



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Minister of Word & Sacrament: Rev. Dr. Ellen Redcliffe

Minister of Community Development: Rev. Carmen Llanos

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

Reader: Tricia Reid

Guest Student Minister: Nancy Umphrey

November 13th, 2022

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Call to Worship

Come, let us praise our wondrous God!

The God who gives us hope when all seems hopeless.

The God who brings us peace when our souls are restless.

The God who brings us joy when all seems lost.

The God who brings us love when we feel most alone.

Come, let us worship our wondrous God!

Introit

Like a Healing Stream

MV 144

1 Like a healing stream in a barren desert,
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,
God is trickling through our lives as in a dream unfolding,
promising revival and rebirth
like a healing stream

2 Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,
God is bubbling through the soil to coax a new creation
yearning for an end to want and need
like a gentle rain.

4 Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,
God is working in our hearts to shape a new tomorrow:
God will always challenge and provide!
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

Land Acknowledgement

We now take a moment to acknowledge the sacred land beside the water on which we gather. 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 Mississaugas of the Credit and Scugog. The lands where Birchcliff Bluffs United Church sits are part of the Williams Treaty. Today, the meeting place around Toronto is still home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. 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.

Candle Lighting

In this place we welcome each other into a time of worship.

Light candle here

Here we raise our voice in song and action – we bring all that we long for.

Let us worship God!

Opening Prayer

Creator God, we come into your presence today with grateful hearts.

The Fall season continues to unfold and the harvests are gathered in. as the frenzy of activity slows with the shortening daylight, we are aware of your very present nature. As we pause now to worship you on this Sabbath day, remind us again that you are here, and that you are always where your people gather to sing, to pray, and to rest in your name. Amen.

Opening Hymn

I See a New Heaven

VU 713

I see a new heaven.
I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.

1 There, there on the banks of a river bright and free,
yielding her fruit, firm in her root,
the Tree of Life will be.

I see a new heaven.
I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.

3 There, there where the darkness brings visions from above.
There where the night, bearing new light,
reveals the promise of love.

I see a new heaven.
I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.

4 There, there where we work with the love of healing hands.
Labour we must, true to our trust
to build a promised new land.

I see a new heaven.
I see a new earth
as the old one will pass away,
where the fountain of life flows
and without price goes
to all people who abide in the land.

Life and Work of the Church

Scripture Isaiah 65:17-25 New Heavens and a New Earth

¹⁷“See, I will create

new heavens and a new earth.

The former things will not be remembered,
nor will they come to mind.

¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever
in what I will create,

for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight
and its people a joy.

¹⁹ I will rejoice over Jerusalem
and take delight in my people;
the sound of weeping and of crying
will be heard in it no more.

²⁰ “Never again will there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not live out his years;
the one who dies at a hundred
will be thought a mere child;
the one who fails to reach^[a] a hundred
will be considered accursed.

²¹ They will build houses and dwell in them;

they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.
²²No longer will they build houses and others live in them,
 or plant and others eat.
 For as the days of a tree,
 so will be the days of my people;
 my chosen ones will long enjoy
 the work of their hands.
²³They will not labor in vain,
 nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune;
 for they will be a people blessed by the LORD,
 they and their descendants with them.
²⁴Before they call I will answer;
 while they are still speaking I will hear.
²⁵The wolf and the lamb will feed together,
 and the lion will eat straw like the ox,
 and dust will be the serpent's food.
 They will neither harm nor destroy
 on all my holy mountain,"
 says the LORD.

Gospel Luke 21:5-19 Destruction of the Temple and Signs of the End Times

⁵Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, ⁶"As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down."

¹²"But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. ¹³And so you will bear testimony to me. ¹⁴But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. ¹⁵For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. ¹⁶You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷Everyone will hate you because of me. ¹⁸But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹Stand firm, and you will win life.

Hymn

Will Your Anchor Hold

VU 675

1 Will your anchor hold in the storms of life?
 When the clouds unfold their wings of strife,
 when the strong tides lift and the cables strain,
 will your anchor drift or firm remain?

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
 steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
 fastened to the rock which cannot move,
 grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

2 It will surely hold in the straits of fear,
when the breakers tell that the reef is near;
though the tempest rave and the wild winds blow,
not an angry wave shall our bark o'erflow.

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

3 It will surely hold in the floods of death,
when the waters cold chill our latest breath;
on the rising tide it can never fail
while our hopes abide within the veil.

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

4 When our eyes behold, through the gathering night,
the city of gold, our harbour bright,
we shall anchor fast by the heavenly shore,
with the storms all past for evermore.

We have an anchor that keeps the soul
steadfast and sure while the billows roll,
fastened to the rock which cannot move,
grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love!

Sermon: We Have an Anchor

Hymn

My Life Flows On

VU 716

1 My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.
I hear the sweet, though far off hymn
that hails a new creation.
Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear the music ringing:
It finds an echo in my soul -
how can I keep from singing?

2 What though my joys and comforts die?

My Saviour still is living.
What though the shadows gather 'round?
A new song Christ is giving.
No storm can shake my inmost calm,
while to that Rock I'm clinging:
since Love commands both heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;
I see the blue above it;
and day by day this pathway smooths,
since first I learned to love it.
The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing:
all things are mine since I am Christ's -
how can I keep from singing?

Offering

We were born to proclaim the glory of God, in all that we are and all that we do.

**We glorify God now through offering our gifts and ourselves in grateful devotion.
Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Encouraging God, we pray for your help in our lives as we seek to follow your way. We pray for strength to know and use the gifts with which you have blessed us. We pray for patience and grace as we strive to do what is good for one another.

We pray for those who serve and support those who give of themselves to do your work, in churches, charities, and communities. Help us to bring your healing love to those who need it.

In everything we do, help us to encourage each other that we may build up each other and our world to be a more loving place...

We know 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:

For the Healing of the Nations

VU 678

1 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.

2 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.

3 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.

4 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.

Benediction & Commissioning

Worship is drawing to a close and faith-filled living continues.

**We have heard the good news and we are encouraged to follow Christ's path. We
have sung God's praise and we give thanks that we are not alone.**

May the Love of God always sustain you.

May the grace of Christ ever enfold you.

May the wonder of the Holy Spirit grant you delight, this day and forever more.

Amen.

Postlude

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Birchcliff Bluffs United Church
Year C Twenty-Third after Pentecost
Sunday Nov 13, 2022

Malachi 4:1-2 **New Revised Standard Version**

The Great Day of the LORD

⁴ ^[a]See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ² But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

Isaiah 12 **New Revised Standard Version**

Thanksgiving and Praise

¹² You will say on that day:
“I will give thanks to you, O LORD,
for though you were angry with me,
your anger turned away,
and you comforted me.

² Surely God is my salvation;
I will trust and will not be afraid,
for the LORD ^[a] is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.”

³ With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴ And you will say on that day:

“Give thanks to the LORD;
call on his name;
make known his deeds among the nations;
proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵ Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;
let this be known in all the earth.

⁶ Shout aloud and sing for joy, O royal ^[b] Zion,
for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.”

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 New Revised Standard Version

Warning against Idleness

⁶Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they^[a] received from us. ⁷For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹²Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.