



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

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Music Director: Randy Vancourt

April 26 – Third Sunday of Easter

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Call to Worship

Spirit whispers

We listen

Spirit calls

We answer

Spirit beckons

We respond.

We come, as people of faith listening to your whisper.

We rekindle our lives with fruits of the Spirit;

answering your call with love, laughter, worship, and play.

You beckon us God to engage community in service to you.

Response

Jesus, Stand Among Us (v. 1 & 2)

VU 396

*Jesus, stand among us
in your risen power;
let this time of worship
be a hallowed hour.*

*Breathe the Holy Spirit
into every heart;
bid the fears and sorrows
from each soul depart.*

Life & Work of the Church

Land Acknowledgement & Candle Lighting



*Come, Christians, join to sing, Alleluia!
Praises to Christ our King; Alleluia!
Let all, with heart and voice,
Before God's throne rejoice;
Praise is the gracious choice, Alleluia!*

*Come, lift your hearts on high, Alleluia!
Let praises fill the sky; Alleluia!
God is our guide and friend;
For us he will defend,
God's love shall never end, Alleluia!*

*Praise yet our Christ again, Alleluia!
Life shall not end the strain; Alleluia!
On heaven's blissful shore,
God's goodness we'll adore,
Singing forevermore, Alleluia!*

Prayer for Grace

*Spirit, you are in the wind.
You surround us with light.
You fill us with peace.
In this time of quiet, may we hear your whisper
and your call.
Let us respond with joy
as we are enfolded in the mystery of a loving
God. Amen*



WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

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*

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

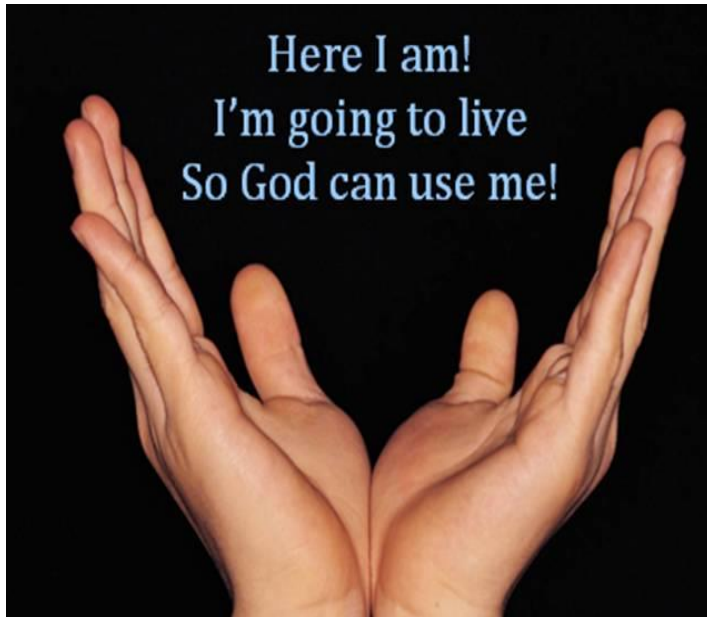
Now concerning spiritual gifts, siblings, I do not want you to be uninformed. ² You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. ³ Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says "Let Jesus be cursed!" and no one can say "Jesus is Lord" except by the Holy Spirit.

⁴ Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; ⁵ and there are varieties of services, but the same God; ⁶ and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. ⁷ To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. ⁸ To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.

Hymn:

I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

VU 575



*I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*I'm gonna live so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*I'm gonna work so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*I'm gonna pray so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

*I'm gonna sing so God can use me
anywhere, Lord, anytime!*

Luke 24:13-35

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹³ Two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about eleven kilometres from Jerusalem, ¹⁴ and talking with each other about all the things that had happened. ¹⁵ While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, ¹⁶ but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. ¹⁸ Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" ¹⁹ He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, ²⁰ and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. ²¹ But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. ²² Moreover, some women of our group

astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, ²³ and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. ²⁴ Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see him.” ²⁵ Then he said to them, “Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! ²⁶ Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?” ²⁷ Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

²⁸ As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. ²⁹ But they urged him strongly, saying, “Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.” So he went in to stay with them. ³⁰ When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. ³¹ Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him; and he vanished from their sight. ³² They said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” ³³ That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. ³⁴ They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” ³⁵ Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

The word of God for the People of God

Thanks be to God

Hymn:

O Jesus, Let Me Walk with Thee

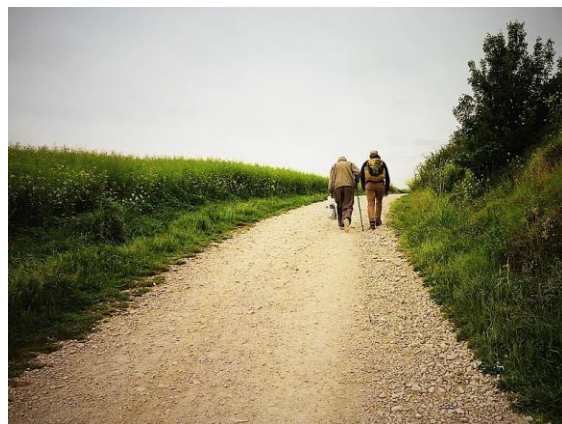
VU 560

*O Jesus, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
teach me thy secret, help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.*

*Help me the slow of heart to move
with some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.*

*Teach me thy patience; still with thee,
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sure and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,*

*in hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Jesus, let me live.*



Sermon

The Women Were There First



Hymn

O Christian, Love

VU 594

*O Christian, love your sister and your brother!
Where pity dwells, the peace of God is there;
to worship rightly is to love each other,
each smile a hymn, each kindly deed a prayer.*

*Follow with reverent steps the great example:
Jesus whose holy work was doing good;
so shall the wide earth seem a hallowed temple,
each loving life a psalm of gratitude.*

*Then shall all shackles fall; the stormy clangour
of wild war-music o'er the earth shall cease;
love shall tread out the baleful fire of anger,
and in its ashes plant the tree of peace.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Offering



Prayers of the People



Lord’s 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,
the power, and the glory
for ever and ever. Amen.*

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

VU 271 (1,2,4&5)

*There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.*

*There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such gracious judgement given.*

*Troubled souls, why will you scatter
like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander
from a love so true and deep?*

*For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.*



Benediction & Commissioning



Postlude

Other Resources for Today

Psalm 130 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD.

² *Lord, hear my voice!*

*Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my supplications!*

³ *If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?*

⁴ *But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.*

⁵ *I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;*

⁶ *my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning,
more than those who watch for the morning.*

⁷ *O Israel, hope in the LORD!
For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.*

⁸ *It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquity.*

Romans 8:6-11 New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit^[a] is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.