



**Birchcliff Bluffs United Church**

**Ministers:** All the People – wherever and however they gather

**Minister of Word & Sacrament:** Katie Vardy

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**May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

**Trinity Sunday**

**WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

As we begin our worship, we light our Christ candle as a sign of God’s presence among us. This light shines in all creation, in every living being, and in the love that binds us together. *Candle is lit.*

**Lighting the Rainbow Candle**

We also light our rainbow candle as a sign of welcome and promise. It serves as a reminder that all are beloved, and that diversity is a gift to be cherished. *Candle is lit.*

**Land Acknowledgement**

As we gather on this Trinity Sunday, we acknowledge that we are worshipping on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee, the Wendat, the Chippewa, and the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation. On this Sunday, when we speak of God as relationship—Creator, Christ, and Spirit—we are reminded that we, too, are called into right relationship: with one another, with the earth, and with the peoples whose stewardship of this land stretches back countless generations.

**Today, we give thanks for the enduring wisdom, resilience, and care of Indigenous communities, and we commit ourselves anew to the ongoing work of truth, justice, reconciliation, and right relations.**

1 Praise with joy the world's Creator,  
God of justice, love, and peace,  
source and end of human knowledge,  
God whose grace shall never cease.

Celebrate the Maker's glory,  
power to rescue and release.

2 Praise to Christ who feeds the hungry,  
frees the captive, finds the lost,  
heals the sick, upsets religion,  
fearless both of fate and cost.  
Celebrate Christ's constant presence:  
friend and stranger, guest and host.

3 Praise the Spirit sent among us,  
liberating truth from pride,  
forging bonds where race or gender,  
age or nation dare divide.  
Celebrate the Spirit's treasure:  
foolishness none dare deride.

4 Praise the Maker, Christ, and Spirit,  
one God in community,  
calling Christians to embody  
oneness and diversity.  
This the world shall see reflected:  
God is One and One in Three.

### Call to Worship

Come, let us gather in the presence of the Holy One, Creator, Christ, and Spirit.

**We come to worship the God who is mystery and love.**

Before the mountains were formed, God was. In every act of compassion and courage, Christ is present. In every breath of hope and renewal, the Spirit moves. **We are held together in the life of God.**

Come with your questions, your wonder, your joy, and your weariness. Come as you are, for you are welcomed here. **In this community, we seek connection, belonging, and grace.**

Let us worship the God who creates, redeems, and sustains, the One who calls us into deeper relationship with one another and all creation. **Let us worship together with open hearts and open spirits.**

## **Passing the Peace**

On this Trinity Sunday, we remember that at the heart of God is relationship—Creator, Christ, and Spirit living in love, connection, and community. We are invited into that same sacred way of being: to care for one another, to welcome one another, and to share peace with one another. So, whether you greet one another with a handshake, a wave, a smile, or words of welcome, may this be a moment of genuine connection.

The peace of Christ be with you all. **And also with you!**

## **Life and Work**

### **Opening Prayer**

Let us pray:

**Holy One—**

**Creator, Christ, and Spirit—you gather us into your love and call us into community. Open our hearts this day to wonder, to compassion, and to the movement of your Spirit among us.**

**When we feel disconnected, draw us closer to one another.**

**When we feel weary, renew us with hope. When we feel uncertain, remind us that we do not walk alone. May this time of worship ground us in your presence and inspire us to live with courage, justice, and joy.**

**Amen.**

## **Hymn**

### **God, Whose Almighty Word**

**VU 313**

1 God, whose almighty word  
chaos and darkness heard, and took their flight,  
hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day  
sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light.

2 Jesus, who came to bring  
on your redeeming wing, healing and sight,  
health to the troubled mind, sight to the Spirit-blind,  
O now to humankind let there be light.

3 Spirit of truth and love,  
lifegiving, holy dove, speed forth your flight;  
move on the water's face, bearing the lamp of grace,  
and in earth's darkest place let there be light.

4 Blessed and holy three,  
glorious trinity, wisdom, love, might,  
boundless as ocean's tide rolling in fullest pride,  
through the world far and wide, let there be light.

## RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

**Scripture**      **2 Corinthians 13:11-13** (*inclusive trans.*)

<sup>11</sup> And now, sisters and brothers, I must say goodbye. Mend your ways. Encourage one another. Live in harmony and peace, and the God of love and peace will be with you. <sup>12</sup> Greet one another with a holy kiss. <sup>13</sup> All the holy ones send greetings to you.

**Matthew 28:16-20** (*inclusive trans.*)

<sup>16</sup> The Eleven made their way to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had summoned them. <sup>17</sup> At the sight of the risen Christ, they fell down in homage, though some doubted what they were seeing. <sup>18</sup> Jesus came forward and addressed them in these words: "All authority has been given me both in heaven and on earth; <sup>19</sup> go therefore, and make disciples of all the nations. Baptize them in the name of Abba God, and of the Only Begotten, and of the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup> Teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, even until the end of the world!"

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

**O God Beyond All Praising**

**VU 256**

- 1 O God beyond all praising, we worship you today  
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;  
for we can only wonder at every gift you send,  
at blessings without number and mercies without end:  
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,  
we honour and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.
- 2 The flower of earthly splendour in time must surely die,  
its fragile bloom surrender to you our God most high;  
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown,  
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:  
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,  
and we through him are given the final victory.
- 3 Then, hear O gracious Saviour, this song of praise we sing.  
May we, who know your favour, our humble service bring;  
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,  
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:  
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,  
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

**Sermon**

**Go With God**

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn**

**I Sing the Mighty Power of God**

**VU 231**

1 I sing the mighty power of God  
that made the mountains rise,  
that spread the flowing seas abroad,  
and built the lofty skies.

I sing the wisdom that ordained  
the sun to rule the day;  
the moon shines full at God's command  
and all the stars obey.

2 I sing the goodness of the One  
who filled the earth with food;  
who formed the creatures with a word,  
and then pronounced them good.

O God, your wonders are displayed  
where'er I turn my eye;  
if I survey the ground I tread,  
or gaze upon the sky!

3 There's not a plant or flower below  
but makes your glories known;  
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,  
by order from your throne;  
while all that borrows life from you  
is ever in your care,  
and everywhere that I may be,  
you, God, are present there.

**Offering**

The Trinity reminds us that love is meant to move outward, to be shared, offered, and lived in community. In that spirit, we bring our gifts today: our time, our compassion, our prayers, and our financial offerings. Let us give with grateful hearts, trusting that even small acts of generosity can become part of something holy.

As we bless the offerings, let us sing:

What can I do? What can I bring?  
What can I say? What can I sing?  
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.  
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

**COMMUNION**

May God be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the God of love and relationship.**

Let us give thanks to the Holy One.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right and beautiful to praise you, Holy One —  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit.

You spoke creation into being, breathing life into earth and sky,  
into oceans deep and galaxies wide.

You formed us for relationship: with you, with one another, and with all creation.

Even when fear divided us, even when we turned away from love,  
your Spirit continued to move among us —  
calling us back to compassion, justice, and belonging.

In Jesus, you came close to us.

He shared tables with saints and sinners, fed the hungry, welcomed the excluded,  
and reminded the world that no one is beyond the reach of grace.

And so, with all who seek your love,  
with those who came before us, with those who gather beside us,  
and with all creation singing your praise, we join our voices together:

**Holy, holy, holy One,  
God of wonder and mercy,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the One who comes in your name.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

On the night before love carried him to the cross,  
Jesus gathered with his friends around the table.

He took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and shared it, saying:

“This is my body, broken for you.  
Whenever you eat this bread, remember me.”  
Then he took the cup, blessed it, and shared it, saying:  
“This cup is the new covenant of love.  
Whenever you drink it, remember me.”

And so we remember:  
that love still gathers people at the table,  
that grace still meets us in ordinary things,  
and that resurrection still rises in weary hearts.  
Remembering your love made known in Jesus Christ,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

Let us pray:  
Spirit of the Living God,  
pour yourself upon us and upon these gifts of bread and cup.  
May they become for us nourishment for the journey —  
food for weary souls, hope for tender hearts,  
and strength for the work of justice and compassion.

Bind us together as one body,  
even in all our diversity and differences.  
Teach us to live as people shaped by your love:  
creating peace, sharing generously,  
welcoming boldly, and loving deeply.

Through Christ, with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour are yours, Holy One,  
now and forever. Amen.

Come, for the table is ready.  
Come with your joy and your sorrow,  
your questions and your hope.  
Come, whether your faith feels steady or fragile.  
This is not a table of perfection, but a table of grace.  
Here, all are welcome. Here, all belong.  
Taste and see that God is good.

## SHARING THE MEAL

*(Please come forward through the middle aisle to receive the elements. Once you receive the elements, do not eat them yet! Please return to your seat through the outer aisles of the sanctuary. Once everyone has been served, we will share the feast together. During the singing of our closing hymn, we will collect the cups.)*

The body of Christ,  
**the bread of life.**  
*(eat the bread)*

The New Covenant,  
**the cup of blessing.**  
*(drink the juice)*

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray:

**Loving God,  
we give you thanks for this sacred meal —  
for bread broken and cup shared,  
for grace freely given,  
and for the reminder that we never journey alone.  
In this table, you have nourished us with love,  
gathered us into community,  
and renewed us for the work of compassion and justice.  
Send us now to be people of welcome, healing, and hope,  
so that others might encounter your love through us.  
In the name of Creator, Christ, and Spirit, we pray.  
Amen.**

**Hymn**

**Bread for the Journey**

**MV 202**

Bread for the journey, food for the way.  
Cup of God's blessing, tomorrow, today.

### **Prayers of the People**

Holy One —  
Creator, Christ, and Spirit —  
we come before you carrying the prayers of our hearts:  
the prayers we can name aloud  
and the ones too deep for words.

On this Trinity Sunday,  
we give thanks for the mystery of your presence among us —  
a God who creates, accompanies, and sustains.  
In a world that can feel fractured and disconnected,  
you continue to call us into relationship,  
into community, into love that reaches beyond fear.

We pray for your world.  
For places torn apart by violence, war, and hatred.  
For communities facing poverty, displacement, and injustice.  
For those whose dignity is denied because of who they are,  
whom they love, or where they come from.  
May your Spirit move through leaders and communities alike,  
guiding us toward peace rooted in justice and compassion.

We pray for the earth itself —  
for oceans and forests, creatures and ecosystems,  
for all that is threatened by greed and carelessness.  
Teach us again how to live not as conquerors of creation,  
but as caretakers and companions within it.

We pray for your church,  
that we may be more than buildings and programs.  
Make us a people of courageous welcome.  
A people willing to listen deeply, love boldly, and act faithfully.  
When we are tempted toward comfort over compassion,  
or silence over justice, stir us awake with your Spirit.

We pray for those carrying heavy burdens today:  
for those who are grieving, lonely, anxious, or exhausted.  
For those navigating illness, uncertainty, or change.  
For those whose faith feels fragile.  
For those who feel unseen or forgotten.  
Wrap them in care. Surround them with gentleness.  
Remind them that they are never alone.

God of relationship and love,  
shape us into people who reflect your compassion in the world.  
May the love we encounter in worship  
spill outward into the way we live, give, speak, and serve.

And now, with Christians around the world and throughout the generations,  
we pray the words Jesus taught us:

**Our Creator, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be your name. Your kin-dom come, your 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 yours is the kin-dom, the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

**Closing Hymn**

**God of the Bible**

**MV 28**

1 God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,  
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,  
you are our centre, daylight or darkness,  
freedom or prison, you are our home.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change,  
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.

2 God in our struggles, God in our hunger,  
suffering with us, taking our part,  
still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit,  
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change,  
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.

4 Not by your finger, not by your anger  
will our world order change in a day,  
but by your people, fearless and faithful,  
small paper lanterns, lighting the way.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change,  
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.

5 Hope we must carry, shining and certain  
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,  
bonding us gladly one to the other,  
'til our world changes facing the Cross.

Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change,  
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,  
God always faithful, you do not change.

### **Bread for the Journey**

Where in your life right now do you most need the reminder: “You do not walk alone”?

### **Commissioning**

Go now into the world, held in the love of Creator, Christ, and Spirit.

**We go to live with compassion, courage, and hope.**

Go to build relationships rooted in justice and kindness. Go to care for one another and for creation itself.

**We will seek peace, practice welcome, and share love freely.**

When the path feels uncertain, remember that you do not walk alone. The Spirit moves beside you and within you.

**We are sent as people of grace and belonging.**

Go now in peace, to love boldly, serve joyfully, and live faithfully.

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### **Benediction**

As you leave this place, may the love of the Creator hold you,  
may the peace of Christ guide you,  
and may the Spirit move through you with courage and compassion.  
May you go into the world remembering  
that you are connected —  
to God, to one another, and to all creation.  
And may that connection inspire you  
to live gently, love boldly, and seek justice faithfully. Amen!

### **Choral Response**

#### **Go Forth for God (v. 4)**

**VU 418**

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.

### **Postlude**

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