

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH
October 16, 2022 – 10 am 19th Sunday after Pentecost
STEWARDSHIP 1 Theme:

“Celebrate our Many Gifts / Give thanks for our Life and Mission as Good Stewards”

*Indicates stand as able

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

The audio recording of the live service should be available by phone Monday afternoon at 613- 820-8104

Announcement Slides

Gathering Music: Abe

***Opening Hymn: Let Us Build a House” - More Voices #1**

- 1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

- 2 Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God’s children dare to seek to dream God’s reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God’s grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: All are welcome...

- 3 Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat;
a banquet hall on holy ground, where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: All are welcome...

- 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they’ve known.
Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God’s face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger: All are welcome...

- 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: All are welcome...

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Welcome and Centering for Worship:

Rev. Kim Vidal

Good morning! I welcome and greet you in the name of Jesus Christ on this First Sunday of Stewardship. We are glad that you have joined us today. Join us for fellowship & coffee after the service in the main hall. *(Highlight some announcements.)*

Stewardship Moment:

Bill McGee

Friends, as we as we reflect on our call to stewardship, remember these words from Thomas Merton: *“To be grateful is to recognize the love of God in everything that we receive.... Every breath we draw is a gift of God’s love; every moment of existence is a grace, for it brings with it immense graces from God.”* Let us gather in worship.

***Lighting of Christ Candle:* Ellen Boynton**

(Bill Perry, Gathering, ACE 2018-2019, Year C. Used with Permission)

Light is a wonderful gift.

It illuminates the space we are in.

The action of light we describe in a variety of ways:

light that clarifies;

light that warns us of danger;

light that guides our footsteps;

light that calms our fears;

light that offers insights.

As we gather in worship, we light this Christ candle,

A symbol of God’s presence with us.

Call to Gather: (Responsively) Leader: Susan Young

(Catherine Tovell, Gathering, ACE 2018-2019, Year C, Used with permission.)

Come to worship, each and every one of you.

We come as individuals to be spiritually nourished.

Come as families and neighbours, friends and acquaintances.

We are part of the community of faith.

Come to worship with one another,

with strangers and with all God would send among us.

We come as the body of Christ

rejoicing with each other in our joys,

and suffering with one another in our sorrow.

Come, let us worship!

****Opening Prayer: (Unison)***

(Wendy Maclean, Gathering, Pentecost 2022, Year C, Used with permission.)

In a world divided by so many possibilities and perspectives,

God, help us to be a place of care and respect for others,

Even if our ways are strange to each other.

May your generous spirit inspire us to perceive the world as you perceive it;

Evolving, and opening into a new day of unity, shared concerns and wisdom.

May it be so. Amen.

Special Music: I’ve Got a Voice – MacGregor

CGS - director : Erin Berard

Time for the Young at Heart: Susan Young

Prayer of Jesus / The 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: O Let the Power Fall on Me - More Voices #13**

O let the power fall on me, my Lord, let the power fall on me.
O let the power from heaven fall on me, let the power fall on me.
For we want justice and truth and love, my Lord, we want justice and truth and love
For we want justice and truth and love, my Lord, we want justice and truth and love

*Music: traditional Caribbean song Words verse 1 and Adaptation by Birchfield Aymer
arrangement by Patrick Prescod © the Caribbean conference of Churches
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Prayer for Illumination: (Unison) Reader: Barbara Bole
God of love, open our ears as we listen to your call.
Open our eyes to see the wonders of your grace.
Bless us as we hear these words in fresh ways. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Luke 18: 1-8 (The Message)

The Story of the Persistent Widow and the Unjust Judge

18 ¹⁻³ Jesus told them a story showing that it was necessary for them to pray consistently and never quit. He said, "There was once a judge in some city who never gave God a thought and cared nothing for people. A widow in that city kept after him: 'My rights are being violated. Protect me!'

⁴⁻⁵ "He never gave her the time of day. But after this went on and on he said to himself, 'I care nothing what God thinks, even less what people think. But because this widow won't quit badgering me, I'd better do something and see that she gets justice—otherwise I'm going to end up beaten black-and-blue by her pounding.'"

⁶⁻⁸ Then the Master said, "Do you hear what that judge, corrupt as he is, is saying? So what makes you think God won't step in and work justice for his chosen people, who continue to cry out for help? Won't he stick up for them? I assure you, he will. He will not drag his feet. But how much of that kind of persistent faith will the Son of Man find on the earth when he returns?"

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

Ministry of Music: Abe

Sermon: “When Persistence Knocks, How Will You Respond!” Rev. Kim Vidal

Moment of Reflection

Prayers of the People: Rev. Kim Vidal

Holy One, source of love and compassion, you call us today as your followers. You call us to be good stewards entrusted with gifts of your abundance so we can share these gifts with others. You have given us the ability to make incredible things happen. Remind us again to listen to your call, to experience your holy presence in our lives. Help us to see you in the moment-by-moment possibilities - to live honestly, to act courageously, and to speak from the wisdom of our hearts.

Strengthen us in our calling. Where there is injustice, help us to offer healing and reconciliation. Where there is poverty, help us to reach out. Where there is grief, help us to give comfort. Where there is hopelessness, help us to bring hope. Where there is hunger, help us to provide. Where there is violence, help us to be advocates of truth and peace.

God of healing and comfort, you have called us to give a word of encouragement to those overcome with illness and grief and to those who face diverse trials in life. Through us, touch them with your healing love. Through our prayers, embrace them in your gentle love. We continue to pray for our essential and health workers, for our leaders, as they continue to work hard in this pandemic time. We also pray for those families and individuals affected by COVID and other health issues. We pray for those grieving the death of loved ones here and elsewhere. And for those who are moving to new places, journey with them.

Compassionate God, we pray that you might speak to the hearts of your people in many places. We continue to pray for the world... May your light shine on those who are full of fear; for those who experience conflict, war, prejudice, hatred, persecution, and poverty. Through the warmth of your light may they sense justice, feel your love, and know peace.

May we follow Jesus as our leader. Speak to us, Spirit of Grace: of that hope which is our anchor; of that peace which is our rock; of that grace which is our refuge. Remind us to be persistent and to touch the lives of others by offering a kind word, a helping hand, a listening heart and a welcoming touch. All these we ask in Jesus' name, who calls us from where we are. Amen.

Musical Offering: Within This House of Worship – McGuire/Larson BCUC Choir

Minute for Social Action Barbara Bole

Invitation to Offer:

Rev. Kim Vidal

Jesus calls us from the margins into a great feast; he calls us out of a crowd, to healing; he calls us from our old self to new life. Each day, we are called to minister to others in warm hospitality, healing mercies, and the promise of new beginnings. We respond to these calls through our giving this day. We are not passing the offering plates this morning as we continue to follow health protocols, but you will find those plates on the table in the narthex. There are many additional ways you can financially support the work of the church – through PAR, by dropping into the office or using the mail slot by the kitchen door, 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 (v1) - Voices United #537***

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)***

Generous God, for the gifts of time, talents and treasures delightfully given to us, we bring you our offering. May we use them to spread your love and hope for the world. Amen.

****Closing Hymn: Go to the World – Voices United #420***

1. Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptising as the sign of our rebirth.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
2. Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
3. Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
4. Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you 'til the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry 'Amen!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

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***Sending Forth: (Responsively)**

Rev. Kim Vidal

(Beth W Johnston, Gathering, ACE 2018-2019, Year C. Used with permission)

Today, let us go from this place of worship

to lives of prayer and action.

May we be ready to proclaim the Good News,
despite the obstacles in our way.

**May our lives set free those who are captive
and grant vision to those with failing imaginations.**

May we stand firm and have courage
as we live the Good News into reality

Today and always. Amen.

***Sung Blessing – Go Now in Peace (Besig)**

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with you each hour of every day.

Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.

Know He will guide you in all you do.

Go now in love, and show you believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith, and in love. Amen.