



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

June 4, 2023

Trinity Sunday

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle remembering that God created light,

And the spirit offers us the fire to stir us from complacency.

Call to Worship

Today we worship our three-in-one God: Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer.

The source and model of all loving relationships, eternally giving and receiving in a circle of love.

Introit

Holy, Holy, Holy

VU 315

1 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
Early in the morning our song shall rise to thee;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

3 Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide thee,
though the eye made blind by sin thy glory may not see,
only thou art holy; there is none beside thee,
perfect in power, in love, and purity.

4 Holy, holy, holy! Lord God almighty!
All thy works shall praise thy name
in earth and sky and sea;
holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty,
God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

Opening Prayer

Three-in-one God, we try to imagine you. When we say we understand you, we are just fooling ourselves.

Help us to truly worship you because we feel called and trust in your love. Amen.

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 territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit and Scugog, all part of the Williams Treaty. 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

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above

VU 216

1 Sing praise to God, who reigns above,
the God of all creation,
the God of power, the God of love,
the God of our salvation;
with healing balm my soul is filled,
and every faithless murmur stilled:
to God all praise and glory!

3 Our God is never far away,
but through all grief distressing,
an ever-present help and stay,
our peace, and joy, and blessing;
as with a mother's tender hand,
God gently leads the chosen band:
to God all praise and glory!

4 Thus all my gladsome way along,
I sing aloud thy praises
that all may hear the grateful song
my voice unwearied raises.
Be joyful in your God, my heart!
Both soul and body take your part:
to God all praise and glory!

Life and Work of the Church

Scripture Psalm 8 A psalm of David.

¹LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory
in the heavens.

²**Through the praise of children and infants
you have established a stronghold against your enemies,**

to silence the foe and the avenger.

³When I consider your heavens,
the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,

⁴**what is mankind that you are mindful of them,
human beings that you care for them?**^[c]

⁵You have made them^[d] a little lower than the angels^[e]
and crowned them^[f] with glory and honor.

⁶**You made them rulers over the works of your hands;
you put everything under their^[g] feet:**

⁷all flocks and herds,
and the animals of the wild,

⁸**the birds in the sky,
and the fish in the sea, all that swim the paths of the seas.**

⁹LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Gospel Matthew 28:16-20

The Great Commission

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The Word of God for the People of God
Thanks be to God!

Hymn

God, You Give the Great Commission

VU 512

1 God, you give the great commission:
'Heal the sick and preach the word.'
Lest the church neglect its mission,
and the gospel go unheard,
help us witness to your purpose
with renewed integrity;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.

2 God, you call us to your service:
'In my name, baptize and teach.'
That the world may trust your promise,
life abundant meant for each,
give us all new fervour, draw us

closer in community;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.

3 God, you make the common holy:
'This my body, this my blood.'
Let us all, for earth's true glory,
daily lift life heavenward,
asking that the world around us
share your children's liberty;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.

5 God, you bless with words assuring:
'I am with you to the end.'
Faith and hope and love restoring,
may we serve as you intend,
and, amid the cares that claim us,
hold in mind eternity;
with the Spirit's gifts empow'r us
for the work of ministry.

Sermon Love Lifted Me

Hymn God of the Bible MV 28

1 God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
your are our centre, daylight or darkness,
freedom or prison, you are our home.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change,
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.

2 God in our struggles, God in our hunger,
suffering with us, taking our part,
still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit,
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change,
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.

4 Not by your finger, not by your anger
will our world order change in a day,
but by your people, fearless and faithful,
small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change,
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.

5 Hope we must carry, shining and certain
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
bonding us gladly one to the other,
'til our world changes facing the Cross.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change,
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.

Offering

We gather in the name of the one who moves around and within us.

The one who breathes life into each of us and into our community. In gratitude we present our offerings. Amen.

Prayers of the People

God of all creation, we lift our hearts to you. We thank you for your bountiful gifts to us – our lives, our world.

We thank you for calling us to be your people – calling us to love and serve you. Jesus, we lift our hearts to you. We thank you for your sacrifices made on our behalf. We thank you for staying with us through the Holy Spirit. Thanks for your guidance, your compassion, your comfort...

We now take a moment to remember those we keep in our prayers.

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom 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 kingdom and the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever, Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

Go To The World

VU 420

1 Go to the world! Go into all the earth.
Go preach the cross where Christ renews life's worth,
baptising as the sign of our rebirth.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

2 Go to the world! Go into every place.
Go live the Word of God's redeeming grace.
Go seek God's presence in each time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

3 Go to the world! Go struggle, bless and pray;
the nights of tears give way to joyous day.
As servant Church, you follow Christ's own way.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

4 Go to the world! Go as the ones I send,
for I am with you 'til the age shall end,
when all the hosts of glory cry 'Amen!'
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Benediction & Commissioning

Let us go forth with God's blessing ...

May the three-in-one strike a single, harmonious cord in our souls. Amen.

Postlude

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Birchcliff Bluffs United Church
Trinity Sunday
Sunday, June 4, 2023
Additional Lectionary

Genesis 1:1-2:4 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition
Six Days of Creation and the Sabbath

¹ When God began to create^[a] the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God^[b] swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, “Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters.” ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, “Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear.” And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said, “Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

¹⁴ And God said, “Let there be lights in the dome of the sky to separate the day from the night, and let them be for signs and for seasons and for days and years, ¹⁵ and let them be lights in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth.” And it was so. ¹⁶ God made the two great lights—the greater light to rule the day and the lesser light to rule the night—and the stars. ¹⁷ God set them in the dome of the sky to give light upon the earth, ¹⁸ to rule over the day and over the night, and to separate the light from the darkness. And God saw that it was good. ¹⁹ And there was evening and there was morning, the fourth day.

²⁰ And God said, “Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the dome of the sky.” ²¹ So God created the great sea monsters and every living creature that moves, of every kind, with which the waters swarm and every winged bird of every kind. And God saw that it was good. ²² God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth.” ²³ And there was evening and there was morning, the fifth day.

²⁴ And God said, “Let the earth bring forth living creatures of every kind: cattle and creeping things and wild animals of the earth of every kind.” And it was so. ²⁵ God made the wild animals of the earth of every kind and the cattle of every kind and everything that creeps upon the ground of every kind. And God saw that it was good.

²⁶ Then God said, “Let us make humans^[c] in our image, according to our likeness, and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over the cattle and over all the wild animals of the earth^[d] and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.”

²⁷ So God created humans^[e] in his image,
in the image of God he created them;^[f]
male and female he created them.

²⁸ God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.” ²⁹ God said, “See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is upon the face of all the earth and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food. ³⁰ And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. ³¹ God saw everything that he had made, and indeed, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

² Thus the heavens and the earth were finished and all their multitude. ² On the sixth^[g] day God finished the work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done. ³ So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all the work that he had done in creation.

⁴ These are the generations of the heavens and the earth when they were created.

Another Account of the Creation

In the day that the LORD^[h] God made the earth and the heavens,

2 Corinthians 13:11-13 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition Final Greetings and Benediction

¹¹ Finally, brothers and sisters, farewell.^[a] Be restored; listen to my appeal;^[b] agree with one another; live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you. ¹² Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the saints greet you.

¹³ **The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of^[c] the Holy Spirit be with all of you.**