

**BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH**  
**April 14, 2024, 10 am      3rd Sunday in Easter**

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

**Gathering Music:**

*\*Indicates stand as able*

**Hymn: Joy Comes with the Dawn – Voices United #166**

*Refrain:* Joy comes with the dawn;

joy comes with the morning sun;  
joy springs from the tomb  
and scatters the night with her song,  
joy comes with the dawn.

2.Sorrow will turn,  
sorrow will turn into song,  
and God’s laughter make us strong. R

1.Weeping may come;  
weeping may come in the night,  
when dark shadows cloud our sight. R

3.We will rejoice,  
we will rejoice, and give praise,  
to the One who brings us grace.

*Words & Music © 1985 Gordon Light, Common Cup, arr. © 1995 Nan Thompson All rights reserved*

**Lighting of Christ Candle:**

Acolyte: Marg Eddy

Let the flame of this candle draw us together as we ready ourselves for worship firm in the assurance that we are not alone. The love of Christ is real and present here among us.

**Sung Response: This Little Light of Mine - verse 1**

This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine! 3x    Let it shine! 3x

**Welcome:** Good morning! I welcome and greet you in the name of the One who is present with us - here in this gathering, in the homes of all who are joining us online, and in all the places we move throughout this world each day. I welcome old friends and those who are joining us for the first time. I hope you find nourishment for your mind and spirit in this time of worship and that you will join us after the service for the kind of nourishment that comes through coffee, tea, and conversation in the Main Hall afterward. Announcements...Our Electronic sign , “Bell Ringer”newsletter, Affirming Circle Camp Chipembi

**Centering for Worship:** I invite you now to close your eyes and take a cleansing breath as we prepare our minds and hearts to worship together as a faith community.

**Call to Gather: (Responsively)** *Rosemary Godin, Gathering L/E 2024, p41. Used with permission.*

Come celebrate the good News! **Jesus lives!**

God rises with every sunrise in the heavens. **And God rises with every moon.**

The light of Christ shines through all the universe, **On every day and through every night.**

Come, let us praise this glorious gift we have been given. **Come. Let us worship our God.**

**Opening Prayer: (Responsively)** *Daive Sparks, Gathering L/E 2018, p41. Used with permission.*

In believing, in doubting, we come to this service, **And God accepts us.**

In wondering, in affirming, we come to this service, **And God welcomes us.**

As individuals, as a faith community, we come to this service, **And God’s Word speaks to us.**

With rejoicing, with sorrow, we come to this service,

**And the risen Christ is eternal hope for us, as we worship and as we live. Amen.**

**Special Music Listen to Jesus – Farrell**

CGS    director : Erin accompanist : Noah

**Time for the Young at Heart:** Erin Berard

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: Jump for Joy - More Voices #48**

1. I can feel you near me God I can feel you near  
Yes, I know you're with me God I feel you here  
I can feel you near me God I can feel you near  
Yes, I know you're with me God Heaven is here.

*Refrain:* And I'll jump for joy I'm singing Alleluia  
Jump for joy for you I will jump for joy  
I'm singing Alleluia Jump for joy for you.

2. I can feel you loving me yes, I know you care  
God, I know you're loving me always everywhere  
I can feel you loving me yes, I know you care  
God, I know you're loving me I know you're there. *Refrain*

*Words and Music © Pat Mayberry www.patmayberry.com arr. © 2005 Marg Stubbington. All rights reserved*

**Prayer for Illumination: (Together)** Reader: Mary Jones

*Cheryl Dillon, Gathering L/E 2024, p 48. Used with permission.*

For the word of God in scripture, For the word of God among us,  
For the word of God within us, Thanks be to God. Amen.

**Responsive Psalm Reading:** Psalm 4      Voices United pg727

*Sung Response:* **In the night I can take my rest. You alone keep my life secure.**

Answer me when I call, O God, defender of my cause,  
For you set me free when I was in distress.

**Be gracious to me now and hear my prayer. R**

How long, you people, will you defame my honour?

**How long will you love what is worthless and seek lies?**

Know this, that God has chosen the faithful;

**God hears me when I call.**

Stand in awe and cease from sin;

**Commune with your own heart upon your bed and be still.**

Offer the sacrifices that are appointed,

**And put your trust in God. R**

There are many who say, **“O, that we might see prosperity!**

**Lift up the light of your face on us, O God.”**

But you have put gladness in my heart

More than those whose grain and wine are plentiful.

**Safe and sound, I lie down and sleep,**

**For you alone, God, make me dwell in safety. R**

**Scripture Reading: Luke 24:36b-48 (NRSVUE) Jesus Appears to His Disciples**

<sup>36</sup> While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” <sup>37</sup> They were startled and terrified and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup> He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see, for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.”

<sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup> Yet for all their joy they were still disbelieving and wondering, and he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate in their presence.

<sup>44</sup> Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.

May the light of Christ shine where the Word is spoken. **Thanks be to God.**

**Ministry of Music: Be Still and Know That I am God - Larkin**

BCUC Choir

**Sermon: “He’s here! In the flesh!”**

**Prayers of the People: Holy One,**

The hallelujahs of Easter morning still ring in the sanctuary this Sunday morning, reminding us of the good news. The love of Christ is alive in the world!

But we know, that if we leave this place of comfort and safety, we will come face to face with realities that make us want to stay and hide here...war, disease, poverty, oppression, crime ... so many concerns for the world, for our communities, and for ourselves. Hear us God as we pray.

We pray for this planet we call home and for all the amazing creation that it holds.

We pray for the damage caused by climate change – melting ice caps, thawing permafrost, violent storms, floods and forest fires;

We pray for species that are suffering and facing extinction;

We pray for places where the economic drive overrides the balance of the ecosystem.

God, help us venture outside of our fear and our sense of helplessness. Help us find a new way forward. Help us put flesh and bones on our commitment to your commandment to love.

We pray for all your people in their diversity of colour, race, culture, and creed.

We pray for people living in places where the violence of war threatens their homes, their history, and their very existence.

We pray for those who are left on the margins because of poverty, disability, gender identification or anything that sets them apart from what someone has decided is normal.

We pray for all whose differences that cause them to suffer in body or in spirit.

God, help us venture outside of our fear and our sense of helplessness.

Help us find a new way forward. Help us put flesh and bones on our commitment to your commandment to love.

We pray for our home communities, our congregation, our families, and ourselves.

We pray for all those dealing with grief and loss – of loved ones, of jobs, of familiar ways of life.

We pray for all in our midst who are suffering from illness or injury.

We pray for people struggling with mental health concerns. We pray for all those struggling to support them, the caregivers, the medical professionals, the first responders...

God, help us venture outside of our fear and our sense of helplessness. Help us find a new way forward. Help us put flesh and bones on your commandment to love.

Terrifying though it is, sometimes it is easier for us to believe that you are gone than it is to look for you among us.

Holy One, when your presence breaks through the walls of our fear and anxiety, help us recognize your voice, offering us peace, calling us to action. Give us the courage to throw open the doors, to join you in the work needed in this world. Help us be the incarnate proof that the love of Christ is alive in the world. Amen.

**Musical Offering: Amen is Where We Begin – Choplin**

BCUC Choir

**Invitation to Offer:**

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: What Can I Do? - More Voices #191**

*(Words & Music: Paul Rumbolt and Michele McCarthy; arr. Alan C. Whitmore, 2005)*

What can I do? What can I bring? What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer. I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

**\*Offertory Prayer: (Responsively)** *Don Uhryniw, Gatehring L.E. 2018, p 46. Used with permission.*

**Holy One, transform these gifts  
So that doubts may be transformed into joy,  
Fear into proclamation, Hate into love.  
Receive the gifts of our hands and hearts,  
So that the hands that were pierced by nails continue to create and heal.  
In the name of Jesus, we make this prayer and this offering. Amen.**

**\*Hymn: We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection - Voices United #586**

1. We shall go out with hope of resurrection;  
We shall go out, from strength to strength go on;  
We shall go out and tell our stories boldly;  
Tales of a love, that will not let us go.  
We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;  
We'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;  
We'll weave a cloth of all the world united  
Within the vision of new life in Christ.

2. We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;  
We'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;  
We'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer.  
Expressing love alive in every heart.  
We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping.  
Raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,  
We'll leap and dance the resurrection story,  
Including all in circles of our love.

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**\*Sending Forth:** As we leave this sanctuary of safety  
to venture out into the reality of our world today, I offer you this Celtic blessing:  
May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you on the road.  
May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out your hands to serve.  
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open up your hearts to love.  
May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet,  
And may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you. Amen

**Sung Blessing: May the God of Peace – More Voices #224**

May the God of peace.. and of all good,  
May the God of peace.. and of all good be always with you.  
Amen! May God's peace be with you. A..men!  
*repeat*