



**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:** Patricia Reid

**September 26, 2021**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Prelude**

**From Every Stormy Wind That Blows**

Music: Thomas Hastings

**Opening Prayer**

*Today we wear orange to remember and honour all the Indigenous children who went to residential schools.*

*Today we wear orange and we pray for the residential school and intergenerational survivors who are still struggling.*

*Today we wear orange and we are thankful for those who speak the truth, and who work to shine a light on injustice.*

*Today we wear orange in the name of compassion and the spirit of truth and reconciliation.*

*Help us, God, to remember and act on this every day. Amen.*



**Response**

**People Let Us Walk Together**

Words & Music: © 2004 Judith Snowdon

**MV 179**

*People let us walk together,  
sharing sadness, loss and grief,  
we will move through pain to wholeness,  
brokenness transformed to peace.*

*People let us work together,  
seeking justice, healing shame,  
filled with hope, imbued with courage,  
ev'ry violence we will name.*

*People let us love together,  
joining spirits, linking hands,  
we are God's unique creation,  
clothed with dignity we'll stand.*

## Life & Work of the Church

*Welcome to online worship*

## Land Acknowledgement

## Candle Lighting



## Opening Hymn

### Creator God, You Made This Land

Words: Keith Pearson

© The Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress

Music: Dmitri Stepanovitch Bortnianski

*Creator God, you made this land  
and gave to us the gift of life.  
You wish that we should live as one,  
but we acknowledge sin and strife.  
Let justice everywhere be found,  
Let discord end and love abound.*

*Your covenants of old stand firm,  
your ways are faithful, right and just.  
Bind us together in your love  
to live and work in growing trust.  
Strengthen those ties which keep us true  
to serve each other, serving you.*

*Great Spirit in this ancient land,  
speak in the stillness deep within.  
Remove all prejudice and fear,  
give life to all, new hope begin.  
Then help us gently walk as friends,  
while on this land your peace descends.*

## Prayer for Reconciliation *(adapted from KAIROS)*

*Creator God, our country has journeyed for six years with the  
Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission  
process, seeking understanding, healing, and reconciliation.  
Much remains to be done.*

*It has not been an easy path, but we seek to walk it together.  
We have tried to listen to each other's stories. We have sought  
to understand without judgement. We have noted the  
differences in values and traditions, but also the places where  
we share values and traditions. We are all your children.*



*You embrace all in your love.  
You call us now to reflect that love to each other.  
You call us to be brothers and sisters on the path to reconciliation. Amen*

## WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### And Now For Something Completely Different



### Hymn

#### **This Path We Walk**

Words: © 2016 S. Curtis Tuft  
Music: O Waly Waly

*This path we walk, through joy and tears,  
a living Way of faith and fears,  
through each step's risk, each sorrow's pain,  
when walked in love, we'll rise again.*

*When life is shared, together, free  
we'll grow to be all we can be:  
a circle wide will call us home,  
when wrapped in love, we're not alone.*

*These gifts we bring, this light we hold,  
our songs of grace, our stories told,  
remain un-done, told just in part,  
till shared in love, and known by heart.*

*When life is shared, together bound,  
God's richest gifts, together found;  
together walk the Spirit's Way  
when love's the guide,  
we shall not stray.*

*This life we share, a blessing deep;  
a promised gift, now ours to keep.  
God grant our words were spoken true,  
now clothed in life, each day anew.*

## **Prayer of Illumination**

*May the readings today shed light on a shadowed world yearning for hope.*

*May we receive these words with comfort and hope.*

*Amen*

### **Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 20-22**

**New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>1</sup> So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. <sup>2</sup> On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, “What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled.” <sup>3</sup> Then Queen Esther answered, “If I have won your favour, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. <sup>4</sup> For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be annihilated. If we had been sold merely as slaves, men and women, I would have held my peace; but no enemy can compensate for this damage to the king.” <sup>5</sup> Then King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who has presumed to do this?” <sup>6</sup> Esther said, “A foe and enemy, this wicked Haman!” Then Haman was terrified before the king and the queen.

<sup>9</sup> Then Harbona, one of the eunuchs in attendance on the king, said, “Look, the very gallows that Haman has prepared for Mordecai, whose word saved the king, stands at Haman’s house, fifty cubits high.” And the king said, “Hang him on that.” <sup>10</sup> So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the anger of the king abated.

<sup>20</sup> Mordecai recorded these things, and sent letters to all the Jews who were in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, both near and far, <sup>21</sup> enjoining them that they should keep the fourteenth day of the month Adar and also the fifteenth day of the same month, year by year, <sup>22</sup> as the days on which the Jews gained relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness, days for sending gifts of food to one another and presents to the poor.

### **Mark 9:38-50**

**New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>38</sup> John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” <sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup> Whoever is not against us is for us. <sup>41</sup> For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

<sup>42</sup> “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. <sup>43</sup> If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. <sup>45</sup> And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. <sup>47</sup> And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the

kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, <sup>48</sup> where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

<sup>49</sup>“For everyone will be salted with fire. <sup>50</sup> Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves, and be at peace with one another.”

These are Jesus’ words for us to focus on today.

*Thanks be to God*

**Sermon**

**Fall Preserves**



**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.*

#### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

#### Offering our Gifts to God

God, all that we have comes from you. These offerings return but some of our treasure to do the work that Jesus walked among us to do. Use what we offer, gathered together with our time, our talents and our hearts, to help in the healing of your broken world. Amen

#### Poem: "Reconciliation"



#### 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

### **The Lone, Wild Bird** VU 384

Words: (v 1, 2): Henry Richard McFadyen  
© 1927 Homiletic and Pastoral Review  
(v 3- 5): Marty Haugen © 1991 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.  
Music: Walker's Southern Harmony

*The lone, wild bird in lofty flight  
is still with you, nor leaves your sight.  
And I am yours! I rest in you,  
Great Spirit, come, rest in me too.*

*The ends of earth are in your hand,  
the sea's dark deep and far off land.  
And I am yours! I rest in you,  
Great Spirit, come, rest in me too.*

*Each secret thought is known to you,  
the path I walk my whole life through;  
my days, my deeds, my hopes, my fears,  
my deepest joys, my silent tears.*

*O search me, God, my heart reveal,  
renew my life, my spirit heal;  
for I am yours, I rest in you,  
Great Spirit, come, rest in me too.*

### Benediction & Commissioning



### Postlude

### **Love For All, and Can It Be**

Music: Xavier Schnyder

Permission to reproduce lyrics and podcast/stream the music  
in this service obtained from One License.

## Other Resources for Today

[WELCOME \(orangeshirtday.org\)](http://orangeshirtday.org)

## Lectionary Readings

### Psalm 124

### New Revised Standard Version

<sup>1</sup> If it had not been God who was on our side  
—let Israel now say—  
<sup>2</sup> if it had not been God who was on our side,  
when our enemies attacked us,  
<sup>3</sup> then they would have swallowed us up alive,  
when their anger was kindled against us;  
<sup>4</sup> then the flood would have swept us away,  
the torrent would have gone over us;  
<sup>5</sup> then over us would have gone  
the raging waters.

<sup>6</sup> Blessed be God,  
who has not given us  
as prey to their teeth.  
<sup>7</sup> We have escaped like a bird  
from the snare of the fowlers;  
the snare is broken,  
and we have escaped.

<sup>8</sup> Our help is in the name of God,  
who made heaven and earth.

### James 5:13-20

### New Revised Standard Version

<sup>13</sup> Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.  
<sup>14</sup> Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them,  
anointing them with oil in God's name. <sup>15</sup> The prayer of faith will save the sick, and God will raise them  
up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. <sup>16</sup> Therefore confess your sins to one another,  
and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and  
effective. <sup>17</sup> Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three  
years and six months it did not rain on the earth. <sup>18</sup> Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and  
the earth yielded its harvest.

<sup>19</sup> My siblings, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, <sup>20</sup> you should  
know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will  
cover a multitude of sins.