

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH
October 15, 2023 – 10 am Stewardship 1

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

Gathering Music

*Indicates stand as able

Acknowledgement of Territory: Rev. Lorrie Lowes

(Laura Turnbull, Gathering Pentecost 1 2021, p37. Used with permissions.)

We gather to worship, to celebrate, and to lament!

We honour the Algonquin and Anishnaabe peoples of this unceded territory and their long stewardship of this land.

We rejoice that God calls us to be distinct yet united.

We praise God with joy and thanksgiving, and seek God's wisdom for right relationship.

****Opening Hymn: We Are One - Voices United #402***

(Words: Doreen Lankshear-Smith, 1988; Music: Jeva Sam, 1987, arr., David Kai, 1995)

1 We are one as we come, as we come, joyful to be here,
in the praise on our lips there's a sense that God is near.
We are one as we sing, as we seek, we are found;
and we come needful of God's grace as we meet, together in this place.

2 We are one as we share, as we share brokenness and fear,
in the touch of a hand there's a sense that God is here.
We are one as we care, as we heal, we are healed;
and we share warmth in God's embrace as we pray together in this place.

3 We are one as we feast, as we feast, peace becomes the sign;
in the bread and the wine there's a sense of love divine.
We are one as we come, as we feed, we are fed;
and we feel God's refreshing grace as we meet at table in this place.

4 We are one as we hear, as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive there's a sense that God is light.
We are one as we leave, as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways as we move together from this place.

Lighting of Christ Candle: Acolytes: Ruby & Simon Linforth

We gather to share in God's dream of abundant life for all.

We gather to give and receive gifts of deep emotion, deep wisdom, and deep love.

With gratitude, we gather as a community to praise God, to seek transformation, and to celebrate the power of the Spirit who is always moving.

We light this candle to remind us that we are not alone as we do the work toward God's dream.

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 and Centering for Worship: Rev. Kim Vidal

Good morning! Welcome to this sacred place of belonging where we embrace Creator God's presence and the sacredness of life. Welcome in the spirit of Jesus Christ in whom we live and move and have our being.

On this first Sunday of our Stewardship Campaign, we are grateful to have with us, the Rev. Tony Snow as our guest preacher. In a short while, he will be introduced to us. Join us for coffee and conversation after the service in the main hall. announcements...Bill McGee for Stewardship Moment, Rev. Lorrie introduce guest preacher. Friends, I now invite you to centre yourself in the presence of the Great Spirit, Creator God who calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.

***Call to Gather & Opening Prayer: (Responsively) Rev. Lorrie**

(Carolyn Wilson Wynne, The Covenant of Reconciliation: Worship Service for the Indigenous Day of Prayer 2020)

Friends, let us give thanks for the opportunity to gather in this sacred space.

Here we are most aware of the gift of wind and the four directions from which it comes.

Here we are most aware of the gift of sun and the four directions on which it shines.

Here we are most aware of the gift of humanity: and the four directions in which we exist.

Here we are most aware of the gift of Creation and the four directions which support our living, breathing, and being.

This day we pray thanksgiving for the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people of Canada.

We commit ourselves to be people of reconciliation in the tradition of our beloved Jesus.

We pray and gather as one people. **Amen.**

Special Music: You Are Welcome Here – Burrows CGS/Bell Canto with Erin Berard

Time for the Young at Heart: Rev. Lorrie

The Lord's Prayer written for the First Nations People:

Great Spirit, whose long house is in the sky,

whose hunting ground is the earth,

mighty and fearful are you called,

Ruler over storm, over human, bird and beast,

over earthway, over skyway;

Find us this day our meat and bread,

that we may be strong and brave.

Put aside from us our wicked ways,

as we put aside bad works of them who wrong us.

Let us not be led into troubled roads

but keep us from all evil.

For yours is all that is: the earth, the sky, streams and hills,

the stars, the moon, the sun,

and all that live and breathe the wonderful shining mighty,

mighty Spirit. Amen

***Children's Hymn: What Does the Lord Require? – Voices United #701**

(Words & Music: Jim Strathdee, 1986)

What does the Lord require of you? What does the Lord require of you?

Justice, kindness, walk humbly with your God.

To seek justice, and love kindness, And walk humbly with your God.

Prayer for Illumination: (Unison) Reader: Allan Bentley

Creator God, through your Life-Giving Word, help us to face the truth about ourselves and humbly bring us to new life in you and with each other. Amen.

Scripture Reading:

From their first encounters with Christian missionaries, the North American Plains Indians used universal sign language to communicate Psalm 23 among tribes who spoke different oral languages. In 1894, Isabel Crawford, a Baptist missionary to the Kiowa Indians in Oklahoma, translated the Sign Version into literal English.

Psalm 23 translation:

The Great Father above is a Shepherd Chief.

I am His and with Him I want not.

He throws out to me a rope and the name of the rope is love and He draws me to where the grass is green and the water not dangerous, and I eat and lie down and am satisfied.

Sometimes my heart is very weak and falls down but

He lifts me up again and draws me into a good road.

His name is WONDERFUL.

Sometime, it may be very soon, it may be a long, long time.

He will draw me into a valley.

It is dark there, but I'll be afraid not, for it is in between those mountains that the Shepherd Christ will meet me and the hunger that I have in my heart all through this life will be satisfied.

He gives me a staff to lean upon.

He spreads a table before me with all kinds of foods.

He puts His hand upon my head and all the "tired" is gone.

My cup He fills till it runs over.

What I tell is true.

I lie not.

These roads that are "away ahead" will stay with me through this life and after; and afterwards I will go to live in the great house and sit down with the Shepherd Chief forever.

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

Ministry of Music: Nothing Left to Say – Angerman/Martin BCUC Choir

Sermon: Rev. Tony Snow

Prayers of the People: Rev. Kim Vidal

Musical Offering: Prayer for Today – Tucker/Kemp BCUC choir

Invitation to Offer:

It might not look like much, that little envelope with your offering, or the card that says you give monthly through PAR, but it is profound. Your gifts of money, time, talent and your presence have the power of incredible change. Be profound... present your gifts with joy. 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 Need 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)**

Providing God, we give you thanks for your love and presence in our lives. With these gifts we now offer, help us to bring new life to our homes, to heal and to be healers in our families and in our communities. Amen.

***Closing Hymn: Go Make A Difference – More Voices #209**

(Words & Music: Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek, 1997)

Refrain: Go make a difference.

We can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world.

Go make a difference.

We can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world.

2- We are the hands of Christ
reaching out to those in need,

The face of God for all to see.

We are the spirit of hope;

We are the voice of peace.

Go make a difference in the world. R

1- We are the salt of the earth,
called to let the people see
the love of God for you and me.

We are the light of the world,

Not to be hidden but be seen.

Go make a difference in the world. R

3 – So let your love shine on,
let it shine for all to see.

Go make a difference in the

world. And the spirit of

Christ will be with us as we go.

Go make a difference in the world! R

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

(by Lee Claus, Francis Sandy Theological Centre, 2008)

Return now to the circle of Life, knowing,

that the love of Creator God is with us,

the compassion of Jesus inspires us,

the hope of the Holy Spirit comforts us.

May everyone we meet, know of our praise of Creator God's name,

by the singing and dancing of our hands, heart, and feet! 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.

Shalom cheverim! Shalom cheverim! Shalom, Shalom!

Le hit-ra-ot, le hit-ra-ot, shalom, shalom.