



**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:** Shirley Scott

**March 3, 2024**

**Lent 3**

**WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE**

**Prelude**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

As we light this candle, we ask for the gift of understanding your Word,

*The candle is lit.*

**May it become in us a trust that overwhelms all our doubts and fears. 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 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**

**My Love Colours Outside the Lines**

**MV 138**

1 My love colours outside the lines,  
exploring paths that few could ever find;  
and takes me into places  
where I’ve never been before,  
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

2 My God colours outside the lines,  
turns wounds to blessings, water into wine;  
and takes me into places  
where I’ve never been before  
and opens doors to worlds outside the lines.

We'll never walk on water  
if we're not prepared to drown,  
body and soul need a soaking  
from time to time.  
And we'll never move the grave-stones  
if we're not prepared to die,  
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

3 My soul longs to colour outside the lines  
tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine,  
I want to walk beyond the boundaries  
where I've never been before  
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

We'll never walk on water  
if we're not prepared to drown,  
body and soul need a soaking  
from time to time.  
And we'll never move the grave-stones  
if we're not prepared to die,  
and realize there are worlds outside the lines.

4 My soul longs to colour outside the lines  
tear back the curtains, sun, come in and shine,  
I want to walk beyond the boundaries  
where I've never been before  
throw open doors to worlds outside the lines.

### **Call to Worship**

Let us go up into the mountains to meet with our God.

**Let us worship and praise God's name. Thanks be to God.**

### **Life and Work**

“eh, Jesus ... yes, Peter ...”

### **Opening Prayer**

Creator God, whose love is higher than the heavens, whose love extends from the mountains and seas to every living thing,

**Take us under your wing where we find refuge. Give us hope and possibility for the journey and transform our lives with your compassion. May your love flow in us and through us, for now and all eternity. Amen.**

## RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture    Psalm 19    God's Glory in Creation and the Law

<sup>1</sup> The heavens are telling the glory of God,  
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

**<sup>2</sup> Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.**

<sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;

**<sup>4</sup> yet their voice goes out through all the earth  
and their words to the end of the world.  
In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,**

<sup>5</sup> which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,  
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

**<sup>6</sup> Its rising is from the end of the heavens  
and its circuit to the end of them,  
and nothing is hid from its heat.**

<sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect,  
reviving the soul; the decrees of the LORD are sure,  
making wise the simple;

**<sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear,  
enlightening the eyes;**

<sup>9</sup> the fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the LORD are true  
and righteous altogether.

**<sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey  
and drippings of the honeycomb.**

<sup>11</sup> Moreover, by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.

**<sup>12</sup> But who can detect one's own errors?  
Clear me from hidden faults.**

<sup>13</sup> Keep back your servant also from the insolent;<sup>[d]</sup>  
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless  
and innocent of great transgression.

**<sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

## **John 2:13-22** Jesus Cleanses the Temple

<sup>13</sup> The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup> In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup> Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, with the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup> He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup> His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup> The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup> Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup> The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup> But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup> After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

**Jesus Christ Is Waiting (1, 2, 3, 5)**

**VU 117**

1 Jesus Christ is waiting, waiting in the streets;  
no one is his neighbour, all alone he eats.  
Listen, my Jesus, I am lonely too.  
Make me, friend or stranger, fit to wait on you.

2 Jesus Christ is raging, raging in the streets,  
where injustice spirals and real hope retreats.  
Listen, my Jesus, I am angry too.  
In the Kingdom's causes let me rage with you.

3 Jesus Christ is healing, healing in the streets;  
curing those who suffer, touching those he greets.  
Listen, my Jesus, I have pity too.  
Let my care be active, healing just like you.

5 Jesus Christ is calling, calling in the streets,  
"Who will join my journey? I will guide their feet."  
Listen, my Jesus, let my fears be few.  
Walk one step before me; I will follow you.

**Sermon      Getting Your Attention**

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn    Peace In The Valley**

I am tired and weary but I must toil on  
Till the Lord comes to call me away  
Where the morning is bright and the Lamb is the light  
And the night is as fair as the day

There'll be peace in the valley for me some day  
There'll be peace in the valley for me, I pray  
No more sorrows and sadness or trouble will be  
There'll be peace in the valley for me

There the flow'rs will be blooming, the grass will be green  
And the skies will be clear and se-rene  
The sun ever shines, giving one endless beam  
And the clouds there will ever be seen

There'll be peace in the valley for me some day  
There'll be peace in the valley for me, I pray  
No more sorrows and sadness or trouble will be  
There'll be peace in the valley for me

There the bear will be gentle, the wolf will be tame  
And the lion will lay down by the lamb  
The host from the wild will be led by a Child  
I'll be changed from the creature I am

There'll be peace in the valley for me some day  
There'll be peace in the valley for me, I pray  
No more sorrows and sadness or trouble will be  
There'll be peace in the valley for me  
There'll be peace in the valley for me

**Offering**

Gracious God, may what we have offered – of ourselves, of our resources, of our time – become a rainbow of blessing of light in an aching world.

**Among those of us gathered here today, for our local community, for our world,  
bless the power of your abundant grace. Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People**

We come now, loving God, ready to be transformed and transfigured.

**We are ready to experience how your love can change us. We are open to the power of your love to infuse us with its fullness, fill us with potential. Draw us deeper into your love and bring us to wholeness and new life...**

*Moment of silence*

**Gracious God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive 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 kingdom and the power, and the glory,  
For ever and ever, Amen.**

## **BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

**Closing Hymn**

**Take Up The Song**

**MV 213**

Take up the song of peace  
and go into the world,  
Take up the song of peace  
in ev'ry moment.  
In ev'ry moment of the journey,  
we're laying down our lives,  
lay them down, in peace,  
lay them down, and take up the song.

Take up the song of hope  
and go into the world,  
Take up the song of hope  
in ev'ry moment.  
In ev'ry moment of the journey,  
we're laying down our lives,  
lay them down, in hope,  
lay them down, and take up the song.

Take up the song of faith  
and go into the world,  
Take up the song of faith  
in ev'ry moment.  
In ev'ry moment of the journey,

we're laying down our lives,  
lay them down, in faith,  
lay them down, and take up the song.

Take up the song of love  
and go into the world,  
Take up the song of love  
in ev'ry moment.  
In ev'ry moment of the journey,  
we're laying down our lives,  
lay them down, in love,  
lay them down, and take up the song.

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

Go from here renewed , restored and revitalized in your faith.

**Let us meet the days ahead with transformed vigour and determination and the love  
of God planted deep in our hearts where it continues to grow.**

Go with God's grace and make a difference, confident knowing you are not alone.

**Amen.**

### **Choral Benediction**

### **May the God of Hope Go with Us**

**VU424**

May the God of hope go with us every day  
Filling all our lives with hope and joy and peace.  
May the God of justice speed us on our way  
Bringing light and hope to every land and race.

Praying, let us work for peace,  
Singing, share our joy with all,  
Working, for a world that's new,  
Faithful, when we hear Christ's call.

### **Postlude**

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