ candle as we honour and celebrate those who have offered their lives in the name of peace and freedom.

The light of this candle represents our grief, our courage,
our memories, our love and our hope.

It also reminds us that the light of Christ shines on the road
to peace and illuminates our most difficult moments.

Sung Response: Take Up This Light - More Voices #213

Take up this light of peace and go into the world.

Take up this light of peace in every moment.

In every moment of the journey, we're laying down our lives;

Lay them down in peace, lay them down and take up this light.

Welcome & Centering for Worship:

Rev. Kim Vidal

Good morning! I welcome and greet you in the name of Jesus Christ in this time of remembering.

Today we remember those "who shall not grow old" and to honour those who knew what those wars were like and lived to tell their stories. We remember the brave souls who are out there currently serving in many parts of the world that peace may prevail. We honour and give thanks to the veterans and their loved ones. Our presence today reminds us that we cannot be silent when the terrors of wars confront us. In today's remembering, I invite you to reflect within the context of our faith, to uphold the teachings of

Jesus when he declares, “blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.”
Join us for fellowship & coffee after the service in the main hall. ..some announcements...
Friends, in the community and in the world, in our tears and in our laughter, we meet God, who is Peace.
Let us come as faithful people, centering ourselves on this peace as we worship together.

Call to Gather: (Responsively) (Pat Mayberry, Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2017, Year A, Used with Permission)

We gather together on this day of remembering.

We lift up our hearts in the Spirit of Life.

We come together to honour the gifts of all, gifts of courage and community,
of music and laughter, of justice-making and healing touch.

We lift up our hearts in the spirit of love made visible.

We lift up our hearts in the spirit of possibility.

Come, let us gather.

Prayer of Confession: (Inspired by the prayers of Richard Bott and George Allan)

On this Remembrance Sunday, let us be reminded that peace is a gift from God, the presence of the Holy One. But sometimes, we forget how to act as instruments of peace and so we approach God with our prayer of confession and to ask God’s forgiveness and assurance of love. Let us pray.

We know that God take no joy in deaths. We know that God take no joy in wars, in battles, in conflicts. We know that our tears are for all God’s children of every land and race, of every time and place. When we live comfortably in a peaceful land, too easily we forget about some parts of the world where there is no peace. Forgive us, O God, when we did not answer your call to pursue your gift of peace, shalom, salaam in this world. Forgive us, we pray.

Assurance of Love:

We are not alone. In every corner of the earth, in every town and village torn apart by war; in every home where our loved ones are remembered. God is present through others - healing, restoring and bringing about God’s reign of peace in the world. **Grant us your peace, O God. Amen.**

Time for the Young at Heart: Angela Starchuk

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: Jesus Bids Us Shine – Voices United #585

1 Jesus bids us shine with a clear, pure light,
like a little candle burning in the night.
In this world of darkness, so let us shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.

2 Jesus bids us shine, first of all for him;
well he sees and knows it if our light grows dim:

Jesus walks beside us to help us shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.

3 Jesus bids us shine, then, for all around,
many kinds of darkness in this world are found:
sin, and want and sorrow; so we must shine,
you in your small corner, and I in mine.

An Act of Remembrance

*The Story of Remembrance:*¹ Rev. Kim Vidal

Across Canada, and in many other countries, people gather on November 11 to honour the courage and devotion of brave men and women who made the supreme sacrifice of dying for their country. The hostilities of the First World War ceased on November 11, 1918, at 11:00 a.m. the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month. The following year marked the first observance of a day to remember and honour those who died, as well as to give thanks for the sacrifices of those who came back from serving their country. Since then, Canadians have fought in other conflicts and many have given their lives so that we might enjoy freedom today. They too should be remembered.

**Laying of Wreath:* Maj. Angela Starchuk & MCpl (ret'd) Trevor Starchuk & Kael Fowler

Poem: "In Flanders Fields" (by LCol John McCrae) Reader: James Eaton

In Flanders fields the poppies blow,
between the crosses row on row that mark our place;
and in the sky the larks, still bravely singing,
fly scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead.
Short days ago we lived,
felt dawn, saw sunset glow, loved and were loved,
and now we lie, in Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw the torch;
be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die, we shall not sleep,
though poppies grow in Flanders fields.

Ministry of Music: In Remembrance (from "Requiem") – Daley BCUC Choir

**Response:* Rev. Kim Vidal

They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them. **We will remember them!**

**The Last Post*

**Two-Minute Silence*

**Rouse*

**Lament:* The Flowers of the Forest Piper: Denis Watson

**National Anthem:* O Canada (Bilingual Version)

O Canada! Our home and native land! True patriot love in all of us command,
Car ton bras sait porter l'épée, Il sait porter la croix!
Ton histoire est une épopée Des plus brillants exploits,
God keep our land glorious and free! O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

¹ Veterans.gc.ca

Children leave for Sunday School

Prayer for Illumination: (Unison) Reader: Angela Starchuk

**Gracious God, as we hear your Scripture today, bless us with your spirit of understanding.
Heal us from the pains of war and make us instruments of your peace. Amen.**

Responsive Psalm Reading: Psalm 107 (pts 1 & 4 Voices United pg831-832).

Sung Response: O give thanks to God for steadfast love.

Part 1 (1 – 9) O give thanks, for God is gracious,

God's steadfast love endures for ever.

Let the redeemed of God say so, those redeemed from trouble,

whom God gathered in from the lands,

from the east and the west, **from the north and the south. R**

Some lost their way in the desert wastes, finding no place to settle,

hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted within them.

Then they cried to you, God in their trouble, you rescued them from their distress.

You led them by a straight path, till they reached a place to settle.

Let them thank you, O God, for your steadfast love, for the wonders you do for us.

For you satisfy the thirsty, And fill the hungry with good things. R

Part 4 (33 – 37) You turn rivers into desert, springs of water into thirsty ground.

A fruitful land you make a salty waste,

because of the wickedness of its inhabitants.

But you turn desert into standing pools, dry land into springs of water,

to give the hungry a home a place where they can settle.

They sow fields and plant vineyards that yield a fruitful harvest.

You bless them and their numbers increase.

You do not let their herds diminish.

Whoever is wise, ponder these things.

Consider God's unfailing love. R

Scripture Reading: Matthew 23: 1-12 (NRSVUE)

23 Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, ²“The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses’s seat; ³therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it, but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. ⁴They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others, but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. ⁵They do all their deeds to be seen by others, for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. ⁶They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues ⁷and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to have people call them rabbi. ⁸But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all brothers and sisters. ⁹And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father, the one in heaven. ¹⁰Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. ¹¹The greatest among you will be your servant. ¹²All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted.

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

Sermon: “Practice What You Teach”

Rev. Kim

Prayers of the People:

Rev. Kim

Contributed by Capt (Rev.) Nathan Wright—Chaplain, The Royal New Brunswick Regiment (Fredericton, NB)

© 2021 The United Church of Canada/L'Église Unie du Canada. Used with permission.

Holy One, we come before you with praise and thanksgiving, as well as sorrow and concern, in our hearts. With gratitude on this Remembrance Sunday, we call to mind the soldiers, sailors, air personnel, and RCMP, indigenous and non-indigenous, who have paid the ultimate price that we might live in freedom. We remember those who died in distant wars and those more recent. By sacrificing their lives, they left us the responsibility and the duty to continue their work on the things that make for peace. From generation to generation, may their valour and selflessness never be forgotten.

We are especially mindful today of the effects of military life on the body, mind, and spirit. Give courage, comfort, and healing to all those who suffer wounds, both visible and invisible. Help us to remember that the effects of conflict reach far beyond the battlefield and can last a lifetime. Enable us to provide the support our service members need to live happy and healthy lives. May our commitment to them be as full and complete as their commitment to serve Canada before self.

Lest we forget, the families and friends of our service members share in the burdens of military life. Bring comfort and strength to the relatives and friends of those who serve. When they are grieving the loss of their loved ones, may they know your compassionate and comforting presence. When they are separated from one another due to deployments or other operational requirements, may their bonds be strengthened. When their lives are uprooted because they are posted to a new location and everything is new all over again, may they be upheld by the constancy of your steadfast love. Accompany them in their daily joys and protect them in difficulties.

We also long for the moment when mourning, suffering, and sickness are no more. Until that day comes, we ask that you respond to us when we lift before you in the silence of our hearts the names of those people, places, and situations that are in need of your tender loving care this day...*(moment of silent prayer)*...Restore them to health and wholeness, O God.

As people of faith, we re-commit ourselves to work together for peace in our world. May the hope that we carry in our hearts lead us to seek new and creative ways to resolve our differences. We look forward to that day when your reign is fully realized among us and swords are turned into plowshares and nation no longer lifts up sword against nation. We lift these prayers in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Musical Offering: Hear Our Prayers, O Prince of Peace – Larson 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: Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands*** – Voices United #537 (vs1)

Your work, O God, needs many hands to help you everywhere,
and some there are who cannot serve unless our gifts we share.

****Offertory Prayer: (Unison)***

Our gifts seem so insignificant against the needs and conflicts of the world, yet we still are called into witness and service. Bless us God and these gifts we offer, that we may fulfill your mission for all creation. Amen.

***Closing Hymn: For the Healing of the Nations – Voices United #678**

1 For the healing of the nations, Lord, we pray with one accord,
for a just and equal sharing of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action help us rise and pledge our word.

2 Lead us forward into freedom; from despair your world release,
that, redeemed from war and hatred, all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness fear will die and hope increase.

3 All that kills abundant living, let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race, or schooling, dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice may we hallow life's brief span.

4 You, Creator God, have written your great name on humankind.
For our growing in your likeness, bring the life of Christ to mind
that by our response and service earth its destiny may find.

***Sending Forth: (Responsively)** (Sandy Ferguson, Gathering, 2014. Used with Permission)

People of God, once more we return to the world,
remembering what was lost to secure what we have today.
Let this Remembrance renew our faith in the peace
that God continues to create through us.
Let our witness be a guide to others
so that we will no longer have to add names
to our sacred task of remembering.
Go in peace. **Amen.**

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