



**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

**Musical Guest:** Daniel Giverin

**Reader:** Shirley Scott

**April 30, 2023**

**MAY DAY MUSIC SUNDAY**

**WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

As we gather here this morning, we remember that all are welcome in this place. We light these candles on the eve of May Day, a tradition that has been celebrated since ancient times and across many cultures. May the light that shines from these flames illuminate our path ahead, and help us to flourish together in love, peace and justice.

**Introit**

**Come and Find the Quiet Centre**

**VU 374**

1 Come and find the quiet centre  
in the crowded life we lead,  
find the room for hope to enter,  
find the frame where we are freed:  
clear the chaos and the clutter,  
clear our eyes, that we can see  
all the things that really matter,  
be at peace, and simply be.

2 Silence is a friend who claims us,  
cools the heat and slows the pace,  
God it is who speaks and names us,  
knows our being, face to face,  
making space within our thinking,  
lifting shades to show the sun,  
raising courage when we're shrinking,  
finding scope for faith begun.

3 In the Spirit let us travel,  
open to each other's pain,  
let our loves and fears unravel,  
celebrate the space we gain:  
there's a place for deepest dreaming,  
there's a time for heart to care,  
in the Spirit's lively scheming  
there is always room to spare!

### **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 Song**

#### **Sumer Is Icumin In**

Summer is a-coming in,  
Loudly sing, cuckoo.  
Seeds are growing,  
meadows blowing,  
Woods spring up anew.  
Sing, cuckoo!

### **Life and Work of the Church**

**Scripture**      **Acts 2:42–47**      **New International Version**

#### **The Fellowship of the Believers**

<sup>42</sup> They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. <sup>43</sup> Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. <sup>44</sup> All the believers were together and had everything in common. <sup>45</sup> They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. <sup>46</sup> Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, <sup>47</sup> praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

**Gospel**      **John 10:1-10**      **New International Version**

#### **The Good Shepherd and His Sheep**

<sup>1</sup>“Very truly I tell you Pharisees, anyone who does not enter the sheep pen by the gate, but climbs in by some other way, is a thief and a robber. <sup>2</sup>The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. <sup>3</sup>The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. <sup>4</sup>When he has brought out all his own, he goes on ahead of them, and his sheep follow him because they know his voice. <sup>5</sup>But they will never follow a stranger; in fact, they will run away from him because they do not recognize a stranger’s voice.” <sup>6</sup>Jesus used this figure of speech, but the Pharisees did not understand what he was telling them.

<sup>7</sup>Therefore Jesus said again, “Very truly I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who have come before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep have not listened to them. <sup>9</sup>I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. <sup>10</sup>The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

**Give Thanks For Life**

**VU 706**

1 Give thanks for life, the measure of our days,  
mortal, we pass through beauty that decays,  
yet sing to God our hope, our love, our praise,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

2 Give thanks for those who made their life a light  
caught from the Christ-flame, bursting through the night,  
who touched the truth, who burned for what is right,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

3 And for our own, our living and our dead,  
thanks for the love by which our life is fed,  
a love not changed by time or death or dread,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

4 Give thanks for hope, that like the wheat, the grain  
lying in darkness does its life retain  
in resurrection to grow green again,  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

**Song**

**Bring Flowers of the Rarest**

1 Bring flow'rs of the rarest, bring flow'rs of the fairest,  
From garden and woodland, and hillside and vale;  
Our full hearts are swelling, our glad voices telling  
The praise of the loveliest Rose of the dale.

O Mary, we crown thee with roses today,  
Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May,  
O Mary, we crown thee with blossoms today,  
Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May.

2 In cool shaded alley, in bloom laden valley,  
The warblers of springtime in chorus unite,  
The portals of heaven by seraphs are riven,  
Down sweeping through pathways of music and light.

O Mary! we crown thee with roses today,  
Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May,  
O Mary, we crown thee with blossoms today,  
Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May.

4 Our voices ascending, in harmony blending,  
Oh! thus may our hearts turn, dear Mother, to thee;  
Oh! thus shall we prove thee how truly we love thee,  
How dark, without Mary, life's journey would be.

O Mary! we crown thee with roses today,  
Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May,  
O Mary, we crown thee with blossoms today,  
Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May.

## **The Music Of May Day**

### **Reflection**

### **Song**

### **Turn, Turn, Turn**

To everything turn, turn, turn  
There is a season turn, turn, turn  
And a time to every purpose under Heaven.

A time to be born, a time to die  
A time to plant, a time to reap  
A time to kill, a time to heal  
A time to laugh, a time to weep

To everything turn, turn, turn  
There is a season turn, turn, turn  
And a time to every purpose under Heaven

A time to build up, a time to break down

A time to dance, a time to mourn  
A time to cast away stones  
A time to gather stones together

To everything turn, turn, turn  
There is a season turn, turn, turn  
And a time to every purpose under Heaven

A time to gain, a time to lose  
A time to rain, a time to sow  
A time to love, a time to hate  
A time for peace, I swear it's not too late

To everything turn, turn, turn  
There is a season turn, turn, turn  
And a time to every purpose under Heaven  
And a time to every purpose under Heaven

## **Offering**

At this time of Offering let us remember the many gifts we all enjoy and consider ways that we may give back, as we are able, to help support the work of this church in our community.

**Bless these gifts that we offer. Bless those who offer them.  
Bless those who will receive, in turn.  
May this circle of blessings continue.  
Amen.**

## **Prayers of the People**

Today we remember those who work for the welfare of the world.  
For those whose unseen efforts ease our lives;  
may we always be mindful and grateful.  
For their diligence and faithful service, we give thanks.  
For all who work for the sake of people they will never see,  
we ask your blessing.  
For those who risk and suffer,  
we ask your protection.  
For those whose lives are difficult,  
whose conditions are poor,  
we pray for justice.  
We honour those whose efforts are often unseen and unrewarded  
yet who continue working towards serving others and mending the world.

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

*Moment of silent prayer*

**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**

**And On This Path**

**MV8**

And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,  
And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,  
And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,  
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!  
The gates are open wide!

So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,  
So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,  
So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,  
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!  
The gates are open wide!

And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,  
And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,  
And on this path, the gates of holiness are open wide,  
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!  
The gates are open wide!

So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,  
So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,  
So enter in, the gates of holiness are open wide,  
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!  
The gates are open wide!  
Open wide! Open wide! Open wide!  
The gates are open wide!

## **Benediction & Commissioning**

**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, and work for justice and peace for all people.  
Amen.**

## **Postlude**

\* Permission to podcast/stream and reproduce the music and lyrics obtained from  
ONE LICENSE with license A-737645.  
All rights reserved.

## **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

### **Additional Lectionary**

#### **Psalm 23                      New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**

#### **The Divine Shepherd**

#### **A Psalm of David.**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup> He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>3</sup> he restores my soul.<sup>[b]</sup>  
He leads me in right paths<sup>[c]</sup>  
for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup> Even though I walk through the darkest valley,<sup>[d]</sup>  
I fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff,  
they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup> You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

<sup>6</sup> Surely<sup>[e]</sup> goodness and mercy<sup>[f]</sup> shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD  
my whole life long.<sup>[g]</sup>

## 1 Peter 2:19-25 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

<sup>19</sup> For it is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. <sup>20</sup> If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. <sup>21</sup> For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps.

<sup>22</sup> “He committed no sin,  
and no deceit was found in his mouth.”

<sup>23</sup> When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. <sup>24</sup> He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross,<sup>[a]</sup> so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds<sup>[b]</sup> you have been healed. <sup>25</sup> For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.<sup>[c]</sup>