



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Minister of Word & Sacrament: Rev. Katie Vardy

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

October 11th, 2024

20th Sunday after Pentecost

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Lighting the Christ Candle

You assure us, Jesus, that wherever two or three are gathered in your name, you are there.

We light this candle to remind ourselves and to celebrate your constant presence.

May we always seek your guiding light in our lives. Amen.

The candle is lit.

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. The land we are worshipping on today is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples, and is home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

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

We Plough The Fields and Scatter

VU 520

1 We plough the fields and scatter
the good seed on the land,
but it is fed and watered
by your almighty hand;
you send the snow in winter,
the warmth to swell the grain,
the breezes and the sunshine,
and soft refreshing rain.

All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
we thank you, God, O holy God,
for all your love.

2 You only are the maker
of all things near and far;
you paint the wayside flower,
you light the evening star;
the winds and waves obey you,
by you the birds are fed;
much more to us, your children,
you give us daily bread.

All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
we thank you, God, O holy God,
for all your love.

3 We thank you then, O Maker,
for all things bright and good,
the seed-time and the harvest,
our life, our health, our food;
accept the gifts we offer
for all your love imparts,
and, what from us you long for,
our humble, thankful hearts.

All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
we thank you, God, O holy God,
for all your love.

Call to Worship

The leaves are changing colour as the Autumn season unfolds.

We gather to give thanks to Creator.

The harvest is in. Some tables are full, yet some are empty.

We bring our yearnings for a just sharing Creator.

The community gathers to worship, to celebrate, and to give thanks to our Creator.

We give thanks to Creator for this community of faith.

Let us worship together.

Passing the Peace

We pass the peace (*with a bow, or a wave, or a nod to our neighbours*) to remind us of the light of Christ that is in each of us, and that we are called to reconciliation and community.

Let us greet those around you with the Peace of Christ, saying:

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Opening Prayer

Creator of bounty and blessing,

we come to you this day in gratitude for all that we have been given.

**We are grateful for the blessings and for the opportunities
to be of service to others in your holy Name.**

Bless each of us here, that we may become truly blessings to others.

We ask this in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Hymn

Come, You Thankful People, Come

VU 516

1 Come, you thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home!

All is safely gathered in,
safe before the storms begin;
God, our maker, does provide
for our needs to be supplied:
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home!

2 All the world is God's own field,
harvests for God's praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown,
here for joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
Harvest-giver, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

4 Even so, God, quickly come
to your final harvest home!
Gather all your people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin;
there for ever purified,
in your presence to abide:
come, with all your angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Psalm 126

When the Divine Lover enters the human heart,
all yearnings are fulfilled!

**Then will our mouths ring forth with laughter,
and our tongues with shouts of joy;
then will we sing our songs of praise, to You, O Beloved of all hearts.**

For gladness will radiate out for all to see;
so great is your presence among us.

**Restore us to wholeness, O Healer,
like newborn babes who have never strayed from you!**

May all who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy!

**May all who go forth weeping tears of repentance,
bearing seed for sowing,
come home to You with shouts of joy, leaving sorrow behind.**

Mark 10:17-31 The Rich Man

¹⁷ As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” ¹⁸ Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: ‘You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.’” ²⁰ He said to him, “Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.” ²¹ Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, “You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.” ²² When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

²³ Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, “How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!” ²⁴ And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, “Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.” ²⁶ They were greatly astounded and said to one another, “Then who can be saved?” ²⁷ Jesus looked at them and said, “For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.”

²⁸ Peter began to say to him, “Look, we have left everything and followed you.” ²⁹ Jesus said, “Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake and for the sake of the good news ³⁰ who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn

For the Fruit of All Creation

VU 227

- 1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.
- 2 In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.
- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God

Sermon

I Love You, But...

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

We Praise You, O God

VU 218

- 1 We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.
- 2 We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.
- 3 With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Offering

Gracious Creator,
you call us to let go of the things we cling to
and step out in faith,
trusting in your love and provision.

**Give us courage to step out boldly,
to plant our small seeds generously, and without fear.
Use our gifts to accomplish more than we could possibly imagine,
so that, through us, your kingdom might come
and your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Amen**

Offering Hymn

What Can I Do?

MV 191

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.

Prayers of the People

Trusting that God receives all our prayers and responds to each of them in love,
let us pray together saying: Gracious God, hear our prayer; and in your love answer.

God of grace and love,
today we gather as a community of faith
to feel your presence in a tangible way
and to offer you thanks and praise.
We offer our gratitude now for the necessities of life
—for food for our tables, shelter and protection from the elements,
and health and strength.
We also say thank you for those other blessings that make our lives meaningful
—for family and friends who share our lives and our daily bread,
for this church community, and for your call to love,
to share, and make a difference in the world.
Gracious God, hear our prayer...
And in your love answer.

Acknowledging our gifts, we come to you also with our needs:
We pray for the world you love:

That the seeds of power be sown fairly, and your bread shared widely,
that world leaders and governments rule justly and wisely
and care for the basic needs of all people.

Gracious God, hear our prayer...

And in your love answer.

We pray for this city, for safety, security, and well-being.

Gracious God, hear our prayer...

And in your love answer.

We pray for this community of faith,
and for your Church throughout the world.

Touched by your Spirit, may we proclaim your good news,
grow in faith as disciples,
and intentionally live our faith and make a difference
in the lives of others, in your name.

Gracious God, hear our prayer...

And in your love answer.

We pray, O God, for all of those in need of your grace this day:

We pray for healing for the sick and peace for those who mourn.

We pray for those who do not have the support of others.

We pray for justice for all people, and especially those without food security,
or housing and for those of us who are ostracized,
discriminated against, and treated unjustly.

Gracious God, hear our prayer...

And in your love answer.

And now, as a community of faith,

we pray all this, using the ancient words you taught us, saying:

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name

Thy Kindom 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.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the Kindom, the power, and the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

Now Thank We All Our God

VU 236

1 Now thank we all our God, with heart,
and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

2 O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us strong in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ill in this world and the next.

3 All praise and thanks to God
for all that has been given,
the Son, and Spirit blest
who dwell in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore

Commissioning and Benediction

Go into the world showing a gentle attitude toward everyone.
Be joyful and thankful!
Fill your mind with those things that are good and deserve praise:
things true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honourable.
Put into practice what you have heard here.
And may the God who gives peace be with each of you.

**We go in the peace of Christ
to love and serve all creation.**

May the love of God
which gives life to the world, sustain you;
May the bread of life, Jesus Christ,
feed you with the food that endures to eternal life;
May the power of the Holy Spirit
nourish and strengthen you in faith.
Amen.

1 Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

3 Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

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