

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH

EASTER 7 / Christian Family Sunday / Baptism May 12, 2024 – 10 am

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

Gathering Music:

**Indicates stand as able*

Hymn: Come In, Come In and Sit Down - Voices United #395

Refrain: Come in come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.

1 You know the reason why you came,
yet no reason can explain,
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,
for we are a part of the family. R

2 God is with us in this place,
like a mother's warm embrace.

We're all forgiven by God's grace,
for we are a part of the family. R

3 There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine,
we are the branches Christ is the vine.
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,
but we are a part of the family. R

4 There's rest for the weary and health for us all,
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.
So come in and worship and answer the call,
for we are a part of the family. R

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Lighting of Christ Candle:

Acolytes: Miranda & Vicki Martin

On this Christian Family Sunday, as we honour mothers and lifegivers,
we light this Christ candle to remind us:
of joy despite all the sadness; of courage for fears ever present;
of grace to ease heavy burdens; and of love to inspire all our living.
Thanks be to God, our loving parent.

Sung Response: Jesus Bids Us Shine - Voices United #585 verse 1

Jesus bids us shine with a clear pure light, like a little candle burning in the night;
in this world of darkness we must shine – you in your small corner, and I in mine.

Welcome & Centering for Worship:

Rev. Kim Vidal

Good morning! In the name of Jesus Christ, I welcome and greet as we celebrate Christian Family Sunday. God invites us into right relationships with each other as sisters and brothers, mothers and fathers, grandpas and grandmas, cousins and relatives in the name of Love. Today is also Mother's Day. This is a day to pay respect and honour all mothers, nurturers and life givers, past or present. We are also welcoming the Hanson Family as we celebrate the baptism of Lucy. A warm welcome all. Please join us in the Main Hall after the service for cake, coffee, refreshments and conversation. Highlight some announcements...

Friends, I now invite you to centre yourselves in the presence of our welcoming God who loves us unconditionally like a mother. Let us worship together.

Call to Gather: (Responsively)

Rev. Lorrie Lowes

(Richard Bott, Gathering L/E 2019 Year C. Used with permission.)

Parents and children, siblings and cousins,

Grandparents and greats, aunts, uncles, and more- **family in God's love.**

By adoption, by choice, by birth, or just because – **family in God's care.**

People well known, people never met, people near, people far – **family in God's joy.**

Come as you are. Come as you will be.

Come and worship, all you, who are – **family in God's grace!**

Prayer of Approach: (Together)

(Kate Gregory, Gathering L/E 2019 Year C. Used with permission.)

Mother-Father God, Brother Jesus, Sister Spirit,

We gather this morning in the brilliance of a new day.

**We gather to sing, to pray, to listen.
We gather to visit, to plan, to be inspired.
Come, sit with us, join us.
We are family. Amen.**

Celebration of Baptism: Lucy Addison Hanson
Parents: Laura and Adam Hanson

Special Music: **God's Rainbow – Schmidt** CGS director: Erin Berard

Time for the Young at Heart: Rev. Lorrie
The Prayer of Jesus / The Lord's Prayer (Unison)

**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: Psalm 100 Make A Joyful Noise - Voices United #820

Refrain: Make a joyful noise all the earth! 2. Enter these gates thanks giving.
Worship your God with gladness. Enter these courts with praise.
Make a joyful noise all the earth. Sing thanks to your God and bless the holy name.
Come to this place with a song! Worship your God with a song! *R*

1. Know that your God has made you. 3. Ages through endless ages,
Know it's to God we belong. Seasons of endless years,
And come to this place with joyfulness and The love of our Maker ever shall endure.
praise. Worship your God with a song! *R* Worship your God with a song! *R*

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Prayer for Illumination: (Together) Reader: Alison Bridgewater

**God of yesterday, today and tomorrow, continue to surprise us and breathe
your spirit freshly upon us as your church family; that renewed in faith, we
may know your wisdom through these inspiring words. Amen.**

Responsive Psalm: Psalm 1 Voices United pg724

Sung Response: **Blessed are those who follow the law of God.**

Blessed are those who do not follow the counsel of the wicked, or linger in the way of sinners,

**But their delight is in the law of God,
and on that law they meditate day and night.**

They are like trees planted beside streams of water, yielding their fruit in due season.

Their leaves do not wither, and whatever they produce shall prosper. *R*

As for the wicked, it is not so with them,

but they are like the chaff, driven away by the wind.

Therefore the wicked shall not be able to stand when judgement comes.

nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous

**For God watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish. *R***

The Scripture Reading: Ruth 1: 1-18 (NRSVUE) The Story of Naomi & Ruth

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. **2** The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. **3** But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. **4** These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, **5** both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

6 Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. **7** So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. **8** But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me.” **9** The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. **10** They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” **11** But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters. Why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? **12** Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, **13** would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.”

14 Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law goodbye, but Ruth clung to her.

15 So she said, “Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” **16** But Ruth said, “Do not press me to leave you, to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people and your God my God.

17 Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried.

May the Lord do thus to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!”

18 When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

Hear the good news of love and hope in this time and in this place. **Thanks be to God!**

Ministry of Music: Ev’ry Child – Sleeth

BCUC Choir

Sermon: “Family Dynamics”

Rev. Kim

A Christian Family Sunday Prayer:

(Jackie Harper, Kin to One Another: UCC Worship Resources for Christian Family Sunday)

Our faith blesses us with stories of others who have sought to live in life-giving relationships. As we remember these siblings in faith, remind us of your guidance and presence with us. Let us pray—
God of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam; God of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus; God of siblings who cared for one another, offered support and challenge, celebrated together, worked together, argued together, and grieved together. We are thankful for their witness. As they have done may we also seek to live in life-giving relationships with those we would name as siblings.

God of Eli, Hannah, and Samuel, cross-generational colleagues, mentors, and trusted leaders in faith, remind us of the opportunities we have to nurture and care, mentor and discern with one another in this faith community. May we embrace the trust that is offered and shared with respect, care, and humility.

God of Ruth and Naomi, who embraced each other despite differences of race and cultural traditions and chose to be family for one another. For all who choose to be family, may your love and hope be sustained day by day.

God of Simon and Andrew and James and John, who left the familiar to build new community with Jesus and his followers. Though faithful, they had moments of doubt, of fear, of denial. In our moments of doubt, fear, and denial, may we remember to trust and to take one step at a time.

God of Hagar, Abraham, and Ishmael; God of Sarah, Abraham, and Isaac; God of the complicated, and the jealous, and the broken, remind us that this too is real and that you walk with us through these troubling times.

God of Jesus, Mary and John, called to relationships that stretch beyond blood, to care for one another. You invite us too to reach out in welcome, support, and care for one another.

God of the past, God of the present, God of tomorrow, help us to live in relationships that seek justice, love kindness, and ground ourselves in your love for us. Amen.

Musical Offering: In This Place – Besig/Price

BCUC Choir

Invitation to Offer: Rev. Lorrie

God has blessed our lives with relationships—joy inspiring and challenging.

In response to God’s blessings in our lives, we are now invited to share our gifts of time, talents and treasures. You will find the offering plates on the narthex table. 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** – Voices United #537, verse 1

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: (Together)** (*UCC Worship Resources for Christian Family Sunday*)

We offer these gifts so that we might continue to build relationships with one another and with your whole creation. Bless these gifts that they may bring wholeness and life abundance to all your people. In Jesus name. Amen.

Hymn: Wherever You May Go – More Voices 216

Refrain Wherever you may go, I will follow
And your people shall be my people too.
Wherever you may go, I will follow,
For I will be faithful, loyal and true.

We will travel side by side
And God’s love will be our guide. *Refrain*

1. Say the word and I will stay,
I will never go away,

2. From the beginning to the end
I will always be your friend,
When you need me I’ll be there,
You can trust my faithful care. *Refrain*

Sending Forth:(Responsively)

Rev. Kim Vidal

In baptism, you name us your beloved children, **kin to one another.**

As we go from this place,

may we know your love that found expression in the most vulnerable of human family:

guide us, sustain us, and empower us to love.

And the blessing of God: Creator, Christ and Companion

be with you this day and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Sung Blessing: Travel On, Travel On – Voices United #647

Travel on, travel on, there’s a spirit that is flowing, a spirit that is flowing night and day.

Travel on, travel on, with the spirit that is flowing; the spirit will be with us all the way 2x