



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: Judy Chlebak

September 12, 2021 - Communion



WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Christ, Above All Glory Seated

Music: Samuel Smith, 13th Century

Call to Worship

Wisdom led the new stars burning in the first steps of their dance,

Dance with us wisdom.

Wisdom smiled to see earth blushing at the sun’s warm primal glance.

Smile upon us wisdom

Wisdom plays with clear pleasure in creation’s lavishness.

Play with us wisdom

*As we worship today may wisdom join us,
bringing this first born of God’s action, to life in our midst.*



Response

Holy Spirit, Come Into Our Lives

Words and Music: © 1998 Ken Canedo

MV 6

Holy Spirit, come into our lives.

Holy Spirit, make us truly wise.

Give us a spirit of wisdom, an understanding heart.

Give us a spirit of knowledge, and lead us to the truth.

*Holy Spirit, come into our lives.
Holy Spirit, make us truly wise.
Give us a spirit of courage, and judgment that is wise.
Give us a spirit of reverence, of wonder and of awe.
Holy Spirit, come into our lives.
Holy Spirit, make us truly wise.*

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

Come and Seek The Ways of Wisdom

MV 10

Words: Ruth Duck / Music: Donna Kasbohm
Words © 1996 and Music © 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.*

Prayer for Grace

*Blessed are you, gracious God, Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love.
You breathe life into us and set us among all your creatures, in a covenant of love and service.*



*Even when we turn away from you, you do not forsake us.
You send your prophets and faithful followers to bear witness to
the goodness of your creation, to proclaim your justice, to remind
us of your promise of peace,
and to call us back to you.
Amen*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

And Now For Something Completely Different



Hymn

Now There Is No Male or Female

VU 627

Words: © 1985 Lynette P. Miller Music: Trier Gesangbuch, 1695

*Now there is no male or female,
now there is no free or slave,
now there is no Jew or Gentile
in the earth Christ died to save.
Christ has set us free for freedom:
we no more sing slavery's creed;
old submissions cannot claim us,
Christ has set us free indeed.*

*Crucified with Christ the Saviour,
baptised in his holy death,
and as Christ was raised to glory
we have new life on this earth.
Power of water and God's naming,
turning us from dark to light,
joins us to those who, before us,
ran the race and fought the fight.*

*Death has no dominion o'er him,
so for us death holds no power;
life's own waters now have marked us
born to God this very hour.
From this moment and forever
dead to sin, alive in Christ,
born of water and the Spirit,
now in Christ we find our life.*

Prayer of Illumination

*Help us O God, to come to you with open lives to receive your words.
May we give them new life as we listen to what you have to say.
Open our hearts as we embark on this journey with each other and with you. Amen*

Proverbs 1:20-33

New Revised Standard Version

- ²⁰ Wisdom cries out in the street;
in the squares she raises her voice.
²¹ At the busiest corner she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
²² "How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing and fools hate knowledge?
²³ Give heed to my reproof; I will pour out my thoughts to you;
I will make my words known to you.
²⁴ Because I have called and you refused,
have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,
²⁵ and because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,
²⁶ I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when panic strikes you,
²⁷ when panic strikes you like a storm,
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.
²⁸ Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;

they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.
²⁹ Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of God,
³⁰ would have none of my counsel, and despised all my reproof,
³¹ therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
and be sated with their own devices.
³² For waywardness kills the simple,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
³³ but those who listen to me will be secure
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.

Mark 8:27-38

New Revised Standard Version

²⁷ Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” ²⁸ And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” ²⁹ He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” ³⁰ And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

³¹ Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. ³² He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³ But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

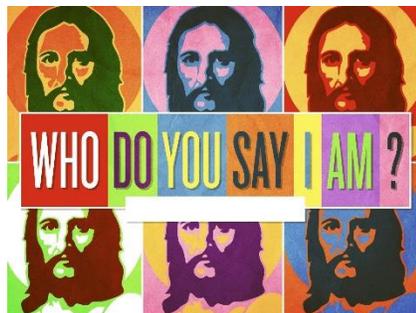
³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The word of God for the People of God

Thanks be to God

Sermon

I do Declare



Hymn

Jesus, Come To Our Hearts

VU 324

Words and Music: © 1992 William Worley

*Jesus, come to our hearts like falling rain;
come to refresh, come to renew,
wash all our sins away.*

*Spirit, come to our hearts like rushing wind;
come with your fire, come with your life,
blow all our doubts away.*

*Come, God, come to our hearts like shining sun;
come to reveal, lighten your Word,
drive all our gloom away.*

*Praises be to our God, the three in one;
praise for the sun, praise for the wind,
praise for the falling rain.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering our Gifts to God



Communion

The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts

We lift them up to God,

God is with us, in community – Trinity, Three in One.

We are not alone, thanks be to God.



...we raise our voices in song.

Sanctus and Benedictus MV 203

Words: © 2005 William S. Kervin and Paul Stott

Music: traditional melody, England and Ireland

*O holy, holy, holy God, O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above bear witness to your grace!
Hosanna in the highest heav'n, creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes and bears your name always!*

In the fullness of time, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us...
And so, in the Spirit of the risen Christ, we sing together

Memorial Acclamation MV 204

*Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again! (x2)*

On the night Jesus was betrayed...
...through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Spirit, we pray

Great Amen MV 205

Amen, amen, O Holy One! Hosanna and Amen! (x2)

The bread we break is Christ's gift of life.
The cup we bless is Christ's sustaining love for us.
The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for all is now ready.

...Sharing of the meal...

Prayer after Communion:



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

Like a Mighty River Flowing

VU 267

Words: Michael A. Perry.

Music: German carol, 14th century © 1982, 1989 Hope Publishing Co.

*Like a mighty river flowing,
like a flower in beauty growing,
far beyond all human knowing
is the perfect peace of God.*

*Like the hills serene and even,
like the coursing clouds of heaven,
like the heart that's been forgiven
is the perfect peace of God.*

*Like the morning sun ascended,
like the scents of evening blended,
like a friendship never ended
is the perfect peace of God.*

*Like the azure ocean swelling,
like the jewel all-excelling,
far beyond our human telling
is the perfect peace of God.*

Benediction & Commissioning



Postlude

Praise God

X. S. von Wartensee

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And Now For Something Completely different

Artwork: [Projects – ...:dan bergeron / fauxreel studios:...](#)

Blog on Women and Wisdom: [Lady Wisdom and the "Beginning of Wisdom" \(Proverbs 1:20-32; 9:10\) | Article | Theology of Work](#)

Other Lectionary Readings

Psalm 19

New Revised Standard Version

¹The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.
²Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.
³There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
⁴yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens God has set a tent for the sun,
⁵which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong person runs its course with joy.
⁶Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.

⁷The law of God is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the decrees of God are sure,
making wise the simple;
⁸the precepts of God are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eyes;
⁹the fear of God is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of God are true
and righteous altogether.
¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.

¹¹Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²But who can detect their errors?

Clear me from hidden faults.

¹³Keep back your servant also from the insolent;

do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,

and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be acceptable to you,

O GOD, my rock and my redeemer.

James 3:1-12

New Revised Standard Version

³ Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ² For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. ³ If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. ⁴ Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵ So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! ⁶ And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. ⁷ For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, ⁸ but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰ From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. ¹¹ Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? ¹² Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.