



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Minister of Word & Sacrament: Katie Vardy

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

Reader: Mary Cannings

April 26th, 2026

4rd Sunday of Easter

LORD'S PRAYER MUSIC SERVICE

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle

We light this candle today as a symbol of our desire to share light and hope in the world.

Candle is lit.

Lighting the Rainbow Candle

We also light the rainbow candle in the spirit of diversity, love and the understanding that there is room for all. *Candle is lit.*

Land Acknowledgement

We begin today by acknowledging that we gather on the traditional territory of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Wendat, Chippewa, and Mississaugas of the Credit. May we act with respect, humility, and a commitment to justice, as we strive to build a future where all peoples can live together in harmony and respect.

We offer our thanks for this land, its history, and the teachings it offers, and we commit ourselves to walking in solidarity with Indigenous peoples in the pursuit of healing and justice.

Opening Hymn

**Lord's Prayer
(Sister Janet Meade)**

Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
(repeat)

Give us this day our daily bread
Forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive them who trespass against us
Forgive us our trespasses

Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven

Our Lord lead us not into temptation
But save us from evil
And the kingdom, the power
And the glory forever
Will be Yours

Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be Thy name
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven
(repeat)

Passing the Peace

Each week we take a moment to pass the peace; to share a wave, a handshake or a nod to our neighbours, to remind us of the light that is in each of us, and that we are called to reconciliation and community.

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

Life and Work

Opening Prayer

We gather here today, inspired by the rhythms of the music and the words of our ancestors. May these words uplift our spirits and connect us to something larger than ourselves. May the songs we sing today be a source of joy, comfort and inspiration. We give thanks for the gift of song and the power it holds to heal and unite. Amen.

Hymn

Seek Ye First

VU 356

1 Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And God's righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia!

2 Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek, and you shall find.
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia!!

3 We do not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds out from the mouth of God.
Allelu, Alleluia!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia,
Allelu, Alleluia! (*repeat*)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And God's righteousness;
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia!

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture

The Two Versions of the Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:5-15

New International Version

⁵“And when you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and on the street corners to be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward in full. ⁶But when you pray, go into your room, close the door and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. ⁷And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words. ⁸Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him.

⁹“This, then, is how you should pray:

‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

¹⁰ your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us today our daily bread.

¹² And forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from the evil one.’

¹⁴ For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. ¹⁵ But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

Luke 11:1-4; 9-10 New International Version

11 One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

² He said to them, “When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come. ³ Give us each day our daily bread.

⁴ Forgive us our sins, for we also forgive everyone who sins against us.
And lead us not into temptation.

⁹ “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Caribbean Lord’s Prayer

Our creator, which art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name
Thy dominion come, thy will be done
Hallowed by thy name
On the earth as it is in heaven
Hallowed by thy name
Give us this day our daily bread
Hallowed by thy name
And forgive us all our trespasses,
Hallowed by thy name
As we forgive those who trespass against us
Hallowed by thy name
And lead us not into temptation
Hallowed by thy name
But deliver us from evil
Hallowed by thy name
For thine is dominion, and power and glory
Hallowed by thy name
For ever and forever
Hallowed by thy name
Amen, amen, amen, amen
Hallowed by thy name
Amen, amen, amen, amen
Hallowed by thy name

Hymn

Sometimes a Light Surprises

1 Sometimes a light surprises
Believers while they sing;
Is is the Lord who rises
With healing in his wings;
When comforts are declining,
He grants the soul again
A season of clear shining
To cheer it after rain.

2 In holy contemplation,
We sweetly then pursue
The theme of God's salvation,
And find it ever new;
Set free from present sorrow,
We cheerfully can say,
E'en let th'unknown to tomorrow
Bring with it what it may.

3 It can bring with it nothing
But he will bear us through;
Who gives the lilies clothing
Will clothe his people, too;
Beneath the spreading heavens,
No creature is not fed,
And he who feeds the ravens
Will give his children bread.

4 The vine, nor fig tree neither,
Their wonted fruit should bear,
Tho' all the fields should wither,
Nor flocks, nor herds be there;
Yet God the same abiding,
His praise shall tune my voice,
For while in him confiding,
I cannot but rejoice.

Hymn

Aboriginal Lord's Prayer

You are our Maker, you are in heaven,
We talk to you, Creator you are good,
You are our Maker, you are in heaven,
We talk to you, Creator you are good.
We believe your word, Creator,

We are your children, give us bread today,
We believe your word, Creator,
We are your children, give us bread today.
We have done wrong, we are sorry,
Help us Creator, not to sin again,
We have done wrong, we are sorry,
Help us Creator, not to sin again,
Others have done wrong to us
and we forgive them all, Creator, today,
Others have done wrong to us
and we forgive them all, Creator, today.
Stop us from doing wrong, Creator,
Save us all from the evil ways,
Stop us from doing wrong, Creator,
Save us all from the evil ways.
You are our Maker, you are in heaven,
We talk to you, Creator you are good,
You are our Maker, you are in heaven,
We talk to you, Creator you are good.

Reflection

Hymn

Lord's Prayer (Albert Marotte)

Our Father, which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done,
in earth as it is 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 thine is the kingdom,
the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Offering

We come today with hearts filled with gratitude for the abundant blessings we have received. Our giving is an expression of our deep caring for each other and our desire to further peace and justice for all. As we accept these offerings, we sing:

Offering Hymn

What Can I Do?

MV 191

What can I do? What can I bring?
What can I say? What can I sing?
I'll sing with joy. I'll say a prayer.
I'll bring my love. I'll do my share.

Prayers of the People

The words we sing today have been a source of joy, comfort, and inspiration for centuries, and they help us to connect with the world and with each other.

We are grateful to be gathered here today; a community bound by the love of song and the shared experience of life. May we listen to each other with open hearts and minds, and may our time together be a source of strength and encouragement. We are thankful for the beauty of the world around us, for the simple pleasures of life, and for the love that binds us together. May we never take for granted the blessings we have been given, as we lift up those who are hurting or in need of comfort.

May peace and healing touch our hearts, and may we find strength and hope in the words we sing. May we learn to listen to each other with compassion, and may we work together to build a more just and peaceful world. Amen.

Creator In Heaven

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 you reign eternally, in power and in glory,
For ever and ever, Amen.

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

I'll Fly Away

1 Some bright morning when this life is over
I'll fly away
To a home on God's celestial shore
I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh Glory
I'll fly away
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by
I'll fly away

2 When the shadows of this life have gone
I'll fly away
Like a bird from prison bars has flown
I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh Glory
I'll fly away
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by
I'll fly away

3 Oh, how glad and happy when we meet
I'll fly away
No more cold iron shackles on my feet
I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh Glory
I'll fly away
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by
I'll fly away

4 Just a few more weary days and then
I'll fly away
To a land where joy shall never end
I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh Glory
I'll fly away
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by
I'll fly away
(repeat)

Bread for the Journey

When you hear the Lord's Prayer expressed in a new or unfamiliar way, what stirs in you?

Benediction

And now may goodness and mercy be our source, our guide, and our destination as we continue our journey. Let us go forward, sharing that love with all those who we meet. May peace be with us always, and may we be a source of peace to others. Amen.

Choral Response

May Sunshine Light Your Way

May sunshine light your way
as you move on toward tomorrow
May laughter fill your days
with joy instead of sorrow,
May you have the strength to soar
as on eagles' wing,
And may your heart be filled
with joyous songs to sing.

May you have the strength to soar
as on eagles' wing,
And may your heart be filled
with joyous songs to sing.
Go in peace, go in love,
Go in song.

Postlude

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