



**Birchcliff Bluffs United Church**

**Ministers:** All the People – wherever and however they gather

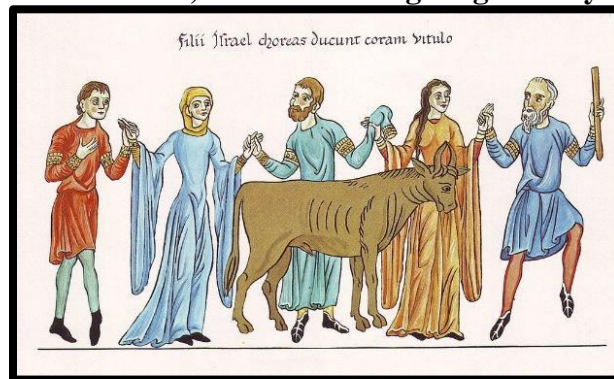
**Rev. Gregory Daly:** Minister of Word & Sacrament

**Rev. Carmen Llanos:** Minister of Community Development

**Music Director:** Randy Vancourt

**Reader:** Joseph Dahonick

**October 11, 2020 – Thanksgiving Sunday**



*The Adoration of the Golden Calf (12<sup>th</sup> Century)*

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Prelude**

**For The Beauty of the Earth**

Music by Conrad Kocher

**Call to Worship**

Thanksgiving is

*not just a moment, or a day, or a season.*

Thanksgiving is

*an action, to be lived always, and to be lived all-ways.*

Thanksgiving is

*an attitude. a promise. a way of life.*

So let us enter this place

*thanks giving*

Giving thanks

*to one another and for one another,*

*to all creation for all creation,*

*to the Creator of all.*

*Let us worship God together.*

## Response

## We Praise You, O God

VU 218

Words by Julia Cory  
Music by Adrianus Valerius

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;  
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,  
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.  
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,  
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

With voices united our praises we offer  
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,  
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

## 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, You Thankful People, Come

VU 516

Words: Henry Alford  
Music: George Job Elvey

Come, you thankful people, come,  
raise the song of harvest home!  
All is safely gathered in,  
safe before the storms begin;  
God, our maker, does provide

for our needs to be supplied:  
come to God's own temple, come,  
raise the song of harvest home!

All the world is God's own field,  
harvests for God's praise to yield;  
wheat and weeds together sown,  
here for joy or sorrow grown;  
first the blade, and then the ear,  
then the full corn shall appear:  
Harvest-giver, grant that we  
wholesome grain and pure may be.

For our God, one day, shall come,  
and shall take this harvest home;  
from the field shall in that day  
all offences purge away;  
giving angels charge at last  
in the fire the weeds to cast;  
in the garner evermore.

Even so, God, quickly come  
to your final harvest home!  
Gather all your people in,  
free from sorrow, free from sin;  
there for ever purified,  
in your presence to abide:  
come, with all your angels, come,  
raise the glorious harvest home.



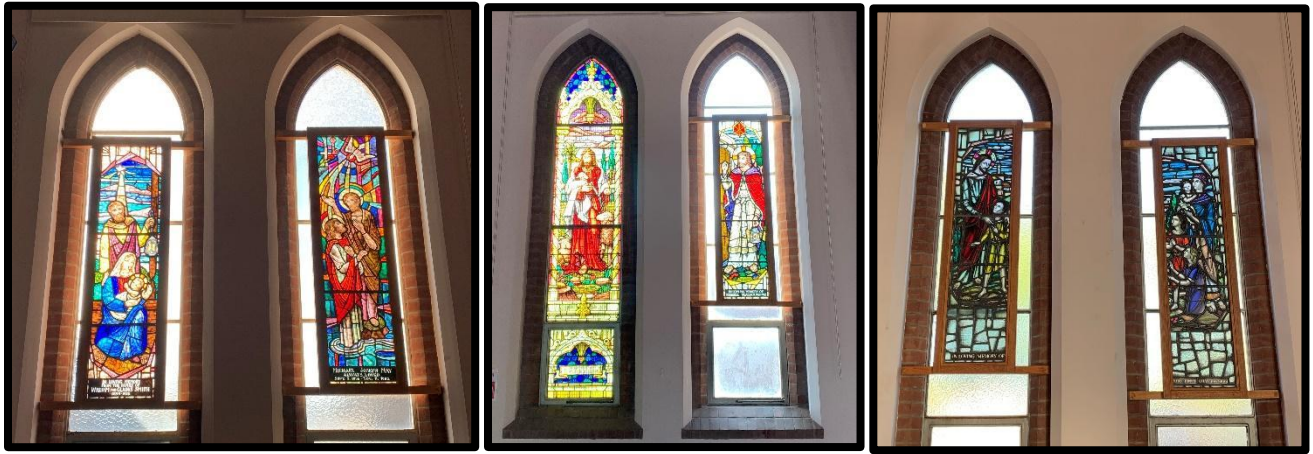
## Prayer for Grace



*We sing praise and we hear the good news:  
God knows the deepest prayers of our hearts.  
Even when we fail to speak the words, it is simply  
generous and gracious living that God asks from us.  
May we engage ourselves and others with generous  
gratitude and radical generosity to reveal this grace  
in our lives.  
Amen.*

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### And Now for Something Completely Different



### Psalm 106: 1-6, 19-23

### New Revised Standard Version

Praise God!

O give thanks to God, for God is good;  
whose steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Who can utter the mighty doings of God,  
or declare all God's praise?

<sup>3</sup> Happy are those who observe justice,  
who do righteousness at all times.

<sup>4</sup> Remember me God, when you show favour to your people;  
help me when you deliver them;

<sup>5</sup> that I may see the prosperity of your chosen ones,  
that I may rejoice in the gladness of your nation,  
that I may glory in your heritage.

<sup>6</sup> Both we and our ancestors have sinned;  
we have committed iniquity, have done wickedly.

<sup>19</sup> They made a calf at Horeb  
and worshiped a cast image.

<sup>20</sup> They exchanged the glory of God  
for the image of an ox that eats grass.

<sup>21</sup> They forgot God, their Saviour,  
who had done great things in Egypt,

<sup>22</sup> wondrous works in the land of Ham,  
and awesome deeds by the Red Sea.

<sup>23</sup> Therefore God said they would be destroyed  
had not Moses, God's chosen one,  
stood in the breach,  
to turn away God's wrath from destroying them.

**Hymn**

**Praise, My Soul, the God of Heaven**

**VU 240**

Words: Henry Francis Lyte

Music: John Goss

Praise, my soul, the God of heaven,  
glad of heart your carols raise;  
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
who, like me, should sing God's praise.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Praise the Maker all your days!

Praise God for the grace and favour  
shown our forebears in distress;  
God is still the same forever,  
slow to chide and swift to bless.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Sing our Maker's faithfulness!

Like a loving parent caring,  
God knows well our feeble frame;  
gladly all our burdens bearing,  
still to countless years the same.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

All within me, praise God's name!

Angels, teach us adoration,  
you behold God face to face;  
sun and moon and all creation,  
dwellers all in time and space.

Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

Praise with us the God of grace!

**Exodus 32: 1-14**

**New Revised Standard Version**

When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, "Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him." <sup>2</sup> Aaron said to them, "Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your spouses and your children, and bring them to me." <sup>3</sup> So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. <sup>4</sup> He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, "These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!" <sup>5</sup> When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and

said, "Tomorrow shall be a festival to God." <sup>6</sup> They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

<sup>7</sup> God said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; <sup>8</sup> they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!'" <sup>9</sup> God said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. <sup>10</sup> Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation."

<sup>11</sup> But Moses implored God, and said, "Why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? <sup>12</sup> Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that God brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. <sup>13</sup> Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.'" <sup>14</sup> And God's mind was changed about the disaster planned for God's people.

The word of God for the People of God

*Thanks be to God*

### Sermon

WE ARE  
WHAT WE EAT



### Hymn

### We Plough the Fields

VU 520

Words: Matthias Claudius

Translation by Jane Montgomery Campbell

Music: Johann Abraham Peter Schulz

We plough the fields and scatter  
the good seed on the land,  
but it is fed and watered  
by your almighty hand;  
you send the snow in winter,  
the warmth to swell the grain,



the breezes and the sunshine,  
and soft refreshing rain.

All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above;  
we thank you, God, O holy God,  
for all your love



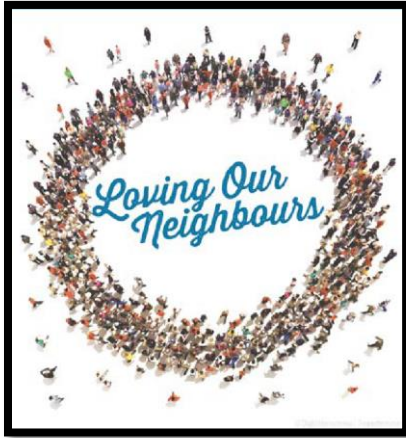
You only are the maker  
of all things near and far;  
you paint the wayside flower,  
you light the evening star;  
the winds and waves obey you,  
by you the birds are fed;  
much more to us, your children,  
you give us daily bread.

All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above;  
we thank you, God, O holy God,  
for all your love.

We thank you then, O Maker,  
for all things bright and good,  
the seed-time and the harvest,  
our life, our health, our food;  
accept the gifts we offer  
for all your love imparts,  
and, what from us you long for,  
our humble, thankful hearts.

All good gifts around us  
are sent from heaven above;  
we thank you, God, O holy God,  
for all your love.

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD



### Stewardship Moment

*Everything comes from God and belongs to God; we give, not in tribute to God's power, but in gratitude for what we have been given.*

### Response

### 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

### Grateful

MV 182

Grateful for the life you give us,  
thankful for your Holy Son,  
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all,  
O God of Love.

Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,  
thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing,  
we will praise you.

1. You are more than we imagine,  
Ancient, Holy, Living God.  
Even when we doubt your presence  
you are faithful to your Word.

Grateful for the life you give us,  
thankful for your Holy Son,  
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all,



O God of Love.  
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,  
thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing,  
we will praise you.

2. May our lives proclaim your justice,  
may our voices sing your praise.  
May our hands work in your service  
to the glory of your name.

Grateful for the life you give us,  
thankful for your Holy Son,  
joyful in your Spirit flowing over all,  
O God of Love.  
Grateful for the Bread of Heaven,  
thankful for your Holy Word,  
joyful in your mercy flowing,  
we will praise you.

### **Benediction & Commissioning**



### **Postlude**

### **To God Be The Glory**

Music by William H. Doane

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## Other Resources for Today

### **The Adoration of the Golden Calf (12<sup>th</sup> Century) - Herrad of Landsberg**

*Inscription: filii Israel choreas ducunt coram vitulo (The Children of Israel dance to the lead before the calf (bull))*

**Paintings included in the bulletin this week** shown during our opening hymn are courtesy of the Don Valley Art Club and specifically highlight the work of Dorothy Gordon, Jessie Gordon, and Rosemary Tannock. Thanks to Jessie Gordon for arranging this wonderful inclusion for thanksgiving.

### **Note about the stain glass in the sanctuary from Frank Bawcutt:**

*“Most of the windows from the Birchcliff Height’s congregation are people from the Height’s early history. You can see Michael May was young when he died. He was killed in a car crash. He was also in scouting, so the 6<sup>th</sup> Toronto Scout Troop made a Michael May Award given to the best scout of the year.”*

## Other Lectionary Readings

### **Matthew 22: 1-14**

Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup> while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ <sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests. <sup>11</sup>“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup> and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen.”

### **Philippians 4: 1-9**

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>2</sup> I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup> Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>4</sup> Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup> Let your gentleness be known to everyone. God is near. <sup>6</sup> Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup> Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup> Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.