

**BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH**  
**September 10, 2023 – 10 am**      **Creation Time 1**  
**Welcoming Back Sunday School**

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

***Gathering Music:*** (Time for Quiet Reflection)

\* ***Hymn:*** Called by Earth and Sky – More Voices #135

*Refrain:* Called by earth and sky, promise of hope held high.

This is our sacred living trust, treasure of life sanctified, called by earth and sky.

1 Precious these waters, endless seas, deep ocean's dream,  
waters of healing, rivers of rain, the wash of love again.

*Refrain: (French)* Du-ciel et de la terre, Nous entendons l'appel'

Nous de-vons ché-rir l'univers, é-cri-n de vie, pré-cieuse et belle; du-ciel et de la terre.

2 Pré-cieux est l'air que l'on respire, libre est le vent;

Es-prit qui souffle, viens nous in-struire, de grâ-ce nous com-blant. *Refrain: (French)*

3 Precious these mountains, ancient sands; vast fragile land.

Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong, Creation's faithful song. *R*

4 - Precious the fire that lights our way, bright dawning day.

Fire of passion, sorrows undone, our faith and justice one. *R*

(Words & Music: Pat Mayberry, 2005; French trans.: David Fines, 2006, Arr. Margaret Stubington, 2005)

***Acknowledgement of Territory:*** Rev. Lorrie Lowes (Jamie Miller, Gathering, ACE 2022/2023 Year A)

As we begin our worship service, we acknowledge that we are gathered on the unceded lands of the Algonquin-Anishinaabe peoples. For thousands of years, they have cared for the land even as the land cared for them.

Guided by the wisdom of their traditions and their ancestors, they have been taught that the circle of life is embraced and embracing. Let us carry on this wisdom. Let us live into right relations with love and respect.

***Lighting of Christ Candle:*** Acolytes: Ducette Family (Richard Bott, The Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2016 Year C)

All creation is made of star stuff.

From the basic building blocks of the universe, come fire, air, earth and water.

All creation sings praise to the Creator of all.

Warmed by this flame, we go where Christ's light shines! (Used with Permission)

***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 & Centering for Worship:***      Rev. Kim Vidal

Good morning! Welcome to this sacred place of belonging where we embrace 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. Join us for coffee and fellowship after the service in the main hall. Announcements...

- Men's Club has invited our City Councillor, Laine Johnson to speak to us on Tues, Sept 12, 7-8 pm about affordable housing in Ottawa. Please let the church office know that you are coming.
- Asian Dinner & Sabbatical Highlights – Sept 22, 6:30 pm. Tickets are available after the service and in the office. Volunteers are needed to help.
- The West Ottawa Interfaith Bridge dinner is happening on Saturday, Sept 30th from 5:30 to 8:30pm at the Jami Omar Mosque. To purchase tickets, look for Alison Bridgewater in main hall.

Friends, this day, we offer our gratitude for the gifts of the earth lavishly offered to us by a loving Creator. May we do so with praise and thanksgiving and a commitment to care for the earth and to serve each other. Let us now gather in worship.

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

*One:* Who has come to BCUC today?

*Women:* **We have come!**

*Men:* **We have come!**

*Youth & Children:* **We have come!**

*One:* In whose name do you gather?

*Youth & Children:* **In the name of God, the Creator!**

*Men:* **In the name of Jesus the Christ!**

*Women:* **In the name of the Spirit Companion!**

*One:* Why do you gather?

*Men:* **To pray!**

*Youth & Children:* **To play!**

*Women:* **To sing and celebrate!**

*One:* Jesus said, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

*All:* **Let us worship together!**

**Prayer of Approach: (Unison)**

**Creating God, help us to grow as trees do:  
stretching ever upward, arms open to the world around us,  
ready to let go of what we carry in due season. Amen.**

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

*The 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.**

**\*Song:** Roll Over The Ocean

It's me, it's me, it's me who builds community (3x)

It's me who builds community (*clap, clap, clap*)

*Chorus* Roll over the ocean, roll over the sea,

Roll over the ocean in the deep blue sea (Hey!)

Roll over the ocean, roll over the sea,

Go and do your part and build community.

2. It's you...3. It's love... 4. It's Christ...

**Prayer for Illumination: (Unison)** Reader: Sue Morrison

**Creator God, let your words speak in each heart.**

**Let the truth set each one free.**

**Let the gospel story inspire us for justice.**

**Let the Spirit's presence fill us with joy. Amen.**

**Responsive Psalm:** Psalm 149 – Voices United pg873 (*with sung response Ref #1 "Hallelujah"*)

**The Gospel Reading: Matthew 18: 15-20 NRSV (The Message)**

<sup>15-17</sup> “If a fellow believer hurts you, go and tell that person—work it out between the two of you. If he or she listens, you’ve made a friend. If he or she won’t listen, take one or two others along so that the presence of witnesses will keep things honest, and try again. If he or she still won’t listen, tell the church. If he or she won’t listen to the church, you’ll have to start over from scratch, confront him or her with the need for repentance, and offer again God’s forgiving love.

<sup>18-20</sup> “Take this most seriously: A yes on earth is yes in heaven; a no on earth is no in heaven. What you say to one another is eternal. I mean this. When two of you get together on anything at all on earth and make a prayer of it, God goes into action. And when two or three of you are together because of me, you can be sure that I’ll be there.”

May these words challenge us to act out our faith. **Thanks be to God.**

**Ministry of Music: Love is Patient and Kind** – Clutterham

BCUC Choir

**Sermon:** “Conflict Resolution”

Rev. Kim

**Prayers of the People:** Rev. Kim “*Breath of A New Season*” Prayer:<sup>1</sup>

We listen this morning to the sound of our own breath,

and the breathing of those around us. [pause for 10 seconds]

Thank you God for breath, for life flowing in and out of each of us.

**It is wonderful to be alive—thank you for life!**

**Thank you for the sweet scent of the breath of a new season;**

**for blossoms--apples, cherry, peach,**

for sunflowers and gladiolas, for the good earth, planted and ready for harvest,  
for the strong sun and its power.

**Thank you that you are a God who hears our breath.**

**You hear our slow steady breaths as we’ve slept,**

**the panting of children as they run and play,**

**the deep breaths of hard work and manual labour,**

**our slow sighs when we are tired or weary or filled with grief.**

You hear our first little baby breath,

you are the one who hears and knows our final breath.

Your Spirit moves over the earth, enlivening us all.

**Help us to exhale hatred, and inhale your love**

**Help us to exhale greed, and inhale your generosity.**

**Help us to exhale despair, and inhale your hope.**

Breathe life into peacemakers, in the conflicts in our own town and country,  
where class and race and ideology divide us.

**Breathe life into peacemakers in Ukraine and Russia and the many parts of the world  
where war has ruled so long.**

Breathe inspiration into our government leaders and diplomats,  
helping them work for peaceful solutions.

**Forgive us when we are not outraged by war and violence,  
and instead are numb to every new story of destruction.**

On this most beautiful of days, with your Spirit blowing over this land,

**thank you for giving us this chance**

**to be part of your breathtaking work,**

**humble servants in the service of Jesus the Christ. Amen.**

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<sup>1</sup> Inspired by the prayer of Carol Penner, [leadinginworship.com](http://leadinginworship.com)

*Invitation to Offer:*

Rev. Kim

God invites us to take part in caring for the earth and for one another. The gift of creation reminds us of God's abundant generosity and invites us to live with gracious offering of our time, talents and treasures. 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 – Voices United #520 v3*

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)*

**Through these gifts, may we offer hope, joy and healing in a world so much in need.**

**Receive what we offer in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

*\*Hymn: All Creatures of our God and King - Voices United #217*

1 All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing,  
hallelujah, hallelujah!

Bright burning sun with golden beam,  
soft shining moon with silver gleam,

*Refrain:* Sing praises, sing praises!  
hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

2 O rushing winds and breezes soft,  
O clouds that ride the winds aloft  
Sing praises, hallelujah!

O rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
O lights of evening, find a voice. *R*

3 Earth, ever fertile, day by day  
brings forth rich blessings on our way:

sing praises, hallelujah!

The flowers and fruits that verdant grow,  
let them God's glory also show. *R*

4 And everyone of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take your part,  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
All who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God and yield up all your care. *R*

5 Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship God in humbleness;  
sing praises, hallelujah!  
Praise God eternal, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, Three in One. *R*

*\*Sending Forth: (Responsively) Rev. Kim* (Gill La Fevre, Gathering, Pentecost 2, 2022 Year C. Used with Permission)

Go out from here with God's love wrapped around you like a cloak,  
**sheltering us from the storm.**

Go with God's hope burning inside you,  
**like the candle that glows in the night.**

And go with God's peace resting upon you,  
**like the soft breeze touching our face.**

This day and always. **Amen.**

*Sung Blessing: Shalom Cheverim*

*Shalom good friends! Shalom good friends! Shalom, Shalom!*

*Till we meet again, till we meet again, shalom, shalom.*