



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

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November 9th, 2025

Remembrance Sunday

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Jerusalem

Lighting the Christ & Rainbow Candle

As we light the Christ Candle, we remember the light that no darkness can overcome—the light of love that meets us as we are and calls us into community with one another. We light the Rainbow Candle to celebrate the many colors of God’s people—the full spectrum of love, identity, and belonging—each one a reflection of divine light! *The candles are lit.*

Land Acknowledgement

Many thousands of years before we gathered here, Indigenous peoples lived, worked, cared for, and worshipped on this land. Their deep connection to the land, waters, skies, and all living beings has shaped this place. Over time, settlers—ourselves and those before us—arrived and too often disrupted these sacred relationships, causing harm to the land and to the peoples who have always belonged to it. We acknowledge that we are on the traditional and unceded territory of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Wendat, Chippewa, and Mississaugas of the Credit, and that this land remains the ancestral home of many diverse Indigenous nations.

As we light our candles, we give thanks for the caretakers of this land—past, present, and emerging—and we pray for courage and humility on our shared journey toward truth, justice, and reconciliation.

Opening Hymn

For The Healing of the Nations

VU 678

1 For the healing of the nations,
God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things that earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

2 Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release;
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

3 All that kills abundant living,
let it from the earth be banned:
pride of status, race or schooling,
dogmas that obscure your plan.
In our common quest for justice
may we hallow life's brief span.

4 You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that, by our response and service,
earth its destiny may find.

Call to Worship

We come before the God of the living—

The One who calls life out of loss, and hope out of despair.

We gather to remember what is good,

To act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

The Holy One is not confined to history or tradition,

For God's Spirit breathes in us still.

Come, let us worship the God of life and resurrection,

For to God, all are alive. Alleluia!

Passing the Peace

Jesus taught that God is not the God of the dead, but of the living—and that all who live in God are alive to one another. The prophet Micah reminds us that to walk humbly with God is to walk gently with each other. So, in this sacred community of the living, let us share not only words, but a spirit of peace— peace born of justice, mercy, and love made real.

The peace of Christ—the peace of the living God—be with you all. **And also with you.**

Life and Work

Opening Prayer

Let us pray:

**God of justice and mercy, You are the heartbeat of creation,
the pulse that stirs us from death into life. We come before you carrying both
gratitude and grief— for the beauty of courage, and the brokenness of our world.
Open our hearts this morning to your transforming love.
Lift our eyes from what has been, toward what can yet be.
Where we cling to fear, teach us faith.
Where we cling to pride, teach us humility.
Where we cling to silence, teach us compassion in action.
For you are not the God of the dead, but of the living—
and we long to live as your resurrected people,
through Christ, who shows us the way.
Amen.**

Hymn

We Cannot Own the Sunlit Sky

MV 143

1 We cannot own the sunlit sky,
the moon, the wildflow'rs growing,
for we are part of all that is
within life's river flowing.
With open hands receive and share
the gifts of God's creation,
that all may have abundant life
in ev'ry earthly nation.

2 When bodies shiver in the night
and weary, wait for morning,
when children have no bread but tears,
and war-horns sound their warning,
God calls humanity to wake,
to join in common labour,
that all may have abundant life
in one-ness with their neighbour.

3 God calls humanity to join
as partners in creating
a future free from want or fear,
life's goodness celebrating,
that new world beckons from afar,
invites our shared endeavour,
that all may have abundant life
and peace endure forever.

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Micah 6:6-8

⁶“With what shall I come before Spirit and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before God with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? ⁷Will Spirit be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” ⁸God has told you, O mortal, what is good, and what does Spirit require of you but to do justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?

Luke 20:27-38

²⁷Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him ²⁸and asked him a question: “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. ²⁹Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman and died childless; ³⁰then the second ³¹and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. ³²Finally the woman also died. ³³In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.”

³⁴Jesus said to them, “Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage, ³⁵but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. ³⁶Indeed, they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. ³⁷And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. ³⁸Now he is God not of the dead but of the living, for to him all of them are alive.”

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

God of the Living

VU 492

1 God of the living, in your name assembled,
we join to thank you for the life remembered.
Grant us your mercy, to your children giving
hope in believing.

2 Help us to treasure all that will remind us
of the enrichment in the days behind us.
Your love has set us in the generations,
God of creation.

3 May we, whenever tempted to dejection,
strongly recapture thoughts of resurrection.

You gave us Jesus to defeat our sadness
with Easter gladness.

4 God, you can lift us from the grave of sorrow
into the presence of your own tomorrow:
give to your people for the day's affliction
your benediction.

Sermon The God of the Living

Hymn Let There Be Light VU 679

1 Let there be light,
let there be understanding,
let all the nations gather,
let them be face to face;

2 open our lips,
open our minds to ponder,
open the door of concord
opening into grace;

3 perish the sword,
perish the angry judgement,
perish the bombs and hunger,
perish the fight for gain;

4 hallow our love,
hallow the deaths of martyrs,
hallow their holy freedom,
hallowed be your name;

5 your kingdom come,
your spirit turn to language,
your people speak together,
your spirit never fade;

6 let there be light;
open our hearts to wonder,
perish the way of terror,
hallow the world God made.

ACT OF REMEMBRANCE

Last Post

Moment of Silence

Rouse

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

Offering

As the prophet asks, “With what shall I come before Spirit?” The answer is not gold or sacrifice, but a life that reflects justice, mercy, and humility. What we offer now—our gifts, our time, our compassion—are small seeds of that greater vision. May they grow into acts of healing, into ministries of welcome, into courage for peace.

As we bless the offerings given to the church, let us sing:

Offering Hymn

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

VU 541

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

Prayers of the People

God of the living,
We bring before you the cries of your world.
Hear us as we pray for peace in places torn by violence,
for healing in lands scarred by war,
for justice where power crushes the vulnerable.

We remember those who gave their lives in the hope of peace,
and those who still live with the wounds of conflict.
May their memory be a blessing and a summons—
not to vengeance, but to reconciliation.

We pray for leaders and nations,
that hearts of stone might turn to flesh,
and swords might be reshaped into ploughshares.

We pray for those we love who suffer in body, mind, or spirit—
for the grieving, the lonely, the anxious, and the weary.
May your healing Spirit surround them with comfort and light.

We pray for the Church, that it may not grow weary in doing good,
that it may speak truth to power and embody mercy in action.

And we pray for ourselves:

where our faith falters, strengthen us;
where our compassion grows thin, renew us;
where our hearts grow cold, set them ablaze again
with love for you and for all creation.

We offer these prayers, spoken and unspoken,
in the name of Christ, who lives among the living, who taught us to pray, saying:

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kin-dom come, your 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 yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

Be Still My Soul

VU 652

1 Be still, my soul, for God is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Trust in your God, your saviour and your guide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul, your best, your heavenly friend
through stormy ways leads to a peaceful end.

2 Be still, my soul, your God will undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul, life's tempests still obey
the voice that once the waves' wild fury stayed.

3 Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever in God's peace;
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
love's joys restored, our strivings all shall cease.
Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

Bread for the Journey:

How is God calling you to live as a person of remembrance and resurrection — to honour the past not only with words, but with the way you seek peace and justice in the world today?

Commissioning

Go now, as people of remembrance and resurrection.

We go to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God.

Go as witnesses to the God of the living.

We go to bring life where there is despair, and hope where there is fear.

The Spirit sends you into the world not as mourners, but as makers of peace.

We go to live as children of resurrection love. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Benediction

Go now into a world that still longs for peace.

May your remembrance become courage,
your faith become compassion,
and your compassion become action.

Go in peace, and may the blessing of the living God—

Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit—

be upon you and all whom you love, now and always. Amen.

Choral Response**Go Now In Peace**

Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, amen, amen!

Postlude**I Vow To Thee, My Country**

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