



## **Birchcliff Bluffs United Church**

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

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

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

**Music Director:** Randy Vancourt

**Reader:** Mary Cannings

**Soloist:** Loralie Vancourt

**September 13, 2020 – Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

### **Prelude**

### **All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name**

Words: Edward Perronet

Music: James Ellor

### **Call to Worship**

The earth comes from God and has its being in God.

*We also belong to God and have our being in God.*

Open your doors, all who seek to follow God’s way.

*We open our doors to God.*

*We open the doors of our church, our homes, and our hearts.*

May God come and dwell in our midst.

*Come and dwell with us God. Make us your own in this time of worship.*

### **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

## Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

VU 651

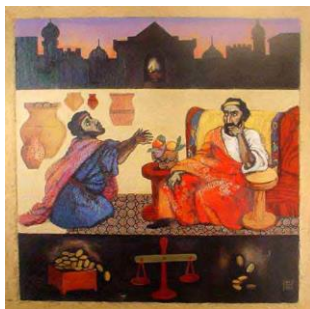
Words: Welsh, William Williams.

English Translation: Peter Williams and William Williams

Music: John Hughes

1. Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,  
pilgrim through this barren land.  
I am weak, but thou art mighty,  
hold me with thy powerful hand.  
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me till I want no more,  
feed me till I want no more.
2. Open now the crystal fountain,  
whence the healing stream doth flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.  
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,  
be thou still my strength and shield,  
be thou still my strength and shield.
3. When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death, and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side:  
songs of praises, songs of praises  
I will ever give to thee,  
I will ever give to thee.

## Prayer for Grace



*Peter asked Jesus: How many times must I forgive?  
The answer: seventy times seven, as much as needed.  
How many times has God forgiven us?  
The answer: seventy times seven and then some more.  
Together God we confess to you our wrongdoing and we discover  
grace and forgiveness.  
Amen.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD



**And Now for Something Completely Different**

**Hymn**

**Like a Mighty River Flowing**

**VU 267**

Words: Michael A. Perry © 1982, 1989 Hope Publishing Company

Music: German carol, 14th century

- 1 Like a mighty river flowing,  
like a flower in beauty growing,  
far beyond all human knowing  
is the perfect peace of God.
- 2 Like the hills serene and even,  
like the coursing clouds of heaven,  
like the heart that's been forgiven  
is the perfect peace of God.
- 3 Like the summer breezes playing,  
like the tall trees softly swaying,  
like the lips of silent praying  
is the perfect peace of God.
- 4 Like the morning sun ascended,  
like the scents of evening blended,  
like a friendship never ended  
is the perfect peace of God.

**Prayer of Illumination**



*Help us O God, to come to you with open lives to receive your words.*

*May we give them new life as we listen to what you have to say.*

*Open our hearts as we embark on this journey with each other and with you. Amen*

**Matthew 18:21-35**

The Message (MSG)

<sup>21</sup> Peter got up the nerve to ask (a question), "Teacher, how many times do I forgive a brother or sister who hurts me? Seven?"

<sup>22</sup> Jesus replied, "Seven! Hardly. Try seventy times seven.

23-25 “The kingdom of God is like a king who decided to square accounts with his servants. As he got under way, one worker was brought before him who had run up a debt of a hundred thousand dollars. He couldn’t pay up, so the king ordered the man, along with his wife, children, and goods, to be auctioned off at the slave market.

26-27 “The poor wretch threw himself at the king’s feet and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I’ll pay it all back.’ Touched by his plea, the king let him off, erasing the debt.

28 “The worker was no sooner out of the room when he came upon one of a fellow worker who owed him ten dollars. He seized him by the throat and demanded, ‘Pay up. Now!’

29-31 “The poor wretch threw himself down and begged, ‘Give me a chance and I’ll pay it all back.’ But he wouldn’t do it. He had him arrested and put in jail until the debt was paid. When others saw this going on, they were outraged and brought a detailed report to the king.

32-35 “The king summoned the worker and said, ‘you evil servant! I forgave your entire debt when you begged me for mercy. Shouldn’t you be compelled to be merciful to your fellow worker who asked for mercy?’ The king was furious and put the screws to the man until he paid back his entire debt. And that’s exactly what God is going to do to each one of you who doesn’t forgive unconditionally anyone who asks for mercy.”

**Hymn**

**Love Us into Fullness**

**MV 81**

Words and music: Daniel Charles Damon, 2002  
© 2006 Hope Publishing Company

- 1 Love us into fullness,  
touch us with your grace;  
Jesus, in your mercy,  
draw us to your face.
- 2 Love us into fullness,  
hold us in your care,  
cheer us with your presence  
here and everywhere.
- 3 Love us into fullness,  
and we will be strong;  
Jesus, walk beside us,  
fill our hearts with song.

**Exodus 14:19-31**

The Message (MSG)

The angel of God that had been leading the camp of Israel now shifted and got behind them. And the Pillar of Cloud that had been in front also shifted to the rear. The Cloud was now between the

camp of Egypt and the camp of Israel. The Cloud enshrouded one camp in darkness and flooded the other with light. The two camps didn't come near each other all night.

<sup>21</sup> Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea and GOD, with a terrific east wind all night long, made the sea go back. He made the sea dry ground. The seawaters split.

<sup>22-25</sup> The Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground with the waters a wall to the right and to the left. The Egyptians came after them in full pursuit, every horse and chariot and driver of Pharaoh racing into the middle of the sea. It was now the morning watch. GOD looked down from the Pillar of Fire and Cloud on the Egyptian army and threw them into a panic. He clogged the wheels of their chariots; they were stuck in the mud.

The Egyptians said, "Run from Israel! GOD is fighting on their side and against Egypt!"

<sup>26</sup> GOD said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea and the waters will come back over the Egyptians, over their chariots, over their horses."

<sup>27-28</sup> Moses stretched his hand out over the sea: As the day broke and the Egyptians were running, the sea returned to its place as before. GOD dumped the Egyptians in the middle of the sea. The waters returned, drowning the chariots and riders of Pharaoh's army that had chased after Israel into the sea. Not one of them survived.

<sup>29-31</sup> But the Israelites walked right through the middle of the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall to the right and to the left. GOD delivered Israel that day from the oppression of the Egyptians. And Israel looked at the Egyptian dead, washed up on the shore of the sea, and realized the tremendous power that GOD brought against the Egyptians. The people were in reverent awe before GOD and trusted in GOD and his servant Moses.

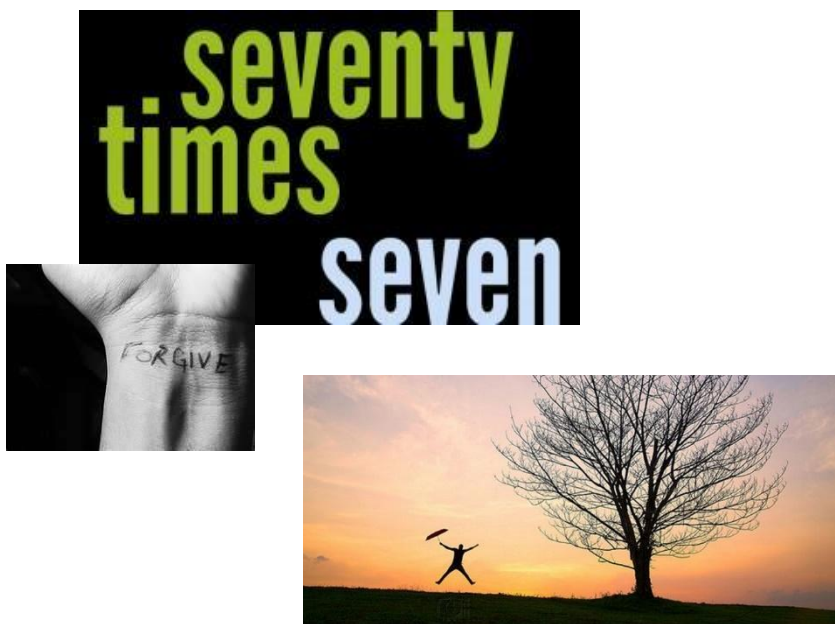
The word of God for the People of God

*Thanks be to God*

**Sermon**

**Seeing Red**





**Hymn**

**Called By Earth and Sky**

**MV 135**

Words and music: © 2005 Pat Mayberry

Called by earth and sky,  
promise of hope held high.  
This is our sacred living trust,  
treasure of life sanctified,  
called by earth and sky.

1            Precious these waters, endless seas,  
                  deep ocean's dream,  
                  waters of healing, rivers of rain,  
                  the wash of love again.

Called by earth and sky,  
promise of hope held high.  
This is our sacred living trust,  
treasure of life sanctified,  
called by earth and sky.

2            Precious this gift, the air we breathe;  
                  wind born and free.  
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,  
                  our gathering and our grace.

Called by earth and sky,  
promise of hope held high.

This is our sacred living trust,  
treasure of life sanctified,  
called by earth and sky.

3            Precious these mountains, ancient sands;  
                  vast fragile land.  
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,  
                  Creation's faithful song.

Called by earth and sky,  
promise of hope held high.  
This is our sacred living trust,  
treasure of life sanctified,  
called by earth and sky.

4            Precious the fire that lights our way,  
                  bright dawning day.  
Fire of passion, sorrows undone,  
                  our faith and justice one.

Called by earth and sky,  
promise of hope held high.  
This is our sacred living trust,  
treasure of life sanctified,  
called by earth and sky.

#### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

#### Offering our Gifts to God

God has abundantly bestowed upon us the gift of life.  
Our best response is to offer our whole lives  
as agents for God's mission in the world.  
Give as you are able to build the community of God  
in our homes, our congregation and around the world.



#### Prayers of the People\*\*



*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

### God of Grace and God of Glory

VU 686

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick

Music: Welsh traditional melody

- 1 God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your power;  
now fulfil your church's story;  
bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour.
- 2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us  
scorn your Christ, assail your ways;  
fears and doubts too long have bound us;  
free our hearts to work and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days.
- 3 Cure your children's warring madness,  
bend our pride to your control;  
shame our wanton selfish gladness,  
rich in goods and poor in soul.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.
- 4 Set our feet on lofty places,  
gird our lives that they may be  
armoured with all Christlike graces,  
pledged to set all captives free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
that we fail not them nor thee.

### Benediction & Commissioning



### Postlude

Permission to reproduce lyrics and podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from Christian Copyright Licensing International, with licenses #915307 and #20513516



## Other Resources and acknowledgements for Today

\*Testosterone and the Colour Red

<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/22671854/>

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3187837/>

\*\*Prayers of the People adapted from a prayer by Bruce Prewer

<http://www.bruceprewer.com/DocA/56SUN27.htm>

## Additional Lectionary Readings

**Exodus 15: 1-11**                      **NRSV**

Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to God:

- “I will sing to God, who has triumphed gloriously;  
horse and rider God has thrown into the sea.  
<sup>2</sup> God is my strength and my might,  
and has become my salvation;  
this is my God, whom I will praise,  
my ancestor’s God, whom I will exalt.  
<sup>3</sup> God is a warrior,  
<sup>4</sup> “Pharaoh’s chariots and his army God cast into the sea;  
his picked officers were sunk in the Red Sea.  
<sup>5</sup> The floods covered them;  
they went down into the depths like a stone.  
<sup>6</sup> Your right hand, O God, glorious in power—  
your right hand, O God, shattered the enemy.  
<sup>7</sup> In the greatness of your majesty you overthrew your adversaries;  
you sent out your fury, it consumed them like stubble.  
<sup>8</sup> At the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up,  
the floods stood up in a heap;  
the deeps congealed in the heart of the sea.  
<sup>9</sup> The enemy said, ‘I will pursue, I will overtake,  
I will divide the spoil, my desire shall have its fill of them.  
I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.’  
<sup>10</sup> You blew with your wind, the sea covered them;  
they sank like lead in the mighty waters.  
<sup>11</sup> “Who is like you, O God, among the gods?  
Who is like you, majestic in holiness,  
awesome in splendor, doing wonders?”

**Psalm 114**                      **NRSV**

When Israel went out from Egypt,  
the house of Jacob from a people of strange language,  
<sup>2</sup> Judah became God’s sanctuary,  
Israel his dominion.

<sup>3</sup>The sea looked and fled;  
Jordan turned back.  
<sup>4</sup>The mountains skipped like rams,  
the hills like lambs.  
<sup>5</sup>Why is it, O sea, that you flee?  
O Jordan, that you turn back?  
<sup>6</sup>O mountains, that you skip like rams?  
O hills, like lambs?  
<sup>7</sup>Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the LORD,  
at the presence of the God of Jacob,  
<sup>8</sup>who turns the rock into a pool of water,  
the flint into a spring of water.

**Romans 14: 1-12**                      **NRSV**

Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for God is able to make them stand.

<sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of God. Also those who eat, eat in honor of God, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of God and give thanks to God.

<sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live Christ, and if we die, we die to Christ; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are God's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might embrace both the dead and the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written,

“As I live, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God.” So then, each of us will be accountable to God.