

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH
STEWARDSHIP 3 October 29, 2023 – 10 am

Theme: “Celebrate God’s Love by Living Generously, Give Thanks for New Members & Volunteers”
The live service will be broadcasted and recorded on YouTube, check your email for the link.

Gathering Music

*Indicates stand as able

***Hymn: Let Us Build a House - More Voices #1** Words and Music © 1994 Marty Haugen

1. Let us build a house where all 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... 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... in this place
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... in this place
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... in this place
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... in this place.

Lighting of Christ Candle: Acolytes: Chris & Kaylee Brown

As we light this candle, let us remember that radical love enters the world like a new dawn.
It breaks into our lives with the radiance of a single candle flame.
It points us toward healing and wholeness in the name of the Light of the World.

Ministry of Music: Order My Steps – Burleigh arr. Schrader BCUC Choir

Welcome: Rev. Kim Vidal

Good morning! With a grateful heart, I welcome and greet you in the name of Jesus Christ on this Third Sunday of Stewardship. We come with open hearts and open minds thankful for our volunteers, members and adherents of this congregation. Your continued contributions and participation in the life and ministry of BCUC are very much appreciated. A friendly reminder to return your stewardship forms by dropping them in the stewardship box or in the office, by email or Canada Post.
Join us for fellowship & coffee after the service in the main hall. ...some announcements.

Stewardship Moment: Bill McGee

Centering for Worship: Rev. Kim

Friends, in the church and in the world, in our tears and in our laughter, we meet God, who is Love. Let us come as faithful people, centering ourselves on this love as we worship together.

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

(Gill Le Fevre, Gathering, Pentecost 2 2023 Year A, Used with permission.)

Seeking God's way, unsure of what lies ahead,

let the wisdom of God's word help us learn to love.

Confronted by difficulty, stretched by possibility,

let the strength of God's faith help us grow in love.

Challenged by setbacks, disconcerted or confused,

We come as followers of the Way of Jesus,

as those inspired by the Spirit of God,

let the promise of God's grace help us persist in love.

Opening Prayer: (unison) (Based on A Song of Faith)

(Susan Lukey, Gathering, Pentecost 2 2023, Year A. Used with permission.)

Gracious God, we are making a choice. A choice to be part of your transforming love in this world. We are offering ourselves – body, mind and spirit – to the mending and tending of your world. We are opening ourselves to be changed by your compassion working in and through us, so that all may experience the love you sent Jesus. We commit to you, Loving God, that we will share your love unconditionally, without judgement. Amen.

Special Music: Love Round – traditional

Bell Canto – director: Erin Berard

Time for the Young at Heart:

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 Song: Magic Penny** - Melvina Reynolds © renewed 1986 Northern Music Co

Refrain: Love is something if you give it away,

Give it away, give it away.

Love is something if you give it away,
you end up having more.

It's just like a magic penny,

Hold it tight and you won't have any.

Lend it, spend it and you'll have so many,

They'll roll all over the floor. So.. R

Money's dandy and we like to use it,

But love is better if you don't refuse it.

It's a treasure and you'll never lose it

Unless you lock up your door. So... R

Prayer for Illumination: (Unison) Reader: Brian Lipsett

Open our hearts to the mystery of your word, Holy God. Open our spirits to its meaning for our lives. May we receive your Word, gracious God, and let it stir in our hearts and shape us anew. Amen.

Responsive Psalm Reading: Psalm 90: 1-6, 13-17 (Voices United pg805-806, parts 1 & 3)

Sung Response: In every age, O God, you have been our refuge.

Part 1 (1-6) God, you have been our refuge in every generation.

Before the mountains were brought forth,
before earth and world were formed,

from age to age everlasting, you are God.

You turn frail humans back to dust, saying, "Return, you mortals."

**for a thousand years in your sight are as yesterday,
a day that is past, a watch in the night.**

You swept them away like a dream, like grass that is fresh in the morning,

like grass which in the morning is green,

but in the evening is dried up and withered. R

Part 3 (13-17) Turn back, O God! How long? Have compassion on your servants.

Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,

that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,

As many years as we have suffered adversity.

Show your servants your work, and let their children see your glory.

Let the favour of our God be upon us, and prosper the work of our hands.

Prosper the work of our hands. R

Scripture Reading: Matthew 22: 34-36 (NRSVUE)

The Great Commandment

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that He silenced the Sadducees, they came together. ³⁵ One of them, who was a lawyer, tested Him by asking Him, ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?"

³⁷ Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

The Question About David's Son

⁴¹ While the Pharisees were assembled, Jesus asked them, ⁴² "What do you think of the Christ? Whose Son is He?" They said to Him, "The Son of David."

⁴³ He said to them, "How then does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying:

⁴⁴ 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, until I make Your enemies Your footstool" '?"

⁴⁵ If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his Son?" No one was able to answer Him a word, nor from that day on did anyone dare to ask Him any more questions.

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

Sermon: "Justice is Love in Action"

Prayers of the People

Musical Offering: A New and a Glorious Song! – Besig/Price

BCUC Choir

Invitation to Offer:

The Swiss theologian Karl Barth once said that grace and gratitude go together like heaven and earth. The Way of Jesus Christ is the life lived in gratitude for the God who is Love.

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)**

**Loving God, accept these gifts we offer and help us to be generous givers of our time,
talents, money and our lives, that we might make a difference in the world. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn: Let All Things Now Living – Voices United #242**

1 Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving
To God our Creator triumphantly raise,
Who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,
by guiding us on to the end of our days.
God's banners are o'er us, pure light goes before us,
A pillar of fire shining forth in the night,
till shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,
as forward we travel from light into Light.

2 By law God enforces: the stars in their courses,
and sun in its orbit, obediently shine;
The hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,
The depths of the ocean proclaim God divine,
We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing,
With glad adoration a song let us raise,
till all things now living unite in thanksgiving
To God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

***Sending Forth: (Responsively) (1997 UUMA Worship Materials Collection)**

With what benediction shall I leave you?

This: In your life, may you know the holy meaning,
the mystery that breaks into it every moment.

May Love be our constant home and guide us in our every day.

Go then and may you live at peace with the world and at peace with yourself. **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.