



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

Scripture: Mary Cannings

January 16, 2022 – Season of Epiphany

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

A Few More Years Shall Roll

Music: George W. Martin

Call to Worship (based on Isaiah 62)

In this time of Epiphany, we will not keep silent, we will not rest.

Our witness shines like a new dawn.

Light a path for us, O God, that we may move into new relationships.

We have been called by you into new ways of being.

Your torch has been passed to us, in you our light has come.

We are not forsaken; we are not desolate.

In you God, we find our delight.

Let glory be on our lips as we delight in your presence.

Inspire us, God, as we worship together.

Response

Is Not This the Land of Beulah?

Words: attr. to William Hunter

Music: “Watchman”; attr. to William B. Bradbury

I am dwelling on the mountain,
Where the golden sunlight gleams
O’er a land whose wondrous beauty
Far exceeds my fondest dreams;
Where the air is pure, ethereal,
Laden with the breath of flowers,
They are blooming by the fountain,
'Neath the shelter of the bowers.

Is not this the land of Beulah?
Blessed, blessed land of light;
Where the flowers bloom forever,
And the sun is always bright?

Tell me not of heavy crosses,
Nor of burdens hard to bear,
For I've found this great salvation
Makes each burden light appear;
And I love to follow Jesus,
While discounting every loss,
Worldly honors all forsaking
For the glory of the cross.

Is not this the land of Beulah?
Blessed, blessed land of light;
Where the flowers bloom forever,
And the sun is always bright?

Life & Work of the Church



Welcome to online



worship

Land Acknowledgement

Candle Lighting

Opening Hymn

Come and Seek The Ways of Wisdom

MV 10

Words: Ruth Duck Music: Donna Kasbohm
© 1996 and 1997 The Pilgrim Press

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,
she who danced when earth was new.
Follow closely what she teaches,
for her words are right and true.
Wisdom clears the path to justice, Showing us what love must do.

Listen to the voice of Wisdom,
crying in the market-place.
Hear the Word made flesh among us,
full of glory, truth, and grace.
When the word takes root and ripens, peace and righteousness embrace.

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;
nurture all who seek rebirth.
Spirit guide and close companion,
bring to light our sacred worth.
Free us to become your people, holy friends of God and earth.

Opening Prayer

*With open minds and open hearts, we come before you, God.
Open us to the tremendous news around us: the birth of Jesus; the story of the wise ones;
Jesus' baptism; news so incredible that it cannot be contained.
We bring together all our resources, all that we are and all that we have, to share the good
news. We are called to be more, we are called to be a community of faith here in this place.
Be with us now as we discern your call to us, as we discern how to follow you. Amen.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

And Now for Something Completely Different



Hymn

In Christ There Is No East or West

VU 606

Words: John Oxenham Music: African-American spiritual

In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great family of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, people of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;
all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christ-like souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

Prayer of Illumination

*The scriptures proclaim to us the message of your light.
Loving and ever-present God, shine your light on us
so that we may discover and live a path that follows you. Amen*

1 Corinthians 12:4-11

New Revised Standard Version

⁴Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵and there are varieties of services, but the same God; ⁶and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

John 2:1-11

New Revised Standard Version

² On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. ³ Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ⁴ When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." ⁵ And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." ⁶ His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." ⁷ Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. ⁸ Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. ⁹ He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. ¹⁰ When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom ¹¹ and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." ¹² Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

These are stories of Jesus for us to consider in our lives today.

Thanks be to God

Sermon

This Sermon is Full of H**O**les



Hymn

Jesus Come, For We Invite You

Words: Christopher Idle © 1982 Jubilate Hymns

Music: Sicilian melody, 18th c.

1 Jesus, come! for we invite you,
Guest and Saviour, Friend and God;
now, as once at Cana's wedding,
speak, and let us hear your word:
lead us through our need or doubting,
hope be born and joy restored.

2 Jesus, come! transform our pleasures,
guide us into paths unknown;
bring your gifts, command your servants,
let us trust in you alone:
though your hand may work in secret,
all shall see what you have done.

3 Jesus, come in new creation,
heaven brought near in power divine;
give your unexpected glory
changing water into wine:
rouse the faith of your disciples
come, our first and greatest sign!

4 Jesus, come! surprise our senses,
make us willing to receive
more than we can yet imagine,
all the best you have to give:
let us find your hidden riches,
taste your love, believe, and live!

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering



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Prayers of the People



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.

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

Love Us Into Fullness

MV 81

Words & Music: Daniel Charles Damon
© 2006 Hope Publishing Co.

Love us into fullness,
Touch us with your grace;
Jesus, in your mercy,
draw us to your face.

Love us into fullness,
hold us in your care,
cheer us with your presence
here and everywhere.

Love us into fullness,
and we will be strong;
Jesus, walk beside us,
fill our hearts with song.

Love us into fullness,
Touch us with your grace;
Jesus, in your mercy,
draw us to your face.

Benediction & Commissioning



Postlude

All the Way My Savior Leads Me

Music by Robert Lowry

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Other Resources for Today

Thanks to Daphne Hunt for the gift of photography for today's service.

Other Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 62:1-5

New Revised Standard Version

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
²The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of God will give.
³You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
⁴You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for God delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
⁵For as people join themselves together in holy bonds,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as they rejoice in each other,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

Psalms 36:5-10

New Revised Standard Version

⁵Your steadfast love, O God, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
⁶Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgments are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O God.
⁷How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
⁸They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.
⁹For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.
¹⁰O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your salvation to the upright of heart!