



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: Iain Hamilton

April 14, 2024

Third Sunday of Easter

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

As we light this candle, may God answer when we call.

The candle is lit.

Let us open our hearts and ears to hear God’s voice. 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

Come and Find the Quiet Centre

VU 374

1 Come and find the quiet centre
in the crowded life we lead,
find the room for hope to enter,
find the frame where we are freed:
clear the chaos and the clutter,
clear our eyes, that we can see
all the things that really matter,
be at peace, and simply be.

2 Silence is a friend who claims us,
cools the heat and slows the pace,

God it is who speaks and names us,
knows our being, face to face,
making space within our thinking,
lifting shades to show the sun,
raising courage when we're shrinking,
finding scope for faith begun.

3 In the Spirit let us travel,
open to each other's pain,
let our loves and fears unravel,
celebrate the space we gain:
there's a place for deepest dreaming,
there's a time for heart to care,
in the Spirit's lively scheming
there is always room to spare!

Call to Worship

Notice what love God has given us, calling us the children of the light.

That is what we are: children of God!

Thanks be to God for claiming us a part of the chosen people.

Life and Work

Opening Prayer

God of grace and of glory, we are ready for your good news.

Let it abide deep within our souls. May we receive the scripture and reflection with openness of spirit, a keenness of mind, and a willingness to engage with your timeless story. Amen.

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Psalm 4

Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God.

Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer.

²How long will you people turn my glory into shame?

How long will you love delusions and seek false gods?

**³Know that the LORD has set apart his faithful servant for himself;
the LORD hears when I call to him.**

**⁴Tremble and do not sin; when you are on your beds,
search your hearts and be silent. Offer the sacrifices of the righteous
and trust in the LORD.**

⁶ Many, LORD, are asking, “Who will bring us prosperity?”

Let the light of your face shine on us.

⁷ **Fill my heart with joy when their grain and new wine abound.**

⁸ In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD,
make me dwell in safety.

Luke 24:36b-48 Jesus Appears to the Disciples

³⁶ While they were still talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.”

³⁷ They were startled and frightened, thinking they saw a ghost. ³⁸ He said to them, “Why are you troubled, and why do doubts rise in your minds? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet. It is I myself! Touch me and see; a ghost does not have flesh and bones, as you see I have.”

⁴⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ And while they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement, he asked them, “Do you have anything here to eat?” ⁴² They gave him a piece of broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate it in their presence.

⁴⁴ He said to them, “This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms.”

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, “This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Christ Has No Body Now But Yours

MV 171

Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.

1 No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,
no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,
no touch but yours to bind the broken hope
of the people of God.

Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.

Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.

2 No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,
to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;
no eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy
of the city of God.

Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.

3 No feet but yours to journey with the poor,
to walk this world with mercy and justice.
Yours are the steps to build a lasting peace
for the children of God.

Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.

4 Through ev'ry gift, give back to those in need;
as Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,
with ev'ry gift a benediction, be
to the people of God.

Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.

Sermon **A New Start to Life**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn **Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen! (v. 1, 2, 3, 5)**

1 Alleluia! Jesus is risen!
Trumpets resounding in glorious light!
Splendour, the Lamb, heaven forever!
Oh, what a miracle God has in sight!

Jesus is risen and we shall arise
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

2 Walking the way, Christ in the centre
Telling the story to open our eyes
Breaking our bread, giving us glory
Jesus our blessing, our constant surprise.

Jesus is risen and we shall arise
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

3 Jesus the vine, we are the branches
Life in the Spirit the fruit of the tree
Heaven to earth, Christ to the people
Gift of the future now flowing to me,

Jesus is risen and we shall arise
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

5 City of God, Easter forever
Golden Jerusalem, Jesus the Lamb
River of life, saints and archangels
Sing with creation to God the I AM!

Jesus is risen and we shall arise
Give God the glory! Alleluia!

Offering

God, our strength and salvation, receive all we offer to you today.

May we who have professed Christ's resurrection and reaffirm the faith of our baptism, continue to live in the joy of risen life. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Holy One, you call us from the rest of the night into the light of this new day.

You invite us to live in the light of your love for your sake and for the good of all our relations. Take away any impediments that keep us from loving you with heart and soul and mind and strength. Lead us in paths of life-giving love and we shall follow ...

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

You Shall Go Out With Joy

VU 884

You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace,
the mountains and the hills
will break forth before you,
there'll be shouts of joy
and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands
while you go out with joy.

You shall go out with joy
and be led forth with peace,
the mountains and the hills
will break forth before you,
there'll be shouts of joy
and all the trees of the field
will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands,
the trees of the field will clap their hands
while you go out with joy.

Commissioning and Benediction

May you feel our loving Creator rush towards you in answered prayer.

And may you know by the Spirit that new life has begun. Amen.

Choral Benediction

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

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