



## **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:** Shirley Schwindt

**November 28, 2021 - Advent 1**

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

### **Prelude**

### **Call to Worship**

November ends. December begins.

*We find our beginning and our ending in God.*

Month after month, God attends us and supports us.

*For God’s company, and the company of each other, we offer thanks and praise.*

Here in this place, let us worship the God who gives us Jesus Christ:

*God who is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end,  
the Living One and our Redeemer, now and forever.*

### **Response**

### **Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding**

*Hark! A thrilling voice is sounding  
“Christ is near,” we hear it say  
“Cast away the works of darkness  
all you children of the day.”*

*Startled at the solemn warning  
From the darkness we arise  
Christ, our sun, all ill dispelling  
Shines upon the morning skies.*

*See, the Lamb, so long expected,  
comes with pardon down from heav’n.  
Let us haste, with tears of sorrow,  
one and all, to be forgiv’n;*

*So, when next he comes in glory  
and the world is wrapped in fear,  
he will shield us with his mercy  
and with words of love draw near.*

## Life & Work of the Church

Welcome to online worship



## Land Acknowledgement

### Advent One Candle Lighting



Light for the shadows:

*may it show us the way.*

A flame of hope:

*may our hearts be warmed.*

A beacon of possibility:

*may there be light and hope in our living  
as we prepare to welcome Jesus.*

Come, bask in the light of Christ. May Hope light the world this Christmas.

### Opening Hymn

#### O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VU 1

*O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
and ransom captive Israel  
that mourns in lowly exile here  
until the Son of God appear.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, O come, great God of might,  
who to your tribes on Sinai's height  
in ancient times once gave the law  
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, O Rod of Jesse's stem,  
from every foe deliver them  
that trust your mighty power to save,  
and give them victory o'er the grave.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

*O come, Desire of nations, bind  
all peoples in one heart and mind;  
O bid our sad divisions cease,  
and be for us the Prince of Peace.  
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
shall come to thee, O Israel.*

## Prayer for Grace

*Holy One, as days grow shorter and nights grow longer, be our inner light, we pray.  
Glow in our hearts, so that what we think, say and do is grounded in calm and compassion.  
When the flashiness of the world distracts and disturbs, anchor us in your love.  
Remind us that even as we live from day to day, you offer an everlasting home.  
Bless our gathering, that we may be present and alert as we open our hearts to your grace.  
Amen.*

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### 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*

### Psalm 25: 1-10

New Revised Standard Version

- <sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.  
<sup>2</sup> O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.  
<sup>3</sup> Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.  
  
<sup>4</sup> Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.  
<sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.  
  
<sup>6</sup> Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.  
<sup>7</sup> Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!  
  
<sup>8</sup> Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.  
<sup>9</sup> He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.  
<sup>10</sup> All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

“There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. <sup>26</sup> People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. <sup>27</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. <sup>28</sup> Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

<sup>29</sup> Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; <sup>30</sup> as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. <sup>31</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. <sup>32</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. <sup>33</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>34</sup> “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, <sup>35</sup> like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. <sup>36</sup> Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.”

This is the word of God for the people of God.

*Thanks be to God*

**Sermon**

**Sun, Moon & Stars**



**Hymn**

**People Look East**

**VU 9**

*People, look east. The time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the guest is on the way.*

*Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,  
one more seed is planted there:  
give up your strength the seed to nourish,  
that in course the flower may flourish.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the rose is on the way.*

*Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim  
one more light the bowl shall brim,  
shining beyond the frosty weather,  
bright as sun and moon together.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love the star is on the way.*

*Angels, announce with shouts of mirth  
Christ who brings new life to earth.  
Set every peak and valley humming  
with the word, our God is coming.  
People, look east and sing today:  
Love our God is on the way.*

#### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

#### Offering our Gifts to God

#### 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

#### All Earth Is Waiting

VU 5

*All earth is waiting to see the Promised One,  
and open furrows await the seed of God.  
All the world, bound and struggling, seeks true liberty;  
it cries out for justice and searches for the truth.*

*Thus says the prophet to those of Israel,  
'A virgin mother will bear Emmanuel.'  
One whose name is 'God with us', our Saviour shall be,  
through whom hope will blossom once more within our hearts.*

*Mountains and valleys will have to be made plain,  
open new highways, new highways for our God,  
who is now coming closer, so come all and see,*

*and open the doorways as wide as wide can be.*

*In lowly stable the Promised One appeared.  
Yet, feel that presence throughout the earth today,  
for Christ lives in all Christians and is with us now;  
again, on arriving, Christ brings us liberty.*

## **Benediction & Commissioning**

### **Postlude**

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### **Other Resources for Today**

NGC2440: [End of the world - in close-up | Astronomy | The Guardian](#)

### **Lectionary Readings**

#### **Jeremiah 33:14-16**

**New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>14</sup>The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>15</sup>In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. <sup>16</sup>In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

#### **1 Thessalonians 3:9-13**

**New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>9</sup>How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? <sup>10</sup>Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith.

<sup>11</sup>Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. <sup>12</sup>And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. <sup>13</sup>And may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints.