



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: Norma Grech

May 9, 2021 – Christian Family Day



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Call to Worship

Creator, parent of the human family,

we gather to worship you.

In baptism, we are called beloved children of God, as such,

we gather to worship you.

Friends, neighbours, siblings in faith,

we gather to worship in song, in prayer, in readings from your story,

in thoughts and reflections.

Let us worship God.

Response

Draw The Circle Wide

MV 145

Words and music: Gordon Light
© 1994 Common Cup Company

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.*

*God the still-point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms.*

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.*

*Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.*

*Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.*

Life & Work of the Church



*Welcome to online worship
Whoever you are, however you identify, wherever you come from, you
are welcome here.*

Land Acknowledgement

As we prepare for worship, we take a moment to acknowledge the sacred land 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 the Mississauga's of the Credit and Scugog. What we now know as Scarborough is part of the Williams Treaty lands. 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. It is now our time to share in the care and maintenance of the land. Part of that discussion is the work of reconciliation and we seek to be mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.



Candle Lighting

Opening Hymn

Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth

VU 320

Words: © 1991 Jean Wiebe Janzen
Music: Henry Bake

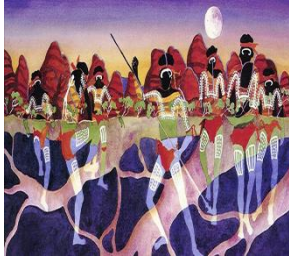
*Mothering God, you gave me birth
in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of every breath,
you are my rain, my wind, my sun.*

*Mothering Christ, you took my form,
offering me your food of light,*

*grain of my life, and grape of love,
your very body for my peace.*

*Mothering Spirit, nurturing one,
in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow
until I flower, until I know.*

Prayer for Grace



God, you know how hard it is to live in relationships, and yet you call us to do so. At times it is hard to be fully present to our siblings and others in our families of origin, our Christian family and the family of humanity. Our patience may be short, we sometimes don't really listen, we may be tired, or angry, or hungry, or lonely, or ... whatever it is that keeps us from loving and caring for one another, help us to know that you are always with us, loving us so that we may love others.

Assurance of Pardon

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

And Now For Something Completely Different



Hymn

Would You Bless Our Homes and Families

VU 556

Words: © 1977 Walter Farquharson
Music: © 1977 Ron Klusmeier

*Would you bless our homes and families,
Source of life who calls us here;
in our world of stress and tension
teach us love that conquers fear.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles,
love's expressed in many ways.*

*From the homes in which we're nurtured,
with the love that shapes us there,
teach us, God, to claim as family
every one whose life we share.*

*And through all that life may offer,
may we in your love remain;
may the love we share in families
be alive to praise your name.*

*Let us reach beyond the boundaries
of our daily thought and care
till the family you have chosen
spills its love out everywhere.
Help us learn to love each other
with a love that constant stays;
teach us when we face our troubles
love's expressed in many ways.*

Prayer of Illumination

*O God of story, in the beginning you created humankind. The Bible contains your story of love and encouragement and challenge, to your creation, to your children, and to us. Today, may our hearts and minds be open to hear what your Spirit is saying to us.
Amen.*

Acts 10:44-48

New Revised Standard Version

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles, ⁴⁶ for they heard them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone withhold the water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸ So he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they invited him to stay for several days.

John 15:9-17

New Revised Standard Version

⁹ As God has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. ¹¹ I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. ¹² “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁵ I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from God. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that God will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God

Sermon

Joe Pyeweed



Hymn

Deep In Our Hearts

MV 154

Words © 1995 by John Wesley Oldham
Music © 1996 by Ron Klusmeier

*Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.*

*Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.*

*Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;
deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering



Prayers of the People



Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kin-dom 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 kin-dom, the power, and the glory for ever and ever. Amen

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

It Only Takes a Spark

VU 289

Words & Music: Kurt Kaiser
© 1969 Budjohn Songs

*It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone,
you want to pass it on.*

*What a wondrous time is spring when all the trees are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.*

*I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found -
on God you can depend, it matters not where you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top;
I want my world to know:
the God of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.*

Benediction & Commissioning

Postlude



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Other Resources for Today

ANFSCD and Sermon

[Declaration of Kinship and Cooperation among the Indigenous Peoples and Nations of North America | Assembly of First Nations \(afn.ca\)](#)

[The Power of Indigenous Kinship | The Walrus](#)

Lectionary Readings

Psalm 98 New Revised Standard Version

¹ O sing to God a new song,
 for God has done marvelous things.
God's right hand and holy arm
 have gotten victory.
² God has made known this victory;
 and revealed God's vindication in the sight of the nations.
³ God has remembered this steadfast love and faithfulness
 to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
 the victory of our God.

⁴ Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;
 break forth into joyous song and sing praises.
⁵ Sing praises to God with the lyre,
 with the lyre and the sound of melody.
⁶ With trumpets and the sound of the horn
 make a joyful noise before the sovereign God.

⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
 the world and those who live in it.
⁸ Let the floods clap their hands;
 let the hills sing together for joy
⁹ at the presence of God, for God is coming
 to judge the earth.
God will judge the world with righteousness,
 and the peoples with equity.

1 John 5:1-6 New Revised Standard Version

⁵ Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child. ² By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey his commandments. ³ For the love of God is this, that we obey his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome, ⁴ for whatever is born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. ⁵ Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? ⁶ This is the one who came by water and blood, Jesus Christ, not with the water only but with the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one that testifies, for the Spirit is the truth.