



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Minister of Word & Sacrament: Rev. Dr. Ellen Redcliffe

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

Guest Musician: Andy Ballantyne

February 26th, 2023

Lent 1

MUSIC SUNDAY - MARDI GRAS

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle

As we start our journey through Lent we light a candle to remind us of the Light that can not be put out.

May its light remind us that we are not alone. Wherever illness, hatred, natural disaster or upheaval occurs, we light this candle to spread the light of peace.

Hymn

I'll Fly Away

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

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

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

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

Land Acknowledgement

We now 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 Mississaugas of the Credit and Scugog, all part of the Williams Treaty. We are grateful for the opportunity to live and work on this territory and we seek to be mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

Opening Prayer

Come let us sing of a wonderful love

**A love that embodies joy, integrity, and compassion
in all facets of our lives**

**A love that dwells with the helpless and the hopeless
That seeks the lost and brings comfort**

A love that lifts us up until we rise above all envy, falsehood and pride

A love that only wants to forgive and forget

And welcomes home the weary wanderer

Come let us sing of a wonderful love. Amen

Hymn

His Eye Is On The Sparrow

1 Why should I feel discouraged,
why should the shadows come,
Why should my heart be lonely,
and long for heav'n and home,
When Jesus is my portion?
My constant Friend is He:
His eye is on the sparrow,
and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
and I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow,
and I know He watches me.

2 "Let not your heart be troubled,"
His tender word I hear,
And resting on His goodness,
I lose my doubts and fears;
Though by the path He leadeth,
but one step I may see;
His eye is on the sparrow,
and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
and I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow,
and I know He watches me.

3 Whenever I am tempted,
whenever clouds arise,
When songs give place to sighing,
when hope within me dies,
I draw the closer to Him,
from care He sets me free;
His eye is on the sparrow,

and I know He watches me;
His eye is on the sparrow,
and I know He watches me.

I sing because I'm happy,
I sing because I'm free,
For His eye is on the sparrow,
and I know He watches me.

Life and Work of the Church

Scripture

Psalm 32

(A special psalm by David.)

The Joy of Forgiveness

¹ Our LORD, you bless everyone whose sins you forgive and wipe away.

² You bless them by saying, "You told me your sins, without trying to hide them,

and now I forgive you." ³ Before I confessed my sins, my bones felt limp, and I groaned all day long. ⁴ Night and day your hand weighed heavily on me, and my strength was gone as in the summer heat. ⁵ So I confessed my sins and told them all to you. I said, "I'll tell the LORD each one of my sins." Then you forgave me and took away my guilt. ⁶ We worship you, Lord,

and we should always pray whenever we find out that we have sinned. ^[a] Then we won't be swept away by a raging flood. ⁷ You are my hiding place! You protect me from trouble, and you put songs in my heart because you have saved me. ⁸ You said to me, "I will point out the road that you should follow. I will be your teacher and watch over you." ⁹ Don't be stupid like horses and mules that must be led with ropes to make them obey." ¹⁰ All kinds of troubles

will strike the wicked, but your kindness shields those who trust you, LORD. ¹¹ And so your good people should celebrate and shout

Gospel Matthew 4:1-11

The Testing of Jesus

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Down By the Riverside

Gonna lay down my burden
Down by the riverside
Down by the riverside
Down by the riverside
Gonna lay down my burden
Down by the riverside
Down by the riverside

I ain't gonna study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more

I ain't gonna study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more.

Gonna lay down my sword and shield
Down by the riverside
Down by the riverside
Down by the riverside
Gonna lay down my sword and shield
Down by the riverside

I ain't gonna study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more
I ain't gonna study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more.

Gonna lay down my heavy load
Down by the riverside
Down by the riverside
Down by the riverside
Gonna lay down my heavy load
Down by the riverside
Down by the riverside

I ain't gonna study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more
I ain't gonna study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more
Ain't gonna study war no more.

Reflection

Instrumental

Didn't He Ramble

Offering

As we begin this Lenten season, may the gifts we offer today be used to continue the work of peace, justice, and service in the world. Amen

Communion

God be with you all.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God!

It is right to give God our thanks and praise!

Though creation sometimes weeps,
we wait lovingly for you, God.

**For you created the heavens, earth, and all that is in them:
you cast sunbeams, open flowers,**

You are beyond the galaxies, under the oceans, and inside each grain of wheat.

You could sustain all of your creation,

but you will not, without us.

Thank you for the wonders of creation and for your great trust in us.

Though humanity sometimes weeps,
we wait lovingly for you, God.

**For you smiled on an outcasted Hagar, blessing her descendants,
you guided the doubtful Israelites, leading them to freedom,**

**you spoke through the Judges and the Prophets, providing words of wisdom,
you lived among us as a teacher, healer, and friend, giving us a sacred path to
follow.**

You could have made us self-sustaining,

but you did not, your love sustains us.

Thank you for the fellowship of disciples,
who faithfully attempt to share your love with all of creation.

God, we remember and give thanks for your Son,
and we ask that you bless and pour your spirit on these simple things, bread and wine:

Make this broken bread whole in our taking. (eat)

Make this full cup overflow in our sharing. (drink)

With these elements nourish and sustain us,

our way, our truth, our life;

our Creator, our Redeemer, our Sustainer.

Praise be to you, now, tomorrow, and forever.

Prayers of the People

Holy One, as we receive your word today, reach into our hearts and plant your love in us.

Reach into our experiences and find the unexplored places that need healing and understanding. Reach into our faith with your gospel and shape us with your word of life. Prepare us to serve with confidence, as we live as your people, your prayer, and your presence ...

We now take a moment to remember those we keep in our prayers.

**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 and the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever, Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

What A Friend We Have in Jesus

VU 664

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.
- 2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Saviour is our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do our friends despise, forsake us?
Are we tempted to despair?

Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,
and we'll find new courage there.

Benediction & Commissioning

**As we leave this harbour of safety
We are thankful for fellowship and family.
Let our time together strengthen us, restore us and inspire us with love.
Let our time here fill us with peace,
So that as we journey onwards
we might pour out love and grace to all we meet. Amen.**

Postlude

When The Saints

Oh when the saints go marching in,
Oh when the saints go marching in,
Oh how I want to be in that number,
When the saints go marching in.

Oh when the sun refused to shine,
Oh when the sun refused to shine,
Oh how I want to be in that number,
When the sun refused to shine.

Oh when the trumpet sounds its call,
Oh when the trumpet sounds its call,
Oh how I want to be in that number,
When the trumpet sounds its call.

Oh when the saints go marching in,
Oh when the saints go marching in,
Oh how I want to be in that number,
When the saints go marching in
Oh how I want to be in that number,
When the saints go marching in.

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**Birchcliff Bluffs United Church
Additional Lectionary**

Genesis 2:15-17

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Genesis 3:1-7

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The First Sin and Its Punishment

3 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God,^[a] knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Romans 5:12-19
New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Adam and Christ

¹² Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.