

## BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH

October 1, 2023 – 10 am

Creation Time 4 / World Communion Sunday

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

### ***Gathering Music***

\*Indicates stand as able

#### **\*Opening Hymn: For the Beauty of the Earth – Voices United #226 (Tune: VU 81)**

1 For the beauty of the earth,  
for the glory of the skies,  
for the love which from our birth  
over and around us lies,

*Refrain:* God of all, to you we raise  
this our hymn of grateful praise.

2 For the beauty of each hour  
of the day and of the night,  
hill and vale, and tree and flower,  
sun and moon, and stars of light, R

(Words: Folliott Sandford Pierpoint, 1864; Music: Conrad Kocher, 1838)

3 For the joy of human love,  
brother, sister, parent, child,  
friends on earth and friends above,  
for all gentle thoughts and mild, R

4 For each perfect gift sublime  
to our race so freely given;  
graces human and divine,  
flowers of earth and buds of heaven.

### ***Acknowledgment of Territory:***

Rev. Lorrie Lowes

(Peter Chynoweth, Gathering Lent /Easter 2022, p30. Used with permission.)

This land on which we gather is the unceded territory and traditional land of the Algonquin and Anishinaabe people. We worship Creator on this land and acknowledge with respect the thousands of years of ceremony and relationship that are etched in footprint, fire, and faithfulness on the soil and rock that surrounds us. Meegwetch.

### ***Lighting of Christ Candle:***

Acolytes: McGugan Family

The Light of Christ brings hope.  
It is the Light of Life and Love.  
A beacon of Creation fire.  
That shines for all of us!

### ***Sung Response: A Light is Gleaming – Voices United #82 (Refrain only)***

A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night, living in the light.  
Come share its gladness, God's radiant love is shining bright. living in the light.

### ***Welcome and Centering for Worship:***

Rev. Kim Vidal

Good morning! I welcome and greet you in the name of Jesus Christ on this Fourth Sunday of Creation Time in the Season of Pentecost. Today, we are celebrating World Communion Sunday. We are glad that you have come.

Join us for a celebration lunch after the service in the main hall. Announcements:

Friends, on this World Communion Sunday, as we gather around the table of grace and partake the bread and the cup, may God the Creator nourish us by the sacrament of a welcoming and inclusive love. Let us now gather in worship.

### **\*Call to Gather & Opening Prayer: (Responsively)**

Rev. Lorrie

(Inspired by the prayer of Kate Crawford, Gathering, Pentecost 2, Year A, 2014. Use with Permission.)

In the presence of loaves and drink on our table,  
and in the company of all the saints in the world,

**we gather in this sacred place to prepare an earthly feast.**

Yeast and flour and oil combine, freshly pressed wine,

**like hope and love and joy.**

The bread of faith rises in our midst.

**The cup of grace touches us with hope.**

God calls us to come and dine this day  
with our brothers and sisters of the global village.

**We come and dine in the presence of God whose Spirit ministers to us.**

***Prayer of Approach: (Unison)***

**Loving God, as we gather to share bread around this table,  
we pause to remember other tables, other times, other hands.**

**We come remembering the taste of bread and wine.**

**We come acknowledging the freedom of forgiveness and the strength of your presence.**

**Gather us in to be your people: in love, in faith, in service. Amen.**

***Time for the Young at Heart:*** Rev. Lorrie

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.*

**\**Children's Hymn: I'm Gonna Shout* – More Voices #183**

I'm gonna shout, shout, shout out my love for Jesus, for Jesus!

I'm gonna shout, shout, shout out my love for God's most holy child!

For whatever I might do today, at home, at school, at work, at play,

I've got Jesus' love deep down inside of me!

2. Gonna raise up my hands 3. Gonna dance all round

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

**God of the global village, your Word is the bread of life.**

**Your Word is water to our thirst. Refresh us now, and speak to us. Amen.**

***Psalm Reading: Psalm 78 - Voices United pg792 pts 1&2***

***Scripture Reading: Philippians 2: 1-13 (New International Ver) Imitating Christ's Humility***

2 Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup> then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup> Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup> not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. <sup>5</sup> In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: <sup>6</sup> Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup> rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man,

he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death— even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place

and gave him the name that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup> and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Do Everything Without Grumbling** <sup>12</sup> Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, <sup>13</sup> for it is God who works in you to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose.

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

**Ministry of Music: Praise We the Lord** – Wilson/Elliott BCUC Choir – violin: Leslie Wade

**Sermon: “Imitators or Impersonators?”** Rev. Kim Vidal

**Prayers of the People:** Rev. Kim Vidal

In all four corners of the earth on this World Communion Sunday, let our prayers rise before you, renewing, engaging God.

You invite all people to a feast at the banquet of love. You surround us with your abundant blessings. Bread of the World, feed our hunger, enfold us with your fullness of your care. God of our lives, your Word is one of communion, not division. Your gifts are gifts of abundance, peace, and freedom, not scarcity, violence, and oppression.

As we gather around your table of plenty, we hold before you this community, the country and the world we live in. We pray for those who are alone, who are alienated from their families, those who are lost on the streets, those who are bereaved. We pray for those who need your healing touch, those who struggle with emotional and mental illnesses, and those who deal with chronic disability or simply with the fact of growing old. We continue to pray for our ailing sisters and brothers as they seek your healing mercies for their physical well-being and recovery to good health. Strengthen and encourage us, O God, to be the kind of church you want us to be.

We pray for our troubled world, for families who have lost their sons and daughters in war-torn countries; for those who are suffering the tragic reality of natural disasters; for people of faith who are persecuted and whose human rights have been violated and ignored. We pray for all those who are doing partnership work in different parts of the world so that your presence may be known far and wide.

And now, in silence, listen to the deepest concerns of our hearts....

We close with the inspiring words of Jan Richardson: “And we will become bread for a hungry world. And we will become drink for those who thirst. And the blessed will become the blessing. And everywhere will be the feast.” In Jesus’ name, we ask all these things. Amen.

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

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| 1. Let us talents and tongues employ,<br>reaching out with a shout of joy:<br>bread is broken, the wine is poured,<br>Christ is spoken and seen and heard. | 2. Christ is able to make us one,<br>at the table he sets the tone,<br>teaching people to live to bless,<br>love in word and in deed express. |
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*Refrain: Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
pass the Word around: loaves abound! (x2)*

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| 3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out,<br>bearing fruit in a world of doubt,<br>gives us love to tell, bread to share:<br>God (Immanuel) everywhere! |
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(Words: Fred Kaan, 1975; Music: Jamaican Folk Melody)

**Sacrament of Communion:** Rev. Kim & Rev. Lorrie

Come, Creator God, come into our lives.

**Open our hearts and minds to receive your presence.**

We come to feast at this table, journeying with our brothers and sisters around the world,  
**breaking the bread and sharing the cup, welcoming the Christ who lives within and among us.**  
Holy are you, God of the wilderness and sacred places.  
You bring us together as a faithful community.  
**You provide for our hunger and sustain us with your amazing grace.**

We give thanks to you, O God, lover of all nations and life-giver to the global village, for you have sent your son, Jesus Christ, who in the beginning was the Word incarnate and dwelt among us. He declares that he is the true vine and we are the branches, so that we can abide in him forever.

We remember that when Jesus was with his friends, he took a piece of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying:

**"Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Whenever you eat this, remember me."**

Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks, passed it to his friends, saying:

**"This cup poured out for you is God's eternal love. Whenever you drink it, remember me."**

Loving one of the wondrous stories, we remember the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and we praise him for the love he poured out to all people of colour, race and creed. In solemn vow, we offer ourselves to you that our lives may proclaim our faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ reigns in our hearts!**

Transforming God, you call us to feast together at the banquet of your love. As we eat and drink, may we become vessels of healing and joy to those who need your grace, proclaiming the good news that Jesus came to give life so we may have it abundantly.

Let us now share and partake the bread and the cup, reminding us of God's presence:

The bread that we break is the sharing in the life of Jesus.

Take, eat and be nourished by God's love.

The cup of blessing is our sharing in the peace of Jesus.

Take, drink and be sustained by God's grace.

### **Prayer after Communion: (unison)**

**We give you thanks, O God, for hope and justice, because the broken bread and the cup poured out have brought us into unity with one another. In our common sharing of the feast, you have graced us with your presence, transforming us into life and the love of Jesus Christ, the True Vine. Amen.**

*Musical Offering: All Loves Excelling – Martin BCUC Choir – violin: Leslie Wade*

### **Invitation to Offer:**

We are called to plant seeds of grace, hope, and justice; to wait for God's mystery to work in the hearts and minds of others. The gifts we offer are seeds that reap a harvest beyond our imagining. The work of the church requires support in many ways: through prayer, through volunteers, and through donations. 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: We Plough the Fields and Scatter – Voices United #520**

We thank you then, O Maker, for all things bright and good,  
the seedtime and the harvest, our life, our health, our food;  
accept the gifts we offer for all your love imparts,  
and, what from us you long for, our humble, thankful hearts.

*Refrain:* All good gifts around us are sent from heaven above;  
We thank you God, O Holy God, for all your love.

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

**God of the global village, we bring this offering to join the gifts of others around the world. We offer these gifts and our lives in your service. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn: Sent Forth by God's Blessing – Voices United #481**

1. Sent forth by God's blessing, our true faith confessing,  
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.  
The supper is ended, O now be extended  
the fruits of this service in all who believe.

The seed of Christ's teaching, receptive souls reaching,  
shall blossom in action for God and for all.  
God's grace did invite us, God's love shall unite us  
to work for the kingdom and answer its call.

2. With praise and thanksgiving to God ever living,  
the tasks of our everyday life we will face.  
Our faith ever sharing, in love ever caring,  
embracing God's children of each tribe and race.

With your feast you feed us with your light now lead us,  
unite us as one in this life that we share.  
Then may all living with praise and thanksgiving  
give honour to Christ and the name that we bear.  
(Words: Omer Westendorf, 1964; Music: Welsh folk tune)

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

On this World Communion Sunday,  
**we have tasted God's goodness,**  
**we have seen God's generosity and fairness.**  
**we have been blessed with a legacy of faith,**  
**we have welcomed everyone to the table.**

Go out to live love, to serve others, to rejoice in our communion,  
in the name of God, Creator, Christ and Companion. **Amen.**

**Sung Blessing: Shalom Cheverim – Songs for a Gospel People #114**

Shalom good friends! Shalom good friends! Shalom, Shalom!  
Till we meet again, till we meet again, shalom, shalom.

Sjalom chers amis! Sjalom chers amis! Sjalom, sjalom!  
Jusqu'aurevoir, jusqu'aurevoir, sjalom, sjalom.