



## **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

**Readers:** Tricia Reid & Kayin Paul

**April 25, 2021 – Easter 4**



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### **Prelude**

### **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.



### **Call to Worship**

Creator God, Great Spirit, we pray our thanks for the opportunity to gather in this sacred space.

Here we are most aware of the gift of wind:

*and the four directions from which it comes.*

Here we are most aware of the gift of sun:

*and the four directions on which it shines.*

Here we are most aware of the gift of humanity:

*and the four directions in which we exist.*

Here we are most aware of the gift of Creation:

*and the four directions which support our living, breathing, and being.*

This day we acknowledge and give thanks for Indigenous people in Canada, people of many experiences, nations, and understandings, people of the woodlands in the east, of the plains in the centre, of the islands and the coasts in east and west, the Inuit of the ice and tundra in the north, the Métis of the rivers and fields.

*We commit ourselves as settlers to be people of reconciliation in the tradition of Jesus as we worship together in this space.*

## Response

### God Is Here

VU 389

Words: Fred Pratt Green © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.  
Music: William P. Rowlands

*God is here! As we your people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.*

*God of all, of church and kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt  
keep us faithful to the gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe!*

## Life & Work of the Church

*Welcome to online worship*



## Candle Lighting

## Opening Hymn

### For The Healing of the Nations

VU 678

Words: William Watkins Reid © 1968 Hope Publishing Co.  
Music: Henry Purcell

*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

## **Prayer for Grace**

*Holy One, Creator of all, seen and unseen, of story and of song, of heartbeat and of tears. You are the God of bodies, souls, voices and all relations; God of all truth and the way of all reconciliation.*

*Uphold with your love and compassion all who open their lives in the sacred sharing of their stories. Breathe in us the grace to trust in your loving forgiveness, that we may face our histories with courage.*

*Touch us through the holy gift of story that those who speak and those who listen may behold your own redeeming presence; guide us with holy wisdom to enter through the gates of remorse that our feet may walk gently and firmly on the way of justice and healing.*

*Amen*

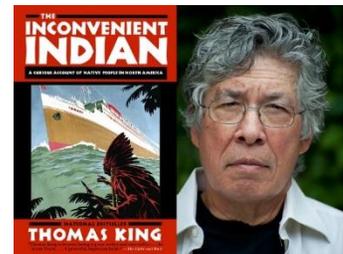
WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

## **And Now for Something Completely Different**

### **The Inconvenient Indian**

*By Thomas King*

*“History is the stories we tell ourselves about the past and those stories shape how we understand and interact with each other.”*



*We confess that we do not always see or hear with our hearts. We confess that we do not always act with your justice.*

*We apologize for the actions of our country and our churches in running Indian Residential Schools. We seek your forgiveness for what has been done.*

*We seek acceptance of our commitment to justice and our desire to walk towards reconciliation. We ask for your grace to heal all of us. Amen.*

## **Hymn**

### **Creator God, You Made This Land**

Words: Keith Pearson

© The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress

Music: Dmitri Stepanovitch Bortnianski

*Creator God, you made this land  
and gave to us the gift of life.  
You wish that we should live as one,  
but we acknowledge sin and strife.  
Let justice everywhere be found,  
Let discord end and love abound.*

*Your covenants of old stand firm,  
your ways are faithful, right and just.  
Bind us together in your love  
to live and work in growing trust.  
Strengthen those ties which keep us true  
to serve each other, serving you.*

*Great Spirit in this ancient land,  
speak in the stillness deep within.  
Remove all prejudice and fear,  
give life to all, new hope begin.  
Then help us gently walk as friends,  
while on this land your peace descends.*

## **Prayer of Illumination**

*Teach us how to dance to the rhythm of your wisdom;  
show us how to laugh with the insights of your truth,  
so that we can live our lives with curiosity and generosity, for each other and for you. Amen.*

## **Luke 10:25-37**

**New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>25</sup> Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>26</sup> He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" <sup>27</sup> He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

<sup>29</sup> But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, “And who is my neighbour?” <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, “A person was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped them, beat them, and went away, leaving them half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw the person, he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw the person, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while traveling came near the person; and when he saw them, he was moved with pity. <sup>34</sup> He went to the person and bandaged their wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put the person on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of them. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two coins, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, ‘Take care of this person; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.’ <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the person who fell into the hands of the robbers?” <sup>37</sup> He said, “The one who showed him mercy.” Jesus said to the lawyer, “Go and do likewise.”

### **Romans 8:12-15**

The Message (MSG)

So don't you see that we don't owe this old do-it-yourself life one red cent. There's nothing in it for us, nothing at all. The best thing to do is give it a decent burial and get on with your new life. God's Spirit beckons. There are things to do and places to go! This resurrection life you received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike “What's next, Papa?” God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we really are. We know who God is, and we know who we are: God's children.

The words of God for the people of God.

*Thanks be to God*

### **Sermon**

### **Reflection on Reconciliation**



## Hymn

## As a Fire Is Meant for Burning

VU 578

Words: Ruth Duck  
Music: Marty Haugen  
© 1987 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

*As a fire is meant for burning  
with a bright and warming flame,  
so the church is meant for mission,  
giving glory to God's name.  
Not to preach our creeds or customs,  
but to build a bridge of care,  
we join hands across the nations,  
finding neighbours everywhere.*

*We are learners; we are teachers;  
we are pilgrims on the way.  
We are seekers; we are givers;  
we are vessels made of clay.  
By our gentle, loving actions,  
we would show that Christ is light.  
In a humble, listening Spirit,  
we would live to God's delight.*

*As a green bud in the springtime  
is a sign of life renewed,  
so may we be signs of oneness  
mid earth's peoples, many-hued.  
As a rainbow lights the heavens  
when a storm is past and gone,  
may our lives reflect the radiance  
of God's new and glorious dawn.*

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

### Go Forth for God

VU 418

Words: J.R. Peacey © 1984 Hope Publishing Company  
Music: Genevan Psalter

Go forth for God, go to the world in peace;  
be of good courage, armed with heavenly grace,  
in God's good Spirit daily to increase,  
till in the kingdom we see face to face.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in peace.

Go forth for God, go to the world in love;  
strengthen the faint, give courage to the weak;  
help the afflicted; richly from above  
God's love supplies the grace and power we seek.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in love.

Go forth for God, go to the world in strength;  
hold fast the good, be urgent for the right;  
render to no one evil; Christ at length  
shall overcome all darkness with his light.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in strength.

Go forth for God, go to the world in joy,  
to serve God's people every day and hour,  
and serving Christ, our every gift employ,  
rejoicing in the Holy Spirit's power.  
Go forth for God, go to the world in joy.

### Benediction & Commissioning



### Postlude

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## Other Resources for Today

Truth and Reconciliation Commission: [Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada \(TRC\)](#)

Calls to Action: [Calls to Action English2.pdf \(trc.ca\)](#)

Calls to Action that speak to faith communities: # 29, 46, 48, 49, 58, 59, 60, 61, 73, 74, 75, 76, 81, 82.

Notable is Call 46:

*We call upon the parties to the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement to develop and sign a **Covenant of Reconciliation** that would identify principles for working collaboratively to advance reconciliation in Canadian society, and that would include, but not be limited to:*

- i. Reaffirmation of the parties' commitment to reconciliation.*
- ii. Repudiation of concepts used to justify European sovereignty over Indigenous lands and peoples, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius, and the reformation of laws, governance structures, and policies within their respective institutions that continue to rely on such concepts.*
- iii. Full adoption and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as the framework for reconciliation.*
- iv. Support for the renewal or establishment of Treaty relationships based on principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for maintaining those relationships into the future.*
- v. Enabling those excluded from the Settlement Agreement to sign onto the Covenant of Reconciliation.*
- vi. Enabling additional parties to sign onto the Covenant of Reconciliation.*

United Church of Canada Reconciliation Resources:

[Reconciliation and Indigenous Justice | The United Church of Canada \(united-church.ca\)](#)

Recent actions of the National Indigenous Council of the United Church of Canada

[More Consultation Needed in Bill C-15 Implementation | The United Church of Canada \(united-church.ca\)](#)

In the news:

[Nova Scotia Lobster Dispute Shows Racism Rooted In Canadian Fishing Industry | HuffPost Canada Politics \(huffingtonpost.ca\)](#)

[Livelihood or profit? Why an old fight over Indigenous fishing rights is heating up again in Nova Scotia | CBC News](#)

[Lobster catch destroyed, vehicle burned as tension rises over Indigenous fishery in N.S. | CTV News](#)

Reflection Image

***The Good Samaritan (Persons in Cuba)*** 1917 by Julius Mordecai Pincas (known as **Pascin**). Bulgarian Artist (1885-1930) found in the Hokkaidō Prefectural Museum of Modern Art. Pascin was educated in Vienna and Munich, and is best known as a Parisian painter of the Montparnasse tradition.

## Lectionary Readings

### Psalm 4

New Revised Standard Version

- <sup>1</sup> 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.
- <sup>2</sup> How long, you people, shall my honor suffer shame?  
How long will you love vain words, and seek after lies? *Selah*
- <sup>3</sup> But know that the faithful have been set apart for Godself;  
God hears when I call.
- <sup>4</sup> When you are disturbed, do not sin;  
ponder it on your beds, and be silent. *Selah*
- <sup>5</sup> Offer right sacrifices,  
and put your trust in God.
- <sup>6</sup> There are many who say, "O that we might see some good!  
Let the light of your face shine on us, O God!"
- <sup>7</sup> You have put gladness in my heart  
more than when their grain and wine abound.
- <sup>8</sup> 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

<sup>36</sup> Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>37</sup> They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. <sup>38</sup> He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? <sup>39</sup> 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." <sup>40</sup> And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. <sup>41</sup> While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" <sup>42</sup> They gave him a piece of broiled fish, <sup>43</sup> and he took it and ate in their presence. <sup>44</sup> 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." <sup>45</sup> Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, <sup>46</sup> 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, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup> You are witnesses of these things.