



**Birchcliff Bluffs United Church**

**Ministers:** All the People – wherever and however they gather

**Minister of Word & Sacrament:** Rev. Dr. Ellen Redcliffe

**Music Director:** Randy Vancourt

**Reader:** Janet Bawcutt

**Music Guest:** Inkloosiv Voices

**February 25, 2024**

**Lent 2**

**MUSIC SUNDAY**

**WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE**

**Prelude**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

In times of struggle,

**In times of wonder,**

In times of anxious anticipation,

**In this time and place, here and now, in all the days of our lives,**

**let the light of this candle remind us of who we are:**

**a struggling, wondering, and anxiously anticipating people of the way.**

*The candle is lit.*

**Land Acknowledgement**

We now take a moment to acknowledge the sacred land beside the water on which Birchcliff Bluffs United Church stands. It has been a site of human activity for many thousands of years. This land is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit River.

**We are grateful for the opportunity to live and work on this territory and we seek to be mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.**

**Opening Hymn**

**The Gospel Train**

Get on board, little children,  
Get on board, little children,  
Get on board, little children,  
There's room for many a-more.

1 The Gospel train's a-comin',  
I hear it just at hand,  
I hear the car wheels rumblin',  
And rolling through the land.

Get on board, little children,  
Get on board, little children,  
Get on board, little children,  
There's room for many a-more.

2 I hear the train a-comin',  
She's coming round the curve,  
She's loosened all her steam and brakes,  
And straining every nerve.

Get on board, little children,  
Get on board, little children,  
Get on board, little children,  
There's room for many a-more.

3 The fare is cheap and all can go,  
The rich and poor are there,  
No second class aboard this train,  
No difference in the fare.

Get on board, little children,  
Get on board, little children,  
Get on board, little children,  
There's room for many a-more.

*(repeat)*

### **Call to Worship**

However you entered here today, you are welcome!

**We come, some of us are troubled, grieving, anxious about health, family or finances, some are celebrating, excited and happy.**

May peace guard your hearts and minds during this time of celebration.

### **Life and Work**

**“The Big Day”**

### **Opening Prayer**

Loving God, there can be darkness in life and sometimes we hide from you.

**Take my hand and lead me out of the shadows of my fear.  
Help me to change my heart.  
Bring me to the truth and help me to respond to generous love.  
Free me from the darkness in my heart.  
Let me recognize the fullness of the love which will fill my life.  
Amen.**

## **RECEIVING GOD'S WORD**

### **Hymn**

### **Standing in the Need of Prayer**

It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.

1 Not my brother, not my sister,  
but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
Not my brother, not my sister,  
but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.

It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.

2 Not the preacher, not the sinner,  
but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
Not the preacher, not the sinner,  
but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.

It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.

3 Not my father, not my mother,

but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
Not my father, not my mother,  
but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.

It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.

4 Not the stranger, not my neighbour,  
but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
Not the stranger, not my neighbour,  
but it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.

It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer;  
It's me, it's me, O Lord,  
Standin' in the need of prayer.

*(repeat)*

## **Scripture**

### **Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16**

<sup>1</sup> When Abram was 99 years old, the LORD appeared to him. The LORD said, 'I am God Almighty. In all your life, obey me and do nothing wrong. <sup>2</sup> Then I will certainly keep my covenant with you. I will make your descendants grow in number.'

<sup>3</sup> Abram fell down so that his face touched the ground. God said to him, <sup>4</sup> 'As for me, this is my covenant that I have made with you. You will become the ancestor of many nations of people. <sup>5</sup> Your name will not be Abram any more. Instead your name will be Abraham, because I will cause you to become the ancestor of many nations. <sup>6</sup> I will give you many descendants. These will make many nations of people. Some of your descendants will become kings.

<sup>7</sup> My covenant with you is very strong. I am making it with you and with your descendants. It will continue for generation after generation of your descendants, for all time. I will be your God. I will also be the God of all your descendants.

<sup>15</sup> Then God said to Abraham, 'As for your wife, do not call her Sarai any more. Instead, her name will be Sarah. <sup>16</sup> I will bless her. She will give birth to a son for you. Many nations of people will be her descendants. Some of them will become kings. That is how much I will bless her!'

**Mark 8:31-38** Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my word<sup>1</sup> in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Word of God for the people of God

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

**Every Time I Feel the Spirit**

Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart, I will pray.  
Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart, I will pray.

1 Upon the mountain when my God spoke,  
out of God's mouth came fire and smoke.  
I looked around me, it looked so fine,  
I asked my God if all this was mine.

Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart, I will pray.  
Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart, I will pray.

2 The Jordan River, chilly and cold,  
it chills the body, but not the soul.  
There is but one train upon this track,  
it runs to heaven and then right back.

Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart, I will pray.  
Ev'ry time I feel the Spirit  
moving in my heart, I will pray.  
*(repeat)*

**Musical Guest**

**INKLOOSIV VOICES**

**Reflection**

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn**

**Over My Head**

**MV 88**

Over my head, I hear music in the air,  
Over my head, I hear music in the air,  
Over my head, I hear music in the air,  
There must be a God somewhere.

1 When the storms of life are ragin'  
I hear music in the air.  
When the storms of live are ragin'  
I hear music in the air.  
When the storms of life are ragin'  
I hear music in the air.  
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head, I hear music in the air,  
Over my head, I hear music in the air,  
Over my head, I hear music in the air,  
There must be a God somewhere.

2 When the winds of strife are blowin'  
I hear music in the air.  
When the winds of strife are blowin'  
I hear music in the air.  
When the winds of strife are blowin'  
I hear music in the air.  
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head, I hear music in the air,  
Over my head, I hear music in the air,  
Over my head, I hear music in the air,  
There must be a God somewhere.

3 When the tide of hate is risin'  
I hear music in the air.  
When the tide of hate is risin'  
I hear music in the air.

When the tide of hate is risin'  
I hear music in the air.  
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head, I hear music in the air,  
Over my head, I hear music in the air,  
Over my head, I hear music in the air,  
There must be a God somewhere.

Over my head, I hear music in the air,  
Over my head, I hear music in the air,  
Over my head, I hear music in the air,  
There must be a God somewhere,  
There must be a God somewhere.

### **Offering**

Our lives are incredibly blessed with music that creates joy, both inspiring and challenging. In response to the blessings in our lives, we share our offerings.

**We offer these gifts so that we might continue to build relationships with one another and with the whole of creation. May these gifts bring wholeness and abundance to all.**

**Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

God, it's not always easy to love those who display characteristics we don't like. May we learn to be more generous with our love and to feel your love in those we meet.

**Grant us strength, patience and perspective, so that we may better understand the value of compassionate grace. Give us eyes to see how precious our gifts are: family and friends, faith and mercy. And when troubles come, help us to remember that together, we shall get through.**

We now take a moment to remember those in need, both members of our church family and those outside these walls, who we keep in our thoughts today...

*Moment of silence*

We ask all this in the name of the one who taught us to pray, singing...

**Creator, in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your dominion come, your will be done  
on earth, as in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors,**

**And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil,  
For yours is eternity,  
the power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever, Amen.**

## **BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

### **Closing Hymn**

### **Down In the River to Pray**

1 As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the starry crown?  
Good Lord, show me the way!

O sisters, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
O sisters, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray

2 As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the starry crown?  
Good Lord, show me the way!

O brothers, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
O brothers, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray

3 As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the starry crown?  
Good Lord, show me the way!

O sinners, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
O sinners, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray

4 As I went down in the river to pray  
Studying about that good old way  
And who shall wear the starry crown?  
Good Lord, show me the way!



O people, let's go down  
Let's go down, come on down  
O people, let's go down  
Down in the river to pray

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

Good news! You have everything you need to live a life of love.

**We are created for love, redeemed by love, inhabited by love.**

Go now in the power of that love, and draw others into this holy circle.

**Trusting that God's tenacious love will see you through. Amen.**

### **Choral Benediction**

### **Jesus On The Mainline**

- 1 Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want.  
Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want.  
Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want,  
Just call Him up and tell Him what you want.
- 2 If you want your body healed, tell Him what you want.  
If you want your body healed, tell Him what you want.  
If you want your body healed, tell Him what you want,  
Just call Him up and tell Him what you want.
- 3 If you want your soul revived, tell Him what you want.  
If you want your soul revived, tell Him what you want.  
If you want your soul revived, tell Him what you want,  
Just call Him up and tell Him what you want.
- 4 Call Him up, call Him up, tell Him what you want.  
Call Him up, call Him up, tell Him what you want.  
Call Him up, call Him up, tell Him what you want,  
Just call Him up and tell Him what you want.
- 5 Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want.  
Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want.  
Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want,  
Just call Him up and tell Him what you want,  
Just call Him up and tell Him what you want.

### **Postlude**

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