

BELLS CORNERS UNITED CHURCH
EASTER 5 / Earth Sunday April 28, 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: Now The Green Blade Rises – Voices United #186**

1. Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;
Love lives again, that with the dead has been:
Love is come again, like wheat arising green.

2. In the grave they laid him, love by hatred slain,
Thinking that he would never wake again,
Laid in the earth like grain that sleeps unseen;
Love is come again, like wheat arising green.

3. Forth he came at Easter, like the risen grain,
He that for three days in the grave had lain;
Raised from the dead, my living Lord is seen;
Love is come again, like wheat arising green.

4. When our hearts are wintry, grieving, or in pain,
Your touch can call us back to life again,
Fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;
Love is come again, like wheat arising green.

Lighting of Christ Candle: Acolyte: Linda Miller

As we light this Christ candle, May God's loving Presence
flow through the cosmos and through us.

Let the light of Christ now flow from us to all the earth.

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 & Centering for Worship: Rev. Kim Vidal

Good morning! I welcome and greet you in the name of Jesus Christ on this 5th Sunday of Easter. Today we are celebrating Earth Sunday. As we reflect on Jesus Christ as the Vine, we give thanks for the many ways God nurtures and feeds us, guides our roots to sink deep, and with God's grace and blessing, bears fruits of love, justice, kindness and wisdom. A warm welcome all. Please join us in the Main Hall after the service for coffee, refreshments and conversation. ...announcements...

Friends, I now invite you to centre yourselves in the presence of our welcoming God who makes all things new. Let us gather in worship.

Call to Gather: (Responsively) Rev. Lorrie Lowes

Come, friends of the Risen Christ, let us give thanks for creation.

We gather to praise God for the miracle of the earth.

Come, believers of Jesus, the True Vine
who delights in creation's goodness, and open your hearts to wonder.

We gather to praise God for the miracle of our lives.

Come, co-creators with God, who is in all and through all,
who is above all and below all and open your hearts to mystery.

Let us gather and give thanks to God, the Heart of all creation.

*Prayer of Approach:*¹ (Together)

God of love, plant us in the soil of your grace.

Nurture us with the strength of Jesus Christ, the vine of abundant life.

Enlighten us with the wisdom of your Spirit, which flows through us today and all days.

Abide in us, that we may abide in you and live in your love.

In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

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: Bananas for the Lord -Words: Rev. Victor Lujetic

(Based on John 15:1-5 and sung to the tune of The Battle Hymn of the Republic)

He's a peach of a Saviour, He's the apple of my eye.

He prunes back my branches when my branches get too high.

He showers me with blessings, and His love will never die.

That's why I'm bananas for the Lord! (Gulp!)

Chorus: He's the Vine, and we're the branches. 3x

That's why I'm bananas for the Lord! (Gulp!)

*Prayer for Illumination:*² (Together) Reader: David Stafford

The light of Christ has entered this place. Now let the light enter our hearts,

as we receive the words of scripture. Send your light, O God, like the first morning;

send your Spirit like the first bird. Amen

Responsive Psalm Reading: Psalm 22 Voices United pg746

Sung Response: **In the presence of your people I will praise your name.** *repeat*

Give praise, all you who fear God! Proclaim God's greatness, all you children of Jacob;

stand in awe, all you children of Israel!

For God has neither despised Nor scorned the poor in their distress.

You, O God, you have not hidden your face from them.

You have heard them when they called to you. R

You are the theme of my praise in the great assembly.

I will keep my promise in the

presence of those who fear you.

Let the poor eat to satisfaction; let those who seek you praise you.

May they be in good heart forever!

¹ Adapted from [The Abingdon Worship Annual 2012](#), © 2011 Abingdon Press

² Robin Wardlaw, **Gathering L/E 2021**, p47. Used with permission

Let all the ends of the earth remember and turn to you, O God.

Let all the families of the nations bow down before you.

For yours is the dominion, O God, You rule over the nations. R

Even all who sleep in the grave shall worship you;

Those who go down into the dust shall bow before you.

I too shall live for you.

Our children shall serve you, And tell generations yet to come about you.

To a people yet unborn,

they shall make known the saving deeds you have done. R

The Gospel Reading: John 15:1-8 (Common English Bible) **The True Vine**

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vineyard keeper.² He removes any of my branches that don’t produce fruit, and he trims any branch that produces fruit so that it will produce even more fruit.³ You are already trimmed because of the word I have spoken to you.⁴ Remain in me, and I will remain in you. A branch can’t produce fruit by itself, but must remain in the vine. Likewise, you can’t produce fruit unless you remain in me.⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can’t do anything.⁶ If you don’t remain in me, you will be like a branch that is thrown out and dries up. Those branches are gathered up, thrown into a fire, and burned.⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you.⁸ My Father is glorified when you produce much fruit and, in this way, prove that you are my disciples.

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

Ministry of Music: I Would be True – Walter/Larson

BCUC Choir

Sermon: “Jesus: A True Vine” Rev. Kim

A Prayer for Earth Day: *Adapted from the Earth Day Prayers written by Rev. David Bowring*

Creator, Sustainer and Redeemer, you have created the universe to receive and return your love.

Enfold the earth in your grace and compassion.

Source of all beauty, visible and invisible, we thank you for the wonder of all creation, the glory of sunrise, the remarkable layers of rocks and sand, and the gentleness of rustling leaves.

Source of order and power, thank you for the orbits of planets, the circling of the seasons and the rhythm of breathing in and breathing out. We thank you for the patterns of nature by which we live, understand the past, and anticipate the future.

Creator of mind and body, who made us enjoy and enrich the gifts of nature, forgive us the discords of overuse, ugliness of misuse, and stench of careless use.

Vine Grower God, you inspired human beings to care for and manage this planet as your stewards.

Forgive us our failures in that task: the pollution of the air, the contamination of water, the poisoning of soil, the waste of energy.

God, who so loved the cosmos, forgive the wrongs done to this planet and rise to the challenges of life today and into the future.

Creator of light and darkness, teach us so to live in the uncertainties of this world, that we remain anchored in your dependable love.

Creator, Sustainer, Redeemer. We pray. Amen.

Musical Offering: All Earth Rejoice with a Gladsome Voice – Vivaldi arr. Hopson BCUC Choir

Invitation to Offer:

As we celebrate the gifts of new life and the beauty of creation, we are invited to share our gifts of time, talents and resources as expressions of our gratitude to God's blessings. 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: 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: (Together)**

Generous God, we offer our gifts to you for blessing.

Bless our time, our talents and our treasures that they may be used wisely in your name. Amen.

***Hymn: Many Are the Lightbeams - Voices United #588**

1. Many are the lightbeams from the one light. Our one light is Jesus.
Many are the lightbeams from the one light; We are one in Christ.

2. Many are the branches of the one tree. Our one tree is Jesus.
Many are the branches of the one tree; We are one in Christ.

3. Many are the gifts given, love is all one. Love's the gift of Jesus.
Many are the gifts given, love is all one; We are one in Christ.

4. Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one, Servant spirit of Jesus.
Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one; We are one in Christ.

5. Many are the members, the body is one, Members all of Jesus.
Many are the members, the body is one; We are one in Christ.

*Words: Cyprian of Carthage, 252, Swedish para., Anders Frostenson, 1972. English trans. © David Lewis, 1983;
Music © Olle Widestrand, 1974, arr. by Leonard Lythgoe, 1995. All rights reserved*

***Sending Forth: (Responsively) Rev. Kim**

Go now in the name of Creator God, the Vine Grower,

who blesses the earth with abundant life;

of Jesus Christ, the True Vine,

who calls all creation to newness;

and of the Holy Spirit

whose breath energizes all of the earth,

Go and be a blessing, **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