

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH

October 30, 2022 – 10 am 21st Sunday after Pentecost

STEWARDSHIP 3 / Reformation Sunday / Welcoming New Members

Theme: “Celebrate God’s Love by Living Generously / Give thanks for New Members & Volunteers”

***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:

***Opening Hymn: A Mighty Fortress is Our God – Voices United #262**

(Words & Music: Martin Luther, 1529)

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper sure amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing:
for still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
power and malice great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth he has no equal.

2 Did we in our strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing:
dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
the truth to triumph through us:
the prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure,
one little word shall fell him.

4 That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through Christ, who with us sideth:
let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
God's kingdom is forever.

Lighting of Christ Candle: Acolytes: Lipsett & Baynes Family

In our praying and in our listening,
in our longing and in our dreaming,
in our singing and in our stillness,
we light this Christ Candle to remind us that
we are One in the Spirit of Love.

Welcome: Rev. Kim Vidal

Good morning! I welcome and greet you in the name of Jesus Christ on this Third Sunday of our Stewardship Campaign focusing on congregational life. Today we are delighted to welcome new members to BCUC and to recognize all the wonderful volunteers who help us achieve the mission and vision of this congregation. Join us for fellowship & coffee after the service in the main hall and enjoy a piece of cake to celebrate! (*Highlight some announcements...*)

Stewardship Moment: Bill McGee

Centering for Worship: Rev. Kim

Friends, as worship this day, may we offer our gratitude for all the gifts we received from a loving Creator. May we commit to respond to God's call and share the Good News with others. Let us now gather in worship.

Call to Gather: (Responsively) Leader: Rev. Lorrie Lowes

(Kate Crawford, Gathering, Pentecost 2, Year B, 2018. Used with Permission)

People of God, prepare your hearts!

We prepare them, as many have done in this place before.

People of God, prepare your spirits!

**We prepare our spirits and become aware
of the great communion of saints all around us.**

People of God, prepare to worship!

**Generation after generation have lifted their voices in worship,
and we take our place among them,**

faithful to the tradition we have inherited,

breathing new life into it in our own day,

passing it along to those who come after us.

Let those who seek God rejoice in their hearts.

We come to seek God in this time and place!

Opening Prayer: (In unison)

(Richard Bott, Gathering, Pentecost 2, Year B, 2018. Used with Permission)

God of the bright light,

God of the warm dark,

God of the places in between –

Thank you for holding us close

in our celebrations and our commemorations.

Open us to your cloud of witnesses.

Open us to your saints.

Open us to the people who pour out your love

into this hurting world.

Open us to those who hold us close in faith. Amen.

Special Music: Come On Down, Zacchaeus – Lien arr. Leaf CGS – Director : Erin Berard

Welcoming New Members:

Rev. Camille Lipsett

Victoria "Vicki" Martin

Linda Miller

Gretchen Greene O'Brien

Time for the Young at Heart: Rev. Lorrie Lowes

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.

*** 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: Tamara Glanville

**God of sacred story, open our hearts and enable us to get ready to receive your
Word in our hearing. Help us to listen as we seek to follow and trust. Amen.**

Scripture Reading: Luke 19: 1-10 (NRSV) Jesus and Zacchaeus

19 He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner."⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Hear what the God of salvation is saying to all of us.

We listen and we respond with action.

Ministry of Music: Come Build a Church - Medema

BCUC Choir

Moment of Reflection

Prayers of the People:

Rev. Kim Vidal

Let us gather our hearts and minds in prayer.

Gracious God, source of all life, you dwell beyond us and within us and you call us to gather as a community of faith. Like Zacchaeus, sometimes we climb trees so we can fully see you. Engage us in our daily living so we can acknowledge our responsibility as Jesus taught us to reach out to the lost and bring them back to the fold. Help us to celebrate the diversity of spiritual gifts within our congregation and in the wider community. We give thanks for the dedication and faithfulness of this congregation and to celebrate the legacy of the past and the nurturing of new beginnings. Help us to see with eyes of faith and to respond to God's call with renewed vitality and sense of purpose.

Loving God, we confess that often we are overwhelmed by life's challenges. Help us to seek your guidance, to consider the burdens of others and not just our own. May your healing presence and comfort be experienced by those who are sick, grieving, lonely and those facing life's challenges. Awaken in us the joy of serving you through prayer and through work and do not let us become complacent in our search for ways to dispel the misery we sometimes experience in our lives. In silence, we offer to you the deepest concerns of our hearts.

God of grace, we are grateful: for all the saints, past and present, - for the new members whom we welcomed today, our family, children in our midst, friends and loved ones who bless and enrich our lives; for your call to work for peace and justice in our world. We pray for leaders of our nation that they can serve the people with fairness and wise decisions. Enlighten us with understanding for all people, regardless of race or religion, and clarify our role in the struggle for peace. Help us to look beyond boundaries, beyond denominations, beyond doctrines and beyond our own self-interest. Protect us not to lose heart in the face of so many challenges: the threat of war, famine, environmental destruction, diseases and natural disasters. Open us to the depth of your love and grace that we might know ourselves, and others, as beloved in your sight.

Empowering God, Grant us vision, which is open to all the surprising ways you choose to make yourself known. Grant us hope that is joyous and sure. Grant us courage and faith in you, knowing we are blessed by your love and mercy. These we ask in the name of Jesus Christ who offers us salvation and welcomes each one of us. Amen.

Musical Offering: Abe

Invitation to Offer:

Rev. Kim Vidal

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. 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)**

**Receive our gifts, loving God which we offer in hope and in love.
Bless and multiply these gifts we pray, so that they may be used
in doing your will in the world. Amen.**

***Closing Hymn: May the God of Hope Go with Us – Voices United #424**

(Words – v1 Alvin Schutmaat, 1984; v2 Fred Kaan, 1993; Music – Argentine Folk Melody)

1 May the God of hope go with us every day,
filling all our lives with love and joy and peace.
May the God of justice speed us on our way,
bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Refrain:

Praying, let us work for peace,
singing, share our joy with all,
working for a world that's new,
faithful when we hear Christ's call.

2 May the God of healing free the earth from fear,
freeing us for peace, both treasured and pursued.
May the God of love keep our commitment clear,
to a world restored, to human life renewed. R

***Sending Forth: (Responsively)**

Rev. Kim Vidal

Beloved friends, from the prayers we offered, we have received inspiration.

In our greeting, we have known and expressed friendship.

From our singing, we have received heartfelt joy.

From the scriptures, we have a message to challenge us.

In the silence, we have felt God's presence with us.

And in the fellowship time, we will know support.

Go from here as God's people and go about

God's work faithfully in the days to come. **Amen.**

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

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.