



**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

**December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 – Christmas Day**

**Carol**

**Joy To The World**

**VU 59**

1 Joy to the world! the Lord is come:  
let earth receive her King!

Let every heart prepare him room,  
and heaven and nature sing, and heaven and nature sing,  
and heaven, and heaven and nature sing.

2 Joy to the earth! the Saviour reigns:  
let all their songs employ,  
while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains  
repeat the sounding joy, repeat the sounding joy,  
repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

3 No more let sins and sorrows grow,  
nor thorns infest the ground:  
he comes to make his blessings flow  
far as the curse is found, far as the curse is found,  
far as, far as the curse is found.

4 He rules the earth with truth and grace,  
and makes the nations prove  
the glories of his righteousness  
and wonders of his love, and wonders of his love,  
and wonders, wonders of his love.

**Call to Worship**

But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

## Opening Prayer

Holy, Precious God, you show us your steadfast love through the birth story of your child. You bless your precious ones with grace and goodness. We rejoice in a love that embraces all nations.

Just as Mary received our blessing so long ago, we come this Christmas morning to seek your blessing, grace, and salvation, for you are our Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

## Carol

### He Is Born, Little Child Divine

VU 50

He is born, little Child divine;  
play on the reeds while the lutes are strumming.  
He is born, little Child divine;  
join the song to announce the day.

1 Through long ages of the past,  
prophets have foretold his coming;  
through long ages of the past,  
now the time has come at last!

He is born, little Child divine;  
play on the reeds while the lutes are strumming.  
He is born, little Child divine;  
join the song to announce the day.

2 O how lovely, O how pure  
is this perfect child of heaven;  
O how lovely, O how pure,  
gracious gift to humankind!

He is born, little Child divine;  
play on the reeds while the lutes are strumming.  
He is born, little Child divine;  
join the song to announce the day.

### Let's Keep Christmas

It is always a good thing to celebrate Christmas day. The marking of times and seasons, when all agree to stop work and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom.

It reminds us to set our own little watch, now and then, by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day, and that is keeping Christmas.

Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people, and remember what other people have done for you;

to ignore what the world owes you, and think of what you owe the world;  
to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance, and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground; and see the whole human race are just as real as you are, and try to look beyond their faces to their hearts hungry for joy; and recognize that the only good reason for your existence is not what life gives you but what you give to life; to close your book of complaints and look around for a place where you can sow seeds of happiness - are you willing to do these things even for a day?

Then you can keep Christmas.

## Carol

## Hark the Herald Angels Sing

VU 48

- 1 Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King,  
peace on earth, and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled!'  
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,  
join the triumph of the skies;  
with the angelic host proclaim,  
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King!'
- 2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,  
Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
late in time behold him come,  
offspring of a virgin's womb.  
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;  
hail, the incarnate deity,  
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,  
Jesus, our Emmanuel!  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King!'
- 3 Hail, the heaven born Prince of Peace!  
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!  
Light and life to all he brings,  
risen with healing in his wings.  
Mild he lays his glory by,

born that we no more may die,  
born to raise us from the earth,  
born to give us second birth.  
Hark! the herald angels sing,  
'Glory to the newborn King!'

Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children;  
to remember the weak and lonely who grow old;  
to stop asking others if they love you and ask yourself is you love them enough;  
to bear in mind the things that others bear in their hearts;  
to try to understand what those closest to you really want, without waiting for them to tell you;  
to trim your lamp so it gives more light and less smoke, and carry it in front so your shadow falls  
behind you;  
to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings,  
with the gate open-are you willing to do these things even for a day?  
Then you can keep Christmas.

**Carol**

**Go Tell It On The Mountain**

**VU 43**

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.

- 1 While shepherds kept their watching  
o'er silent flocks by night,  
behold, throughout the heavens  
there shone a holy light.

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.

- 2 The shepherds feared and trembled  
when lo, above the earth  
rang out the angel chorus  
that hailed our Saviour's birth!

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.

3 Down in a lonely manger  
the humble Christ was born,  
and God sent our salvation  
that blessed Christmas morn.

Go, tell it on the mountain,  
over the hills and everywhere.  
Go, tell it on the mountain  
that Jesus Christ is born.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world-  
stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death-  
and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem so long ago  
is the image and brightness of eternal love?  
The you can keep Christmas.  
And if you can keep it for a day, why not always?  
But know you can never keep it alone!

**Randy sings:**

What can I give him, poor as I am  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb  
If I were a wise one, I would do my part  
Yet, what I can I give him – give him my heart!

**Merry Christmas everyone!**