



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Rev. Gregory Daly: Minister of Word & Sacrament

Rev. Carmen Llanos: Minister of Community Development

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

Reader: Betty McCulloch

April 18, 2021 – Easter 3



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Dove of Peace

American Folk Melody

Call to Worship

Let the mystery of God draw us in.

beautiful, eternal, just.

Let the wisdom of God surprise us.

life-giving, problem-solving, creative.

Let the love of God shine through our work.

nurturing, healing, strong.

In the mystery, the wisdom, and the love of God,

we come together in worship.

Response

Just As I Am

Words: Charlotte Elliott

Music: William Batchelder Bradbury

VU508

*Just as I am, without one plea,
but that your blood was shed for me,
and that you bid me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, your love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be yours, yes, yours alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

Life & Work of the Church



Welcome to online worship

Whoever you are, however you identify, wherever you come from, you are welcome here at Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Land Acknowledgement

As we prepare for worship, we take a moment to acknowledge the sacred land 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 the Mississauga's of the Credit and Scugog.



What we now know as Scarborough is part of the Williams Treaty lands. Today, the meeting place around Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We are grateful for the opportunity to live and work on this territory. It is now our time to share in the care and maintenance of the land. Part of that discussion is the work of reconciliation and we seek to be mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

Candle Lighting

Opening Hymn

Come To My Heart, O Jesus

Words & Music: © 1981 Joe Pinson

VU 661

*Come to my heart, O Jesus;
teach me to walk in your way.
Come to my heart, O Jesus;
come to my heart today.*

*Give me the peace and joy
that only you can bring.
Come to my heart, O Jesus;
give me a song to sing.*

*Fill me with love, O Jesus;
teach me to walk in your way.
Fill me with love, O Jesus;
fill me with love today.*

*Give me the peace and joy
that only you can bring.
Fill me with love, O Jesus;
give me a song to sing.*

*Answer my prayer, O Jesus;
teach me to walk in your way.
Answer my prayer, O Jesus;
Answer my prayer today.*

*Give me the peace and joy
that only you can bring.
Answer my prayer, O Jesus;
give me a song to sing.*

Prayer for Grace



*It is a mystery, God. It is a wonder. It is a hope. It is a miracle.
Not how you raised Christ from death, but how you call each of us to life.
It is a miracle, a hope, a wonder, and a mystery. We thank you God.
As we live out this call, may the world see your presence in the life we live, in
the words we speak, in the love we share. Amen*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Lament (Based on Psalm 4)



Hymn

Come Children, Join To Sing

VU 345

Words: Christian Henry Bateman
Music: Anonymous

*Come, children, join to sing: Hallelujah!
Praise to our Servant King: Hallelujah!
Let all with heart and voice,
saved by God's gracious choice,
now in this place rejoice: Hallelujah!*

*Come, lift your hearts on high: Hallelujah!
Let praises fill the sky: Hallelujah!
Christ calls his people friends,
the helpless he defends,
a love that never ends: Hallelujah!*

*Praise yet our Christ again: Hallelujah!
Raise high the joyous strain: Hallelujah!
The whole creation o'er
let all God's love adore,
singing forever more: Hallelujah!*

Prayer of Illumination

*Help us O God, to come to you with open lives to receive your words.
May we give them new life as we listen to what you have to say.
Open our hearts as we embark on this journey with each other and with
you. Amen*



1 John 3:1-8 The Message (MSG)

3 What marvelous love God has extended to us! Just look at it—we're called children of God! That's who we really are. But that's also why the world doesn't recognize us or take us seriously, because it has no idea who God is or what God is up to.

2-3 But friends, that's exactly who we are: children of God. And that's only the beginning. Who knows how we'll end up! What we know is that when Christ is openly revealed, we'll see him—and in seeing Christ, become like him. All of us who look forward to his Coming stay ready, with the glistening purity of Jesus' life as a model for our own.

4-6 All who indulge in a sinful life are dangerously lawless, for sin is a major disruption of God's order. Surely you know that Christ showed up in order to get rid of sin. There is no sin in him, and sin is not part of his program. No one who lives deeply in Christ makes a practice of sin. None of those who do practice sin have taken a good look at Christ. They've got him all backward.

7-8 So, my dear children, don't let anyone divert you from the truth. It's the person who *acts* right who *is* right, just as we see it lived out in our righteous Messiah. Those who make a practice of sin are straight from the Devil, the pioneer in the practice of sin. The Son of God entered the scene to abolish the Devil's ways.

Acts 3:12-23 The Message (MSG)

12-16 When Peter saw he had a congregation, he addressed the people:

“Oh, Israelites, why does this take you by such complete surprise, and why stare at us as if *our* power or piety made him walk? The God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob, the God of our ancestors, has glorified Jesus. The very One that Pilate called innocent, you repudiated. You repudiated the Holy One, the Just One, and asked for a murderer in his place. You no sooner killed the Author of Life than God raised him from the dead—and we're the witnesses. Faith in Jesus' name put this man, whose condition you know so well, on his feet—yes, faith and nothing but faith put this man healed and whole right before your eyes.

17-18 “And now, friends, I know you had no idea what you were doing when you killed Jesus, and neither did your leaders. But God, who through the preaching of all the prophets had said all along that his Messiah would be killed, knew exactly what you were doing and used it to fulfill his plans.

19-23 “Now it’s time to change your ways! Turn to face God so that God can wipe away your sins, pour out showers of blessing to refresh you, and send you the Messiah prepared for you, namely, Jesus. For the time being Jesus must remain out of sight in heaven until everything is restored to order again just the way God, through the preaching of the holy prophets of old, said it would be. Moses, for instance, said, ‘Your God will raise up for you a prophet just like me from your family. Listen to every word he speaks to you. Every last living soul who refuses to listen to that prophet will be wiped out from the people.’”

The words of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God

Sermon

Get with the Program



Hymn

Oh, Have You Not Heard

Words: Richard Torrey Jr.

Music: Asa Hull

*Oh, have you not heard of that beautiful stream
that flows through our Saviour’s land?
Its waters gleam bright in the heavenly light,
and ripple o’er golden sand.*

*O seek that beautiful stream,
O seek that beautiful stream.
Its waters, so free, are flowing for me,
O seek that beautiful stream.*

*This beautiful stream is the river of life!
It flows for all nations free!
A balm for each wound in its water is found;
O sister and brother, for thee!*

*O seek that beautiful stream,
O seek that beautiful stream.
Its waters, so free, are flowing for me,
O seek that beautiful stream.*

*Oh, will you not drink of this beautiful stream,
and dwell on its peaceful shore?
The Spirit says: Come, all you weary ones home,
and wander in sin no more.*

*O seek that beautiful stream,
O seek that beautiful stream.
Its waters, so free, are flowing for me,
O seek that beautiful stream.
Its waters, so free, are flowing for me,
O seek that beautiful stream.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering



Prayers of the People



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, the power, and the glory for ever and ever.

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

Touch the Earth Lightly

VU 307

Words: Shirley Erena Murray

Music: Colin Gibson

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*Touch the earth lightly, use the earth gently,
nourish the life of the world in our care:
gift of great wonder, ours to surrender,
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.*

*We who endanger, who create hunger,
agents of death for all creatures that live,
we who would foster clouds of disaster,
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!*

*Let there be greening, birth from the burning,
water that blesses and air that is sweet,
health in God's garden, hope in God's children,
regeneration that peace will complete.*

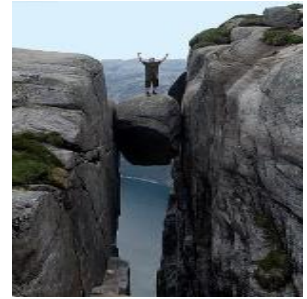
*God of all living, God of all loving,
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,
teach us, deflect us, Christ reconnect us,
using us gently and making us one.*

Benediction & Commissioning

Postlude

For The Beauty of the Earth

Music: David Evans



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Other Resources for Today

And Now For Something Completely Different

Psalm 4 Lament ~ written by Ruth Jarman and posted on the [Christian Ecology Link](#) website.

[Prayer – Psalm 4 – updated for consumerism and climate change – Green Christian](#)

Lectionary Readings

Psalm 4 New Revised Standard Version

To the leader: with stringed instruments. A Psalm of David.

- ¹ Answer me when I call, O God of my right!
You gave me room when I was in distress.
Be gracious to me, and hear my prayer.
- ² How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?
How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? *Selah*
- ³ But know that the faithful have been set apart for Godself;
God hears when I call.
- ⁴ When you are disturbed, do not sin;
ponder it on your beds, and be silent. *Selah*
- ⁵ Offer right sacrifices,
and put your trust in God.
- ⁶ There are many who say, “O that we might see some good!
Let the light of your face shine on us, O God!”
- ⁷ You have put gladness in my heart
more than when their grain and wine abound.
- ⁸ I will both lie down and sleep in peace;
for you alone, O God, make me lie down in safety.

Luke 24: 36b-48 New Revised Standard Version

³⁶ Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ³⁷ They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have.” ⁴⁰ And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. ⁴¹ While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, “Have you anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence. ⁴⁴ Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.” ⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, ⁴⁶ and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.