



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

Reader: Amanda Hynes-Bower

October 3, 2021

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Break Now The Bread of Life

Music: F.C. Maker

Call to Worship

Listen! What do you hear?
The buzz of an airplane?
The horn from a car?
The hammering of nails?
The ticking of a clock?

People sounds. Every moment of every day.



Listen—deeper! What do you hear?
The whoosh of the wind?
The rustle of the leaves?
The song of a bird?
The buzz of a fly?

Nature sounds. There, but hidden under our noise.



Listen—even deeper! What do you hear?
The wash of the waves on a lakeshore?
The grinding of rocks as tectonic plates shift?
The roar of a glacier as it calves off an iceberg?
The vibration of light as it travels the cosmos?

Creation sounds. Sounds of life and death and new life, born.



If we take the time to listen

*We hear creation speaking,
we hear creation shouting,
we hear creation crying.*

When we listen and speak what we hear,
when we help others to listen and speak what they hear,
when we speak with those who will *not* listen,
and with those not willing to hear.

We worship God!

Response

Holy Spirit, Hear Us

VU 377

Words: William H. Parker
Music: James Frederick Swift

*Holy Spirit, hear us,
help us while we sing;
breathe into the music
of the praise we bring.*

*Holy Spirit, shine now
on the book we read;
light its holy pages
with the truth we need.*

*Holy Spirit, prompt us
when we bow to pray;
speak within and teach us
what we ought to say.*

*Holy Spirit, help us
daily by your might,
what is wrong to conquer,
and to choose the right.*

Life & Work of the Church



Welcome to online worship

Land Acknowledgement

As we prepare for worship, we 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. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississauga's of the Credit and Scugog, part of the Williams Treaty. 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. We seek to be mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.



Candle Lighting

Opening Hymn

Each Blade of Grass

MV 37

Words: © 2002 Keri K. Wehlander
Music: Anonymous,
from The United States' Sacred Harmony

*Each blade of grass, ev'ry wing that soars,
the waves that sweep across a distant shore,
make full the circle of God.*

*Each laughing child, ev'ry gentle eye,
a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,
make full the circle of God.*

*Each silent paw, ev'ry rounded stone,
the buzz that echoes from a honey'd comb,
make full the circle of God.*

*Each fire-brimmed star, ev'ry out-stretched hand,
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,
make full the circle of God.*

*Each icy peak, ev'ry patterned shell,
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,
make full the circle of God.*

*Each cosmic hue, ev'ry creature's way,
all form the beauty of this vast array,
making full the circle of God.*

Opening Prayer



You are the God of sea and sky, of rock and tree and creature and you are wonderful, God!

Would you bless us with the knowledge in our bodies, our hearts, and our minds, that you are with us in this moment, and in every moment? Would you bless us with your joy of all creation, with your desire for its wholeness, with your will for its renewal?

In the dance of the Spirit, in the name of Christ, we ask it. Amen!

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

And Now For Something Completely Different



Hymn

It Is Well With My Soul

Words: Horatio G. Spafford

Music: Philip P. Bliss

*When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot, You have taught me to say
It is well, it is well with my soul
It is well, With my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul*

*Though evil should buffet, though trials should come
Let this blest assurance control
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate
And has shed His own blood for my soul
It is well, With my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul*

*Oh God, haste the day when my faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trumpet shall sound, and my God shall descend
Even so, it is well with my soul!
It is well, With my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul
It is well, it is well with my soul*

Prayer of Illumination

May the readings today shed light on a shadowed world yearning for hope. May we receive these words with comfort and hope. Amen

Job 1:1 & 2:1-10

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

There was once a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. That man was blameless and upright, one who feared God and turned away from evil.

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before God, and the accuser also came among them to present himself before God. ² God said to the accuser, “Where have you come from?” The accuser answered God, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” ³ God said to the accuser “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason.” ⁴ Then the accuser answered God, “Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. ⁵ But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.” ⁶ God said to the accuser, “Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life.”

⁷ So, the accuser went out from the presence of God, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. ⁸ Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

⁹ Then his wife said to him, “Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die.” ¹⁰ But he said to her, “You speak as any foolish person would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Mark 10:13-16

NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION

¹³ People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. ¹⁴ But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, “Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. ¹⁵ Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.” ¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

These are Jesus’ words for us to focus on today.

Thanks be to God

Sermon

Good Days / Bad Days



Hymn

I Have Called You By Your Name

MV 161

Words and music: Daniel Charles Damon
© 1995 Hope Publishing Company

*I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you; all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.*

*I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name, speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus’ body given long ago.*

*I know you will need my touch as you go;
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.
Like the woman reaching out, choosing faith in spite of doubt,
hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.*

*I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul, make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering our Gifts to God

Communion

Communion Hymn

One Bread, One Body

VU 467

Words and Music: © 1978 John B. Foley

*One bread, one body, one God of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless;
and we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one God.
Gentile or Jew, servant or free,
woman or man, no more.*

*One bread, one body, one God of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless;
and we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one God.
Many the gifts, many the works,
one in our God of all.*

*One bread, one body, one God of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless;
and we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one God.
Grain for the fields, scattered and grown,
gathered to one, for all.*

*One bread, one body, one God of all,
one cup of blessing which we bless;
and we, though many, throughout the earth,
we are one body in this one God.*

God is with you.

God is with all creation.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift our hearts to God.

Let us give thanks to God:

Creator of all that is,

Christ that calls us to wholeness,

Spirit that blows us where it will.

Thank you, God!



...with you, with what you have created, or with each other.

We are sorry, God.

We ask for your forgiveness.

We ask for your help.

Open our ears, our eyes, our hearts, and our minds.

so that we might listen to your call,

so that we might listen to the needs of what you have created,

so that we might speak those needs

and live your love.

When our ancestors made mistakes, you sent them guides to help them on their way: priests and prophets, teachers and healers, grandmas and grandpas, who called people back to your love. And in Jesus the Christ you were with us, to teach us, to love us, to save us from ourselves.

Thank you, God!

...so we pray the words he gave to all of his disciples, the ones that remind us that you love us with all the love a parent can offer, saying



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. Amen.

Blessed are you, God of the Universe; everything you have created is blessed.

Communion Is Shared Prayer after Communion

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

Go Forth for God

VU418

Words: J.R. Peacey © 1984 Hope Publishing Co.

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

Happy Are They, They That Love God

Music: William Croft

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Other Resources for Today

Some of the resources for today's service come from the United Church of Canada worship resource guide "Gathering"

ANFSCD: [The Emmaus Community | Neo-monastic Christian Community in Victoria, B.C.](#)

Sermon: [The Book of Job – Stephen Mitchell \(stephenmitchellbooks.com\)](#)

Lectionary Readings

Psalm 26

New Revised Standard Version

- ¹ Vindicate me, O God,
for I have walked in my integrity,
and I have trusted in God without wavering.
- ² Prove me, O God, and try me;
test my heart and mind.
- ³ For your steadfast love is before my eyes,
and I walk in faithfulness to you.
- ⁴ I do not sit with the worthless,
nor do I consort with hypocrites;
- ⁵ I hate the company of evildoers,
and will not sit with the wicked.
- ⁶ I wash my hands in innocence,
and go around your altar, O God,
⁷ singing aloud a song of thanksgiving,
and telling all your wondrous deeds.
- ⁸ O God, I love the house in which you dwell,
and the place where your glory abides.
- ⁹ Do not sweep me away with sinners,
nor my life with the bloodthirsty,
¹⁰ those in whose hands are evil devices,
and whose right hands are full of bribes.
- ¹¹ But as for me, I walk in my integrity;
redeem me, and be gracious to me.
- ¹² My foot stands on level ground;
in the great congregation I will bless God.

Hebrews 1: 1-14; 2: 5-12

New Revised Standard Version

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, ² but in these last days God has spoken to us by a Son, who has been appointed heir of all things, through whom God also created the worlds. ³ The son is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and sustains all things by his powerful word. When the Son had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, ⁴ having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

⁵ Now God did not subject the coming world, about which we are speaking, to angels. ⁶ But someone has testified somewhere,

“What are human beings that you are mindful of them,
or mortals, that you care for them?

⁷ You have made them for a little while lower than the angels;
you have crowned them with glory and honour,

⁸ subjecting all things under their feet.”

Now in subjecting all things to them, God left nothing outside their control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to them, ⁹ but we do see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone.

¹⁰ It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. ¹¹ For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one parent. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them siblings, ¹² saying,

“I will proclaim your name to my siblings,
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.”