



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

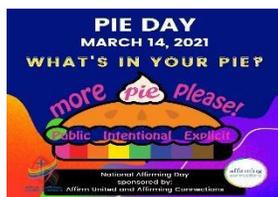
Rev. Gregory Daly: Minister of Word & Sacrament

Rev. Carmen Llanos: Minister of Community Development

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

Scripture: Betty McCulloch

March 14, 2021 – PIE Day



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Call to Worship

Gathered together, we proclaim the Good News of God publicly, intentionally, and explicitly:

This community joyfully affirms God's love for LGBTQ2SIA people.

The presence of God welcomes the fullness of who we are.

We are people who desire. Who long. Who practice love in many ways.

We celebrate love that is platonic and love that is erotic.

Love that is queer and love that is collective.

We are people who want to know and be known -
for who we've been, who we are, and who we are becoming.

We honor identities in transition.

We delight in authentic self-expression.

Whether trans or intersex or cis, God moves in our becoming.

How wonderful are the many works of God's creative hand!

May all who long for Love's embrace feel their Holy worth.

Response

Let Us Build a House

Words & Music: Marty Haugen
© 1994, GIA Publications, Inc.

MV 1

Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
A place where saints and children
tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

Life & Work of the Church

Welcome to online worship



Land Acknowledgement



Candle Lighting

There once was someone who said such wonderful things and did some amazing things that people couldn't help but follow him. As they followed they asked lots of questions. Once they asked him who he was and he said "I am the Light."

Opening Hymn

A Place At The Table

Words: Shirley Erena Murray © 1998 Hope Publishing Co.
Music: Lori True © 2001 GIA Publications Inc.

For everyone born, a place at the table
For everyone born, clean water and bread
A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing
For everyone born, a star overhead.

And God will delight
when we are creators of justice and joy,
Yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy.

For everyone here, a place at the table
Revising the roles, deciding the share
With wisdom and grace, dividing the power
For everyone here, a system that's fair

And God will delight
when we are creators of justice and joy,
Yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy.

For young and for old, a place at the table
A voice to be heard, a part in the song
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
For young and for old, the right to belong.

And God will delight
when we are creators of justice and joy,
Yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy.

For everyone born, a place at the table
To live without fear, and simply to be,
To work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
For everyone born, the right to be free.

And God will delight
when we are creators of justice and joy,
Yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy.

Opening Prayer

God, when you called each of us into being, you delighted in your works. You gifted us with differences that illuminate the breadth of beauty, wisdom, and practices of love in your creation. In whatever ways we still struggle to accept and celebrate our own unique offerings, free us from narrow thinking that confines, constrains, or condemns your good work in us. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

PIE DAY



Hymn

God of Many Faces

Words: Amy Cerniglia

Music: Traditional Irish melody

God of many faces, we offer our praise,
singing your glory through all of our days.
Hear ever growing voices, once fragile, now strong,
carrying melodies in expansive new songs.

God of many names, we invite you to show
us the new names that reflect our true souls.
Breathe with your holy spirit to give us the Word
that will indwell dry bones, granting new life once heard.

God of many bodies, abide within ours,
shifting more each day through time and through scars.
Come sanctify our bodies, all fashioned by you,
holier every day, still becoming more true.

Prayer of Illumination

Holy Wisdom, come. We long for your truth that sets the captives free. Bring us your Word that liberates and quiet all that turns us against ourselves, one another, or any of your creatures and creations. Lead us in love that mends and restores. Amen.



Ruth 1 New Revised Standard Version

1 In the days when the judges ruled, there was a famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his wife and two sons. 2 The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into the country of Moab and remained there. 3 But Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. 4 These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When they had lived there about ten years, 5 both Mahlon and Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her two sons and her husband.

6 Then she started to return with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had considered his people and given them food. 7 So she set out from the place where she had been living, she and her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to go back to the land of Judah. 8 But Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law, “Go back each of you to your mother’s house. May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. 9 The Lord grant that you may find security, each of you in the house of your husband.” Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud. 10 They said to her, “No, we will return with you to your people.” 11 But Naomi said, “Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may become your husbands? 12 Turn back, my daughters, go your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a husband tonight and bear sons, 13 would you then wait until they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.” 14 Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

15 So she said, “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.” 16 But Ruth said,

“Do not press me to leave you
or to turn back from following you!

Where you go, I will go;
where you lodge, I will lodge;
your people shall be my people,
and your God my God.

17 Where you die, I will die—
there will I be buried.

May the Lord do thus and so to me,
and more as well,
if even death parts me from you!”

18 When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

19 So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said, “Is this Naomi?” 20 She said to them,

“Call me no longer Naomi,
call me Mara,
for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me.

21 I went away full,
but the Lord has brought me back empty;
why call me Naomi

when the Lord has dealt harshly with me,
and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

22 So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

Offering



Since its beginning, the church was meant to be a place of chosen family - a community of outcasts and outlaws, dreamers, prophets, and humble disciples of Love. In the company of Divine Presence, we create belonging and nurture justice. With gratitude for the Sacred Labors of Love in this place, let us bring our offerings to God and one another.

Prayers of the People



Prayer of Jesus



Eternal Spirit, Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver, Source of all that is and that shall be. Father and Mother of us all, Loving God, in whom is heaven: earth.

The hallowing of your name echoes through the universe! The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world! Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on earth. With the bread we need for today, feed us. In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us. In times of temptation and test, strengthen us. From trials too great to endure, spare us. From the grip of all that is evil, free us. For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. *Amen.*

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

For the Healing of the Nations

VU 678

Words: Fred Kaan

© 1968 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: Henry Purcell

For the healing of the nations,
God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things the earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release;
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.

Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness
bring the life of Christ to mind;
that, by our response and service,
earth its destiny may find.

Benediction & Commissioning



Postlude

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