



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Minister of Word & Sacrament: Katie Vardy

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

Reader: Norma Grech

October 26th, 2025

Twentieth After Pentecost

**REFORMATION SUNDAY
ALL HALLOWS MUSIC SERVICE**

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome

Candle Lighting

On this Reformation Sunday, we remember the courage of people like Martin Luther, John Calvin, Ulrich Zwingli and John Knox. They, and so many others over the centuries, worked to help light the way so that we might be where we are today. An affirming congregation; Publicly, Intentionally and Explicitly welcoming all people.

Land Acknowledgement

We now take a moment to acknowledge the sacred land beside the water on which Birchcliff Bluffs United Church stands. It 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 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

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper sure amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing:

for still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
with power and malice great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth he has no equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing:
dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

3 And though this world, with devils filled,
should threaten to undo us,
we will not fear, for God hath willed
the truth to triumph through us:
the prince of darkness grim,
we tremble not for him;
his rage we can endure,
for lo! his doom is sure,
one little word shall fell him.

4 That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through Christ, who with us sideth:
let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,

Call to Worship

We share a dwelling place from year to year, age to age.
And yet, we can become complacent, forgetting who we are.
Life surges forth through creation, like grass that renews every morning.
And yet we often prefer to be dust, swept away in the wind of every new idea and fad.
But with compassion and love, the work of our lives can manifest glorious results in the world.
Come, let us join our hearts and voices together with all the saints throughout time,
as we come together on this day.

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 joy, peace and unity that lives in each of us, and that we are called to reconciliation and community.

Let us greet those around you, saying: Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Life and Work

Opening Prayer

The countless saints of history who have blazed a trail of courage through time,
The tender touch of loved ones, the example of heroes,
the healing words of comforters, the remarkable acts of fearless ones.
The gentle strength of grandparents, the loyalty of friends, the kindness of strangers,
the joy of children, the sacrifice of parents.
The young and old, articulate and silent, strange and familiar, brilliant and ordinary.

In every time and place they have shown us the way.

We are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,

so let us raise our voices together.

Amen

Hymn

For All The Saints (v. 1, 2, 3, 5, 6)

VU 705

1 For all the saints, who from their labours rest,
all who by faith before the world confessed,
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

2 You were their rock, their fortress, and their might:
you were their captain in the well-fought fight;
you, in the darkness drear, their one true light.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

3 O blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
yet all are one within your great design.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

5 But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day
the saints triumphant rise in bright array:
as God to glory calls them all away.
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

6 From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
sing to Creator, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Psalm 65

65 God of Zion, to you even silence is praise.
Promises made to you are kept—
2 you listen to prayer—
and all living things come to you.
3 When wrongdoings become too much for me,
you forgive our sins.
4 How happy is the one you choose to bring close,
the one who lives in your courtyards!
We are filled full by the goodness of your house,
by the holiness of your temple.
5 In righteousness you answer us,
by your awesome deeds,
God of our salvation—
you, who are the security
of all the far edges of the earth,
even the distant seas.
6 You establish the mountains by your strength;
you are dressed in raw power.
7 You calm the roaring seas;
calm the roaring waves,
calm the noise of the nations.
8 Those who dwell on the far edges
stand in awe of your acts.
You make the gateways
of morning and evening sing for joy.
9 You visit the earth and make it abundant,
enriching it greatly
by God's stream, full of water.
You provide people with grain
because that is what you've decided.
10 Drenching the earth's furrows,
leveling its ridges,
you soften it with rain showers;
you bless its growth.
11 You crown the year with your goodness;

your paths overflow with rich food.
¹² Even the desert pastures drip with it,
and the hills are dressed in pure joy.
¹³ The meadowlands are covered with flocks,
the valleys decked out in grain—
they shout for joy;
they break out in song!

Luke 18:9–14 The Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector

9 To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: **10** “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. **11** The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. **12** I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

13 “But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

14 “I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Hallelujah! We Shall Rise

1. In the resurrection morning,
When we hear God’s trumpet sound,
We shall rise, Hallelujah! We shall rise!
Then the saints will come rejoicing
And no tears will e’er be found,
We shall rise, Hallelujah! we shall rise.

We shall rise, Hallelujah!
We shall rise, Amen!
We shall rise, Hallelujah!
In the resurrection morning,
When death’s prison bars are broken,
We shall rise, Hallelujah! We shall rise.

2. In the resurrection morning,
What a meeting it will be,
We shall rise, Hallelujah! We shall rise!
When our fathers and our mothers,
And our loved ones we shall see,
We shall rise, Hallelujah! We shall rise!

We shall rise, Hallelujah!
We shall rise, Amen!
We shall rise, Hallelujah!
In the resurrection morning,
When death's prison bars are broken,
We shall rise, Hallelujah! We shall rise!

4. In the resurrection morning,
We shall meet Him in the air,
We shall rise, Hallelujah! We shall rise!
And be carried up to glory,
To our home so bright and fair,
We shall rise, Hallelujah! We shall rise!

We shall rise, Hallelujah!
We shall rise, Amen!
We shall rise, Hallelujah!
In the resurrection morning,
When death's prison bars are broken,
We shall rise, Hallelujah! We shall rise.

In the resurrection morning,
When death's prison bars are broken,
We shall rise, Hallelujah! We shall rise!

Songs for Allhallowtide

Hymn

How Bright Is The Day

1 How bright is the day when the Christian
Receives the sweet message to come,
To rise to the mansions of glory
And be there forever at home.

And be there forever at home,
and be there forever at home,
to rise to the mansions of glory
and be there forever at home.

2 The angels stand ready and waiting
The moment the spirit is gone,
To carry it upward to heaven,
And welcome it safely at home.

And welcome it safely at home,
And welcome it safely at home,

To carry it upward to heaven,
And welcome it safely at home.

3 The saints that have gone up before us
All raise a new song as we come
And sing hallelujah the louder
To welcome the travellers home

To welcome the travellers home
To welcome the travellers home
And sing hallelujah the louder
To welcome the travellers home

4 Then let us go onward rejoicing,
Till Jesus invites us to come,
To share in his glorious kingdom,
And be there forever at home.

And be there forever at home,
and be there forever at home,
to share in his glorious kingdom,
and be there forever at home.
(repeat)

Reflection

Celebrating Hallowmas

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

When The Saints Are Marching In

1. Thro' the shining gate,
Where the angels wait,
When the saints are marching in,
The redeemed shall come,
And be crowned at home,
When the saints are marching in.

When the saints are marching in,
When the saints are marching in,
Joyful songs of salvation
thro' the sky shall ring,
When the saints are marching in.

2. Parted friends shall meet,
On the golden street,
When the saints are marching in,
Spotless robes shall wear,

Victor's palms shall bear,
When the saints are marching in.

When the saints are marching in,
When the saints are marching in,
Joyful songs of salvation
thro' the sky shall ring,
When the saints are marching in.

3. Ev'ry tongue and race
Shall extol God's grace,
When the saints are marching in,
And the blood-washed throng
Shall repeat the song,
When the saints are marching in.

When the saints are marching in,
When the saints are marching in,
Joyful songs of salvation
thro' the sky shall ring,
When the saints are marching in.

When the saints are marching in,
When the saints are marching in,
Joyful songs of salvation
thro' the sky shall ring,
When the saints are marching in.

Offering

The Swiss theologian Karl Barth once said that grace and gratitude go together like heaven and earth. We all desire to follow a life lived in gratitude for the gifts we have received. We then give back with our gifts of time, talent, and treasure for mission in the world. Accept our joyful offering as a token of our abiding love: may it be used to bring peace, justice and comfort to all the world. Amen.

Prayers of the People

We give thanks for all those who went before us,
We give thanks for hands lifted in praise:
We give thanks for hardworking saints;
They left their mark on the earth for you, for us, for our children to come.
We give thanks for the tremendous sacrifices made by those who have gone before us.
Bless their memories. May we learn how to walk wisely from their examples of faith, dedication, and love.

Two thousand years ago a spark of new creation was lit in Christ. Five hundred years ago, grace was reignited in the hearts of men and women who led the Reformation. Just when we think all is settled, everything is finished and closed, your power and presence explodes onto the scene yet again, bringing newness, bringing life. May we be filled with that power and presence so we can, like our grandparents in faith, carry truth, beauty, and justice to the world we so love—a world in such need.

We now take a moment to remember those we keep in our prayers. (pause)

And now, in the words we have been taught to pray, we sing...

**Creator, in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your dominion come, your will be done on earth, as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For your reign eternally, in power and in glory,
For ever and ever, Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Bread for the Journey

As the veil between seasons—and perhaps between worlds—grows thin, whose memory or influence still sings in your life today? How might you honour their presence through the way you live, love, and create?

Closing Hymn

Sing With All The Saints in Glory

1 Sing with all the saints in glory,
sing the resurrection song!
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story,
to the former days belong.
All around the clouds are breaking;
soon the storms of time shall cease;
in God's likeness we awaken,
knowing everlasting peace.

2 Oh, what glory, far exceeding
all that eye has yet perceived!
Holiest hearts for ages pleading
never that full joy conceived.
God has promised, Christ prepares it;
there on high our welcome waits.
Ev'ry humble spirit shares it.
Christ has passed th'eternal gates.

3 Life eternal! Heav'n rejoices:
Jesus lives who once was dead.
Shout with joy, O deathless voices!
Child of God, lift up your head!
Life eternal! Oh, what wonders
crowd on faith: what joy unknown,
when amid earth's closing thunders,
saints shall stand before the throne!

Benediction

Be generous in prosperity, and thankful in adversity.
Be fair in your judgment, and guarded in your speech.
Be a lamp unto those who walk in darkness, and a home to the stranger.
Be eyes to the blind, and a guiding light unto the feet of the erring.
Be a breath of life to the body of humankind,
a dew to the soil of the human heart,
and a fruit upon the tree of humility.
Amen.

Choral Response

Take Up The Song

MV 213

Take up the song of peace
and go into the world,
Take up the song of peace
in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey,
we're laying down our lives,
lay them down, in peace,
lay them down, and take up the song.

Take up the song of love
and go into the world,
Take up the song of love
in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey,
we're laying down our lives,
lay them down, in love,
lay them down, and take up the song.

Postlude

* Permission to podcast/stream and reproduce the music and lyrics obtained from
ONE LICENSE with license A-737645. All rights reserved.