



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

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October 25th, 2026

22nd After Pentecost

REFORMATION SUNDAY

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome

Candle Lighting

May this light shine for all people today, as it shone in each moment of history. May the light of peace inspire this celebration and inspire our lives; as strength that sustains, as wisdom that foresees, as clarity that discovers, as love that understands, as mercy that forgives.

May this light, eternal and inextinguishable, shine on us now and forever.

Land Acknowledgement

We now take a moment to acknowledge the sacred land beside the water on which Birchcliff Bluffs United Church stands. It is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples, and is home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.

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 Hymn

A Mighty Fortress (v. 1, 2, 3)

VU 262

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a bulwark never failing;
our helper sure amid the flood
of mortal ills prevailing:
for still our ancient foe
doth seek to work us woe;
with power and malice great,
and armed with cruel hate,
on earth he has no equal.

2 Did we in our own strength confide,
our striving would be losing,
were not the right man on our side,
the man of God's own choosing:
dost ask who that may be?
Christ Jesus, it is he;
Lord Sabaoth his name,
from age to age the same,
and he must win the battle.

4 That word above all earthly powers,
no thanks to them, abideth;
the Spirit and the gifts are ours
through Christ, who with us sideth:
let goods and kindred go,
this mortal life also;
the body they may kill:
God's truth abideth still,
God's kingdom is for ever.

Call to Worship

We gather in grace, built upon a foundation that cannot be shaken. Come, let us walk in the light of the Word, anchored in truth, freedom, and steadfast love.

Passing the Peace

We pass the peace (*with a bow, or a wave, or a nod to our neighbours*) to remind us of the light of joy, peace and unity that lives in each of us, and that we are called to reconciliation and community.

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

And also with you.

Life and Work

Hymn

We'll Build on the Rock

1 We'll build on the Rock, the living Rock,
On Jesus, the Rock of Ages;
So shall we abide the fearful shock,
When loud the tempest rages.

We'll build on the Rock,
We'll build on the Rock;
We'll build on the Rock, on the solid Rock,
On Christ, the mighty Rock.

2 Some build on the sinking sands of life,
On visions of earthly treasure;
Some build on the waves of sin and strife,
Of fame, and worldly pleasure.

We'll build on the Rock,
We'll build on the Rock;
We'll build on the Rock, on the solid Rock,
On Christ, the mighty Rock.

3 O build on the Rock, for ever sure,
The firm and the true foundation;
Its hope is the hope which shall endure,
The hope of our salvation.

We'll build on the Rock,
We'll build on the Rock;
We'll build on the Rock, on the solid Rock,
On Christ, the mighty Rock.

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Reading

Psalm 46

- ¹ God is our refuge and strength,
a helper who is always found in times of trouble.
- ² Therefore we will not be afraid, though the earth trembles
and the mountains topple into the depths of the seas,
- ³ though its water roars and foams and the mountains quake.
- ⁴ There is a river—
its streams delight the city of God,
the holy dwelling place of the Most High.
- ⁵ God is within her; she will not be toppled.
God will help her when the morning dawns.
- ⁶ Nations rage, kingdoms topple;
the earth melts when he lifts his voice.
- ⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
- ⁸ Come, see the works of the LORD,
- ⁹ He makes wars cease throughout the earth.
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
- ¹⁰ “Be still, and know that I am God,
exalted among the nations, exalted on the earth.”

John 8:31-36 The Truth Shall Make You Free

³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

³³ They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, ‘You will be made free’?”

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Be Still My Soul

VU 652

1 Be still, my soul, for God is on your side;
bear patiently the cross of grief or pain.
Trust in your God, your saviour and your guide,
who through all changes faithful will remain.
Be still, my soul, your best, your heavenly friend
through stormy ways leads to a peaceful end.

2 Be still, my soul, your God will undertake
to guide the future surely as the past.
Your hope, your confidence let nothing shake;
all now mysterious shall be bright at last.
Be still, my soul, life's tempests still obey
the voice that once the waves' wild fury stayed.

3 Be still, my soul, the hour is hastening on
when we shall be forever in God's peace;
when disappointment, grief and fear are gone,
love's joys restored, our strivings all shall cease.
Be still, my soul, when change and tears are past,
all safe and blessed we shall meet at last.

SONGS OF REFORMATION

Come, Thou Long Expected Jesus

VU 2

1 Come, thou long-expected Jesus,
born to set thy people free:
from our fears and sins release us,
let us find our rest in thee.

2 Israel's strength and consolation,
hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of every nation,
joy of every longing heart.

3 Born thy people to deliver;
born a child and yet a king;
born to reign in us for ever;
now thy gracious kingdom bring.

4 By thine own eternal Spirit
rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit
raise us to thy glorious throne.

Reformation Song

Your Word alone is solid ground
The mighty rock on which we build
In every line, the truth is found
And every page with glory filled

Through faith alone, we come to You
We have no merit we can claim
Sure that Your promises are true
We place our hope in Jesus' name

Gloria, gloria
Glory to God alone
Gloria, gloria
Glory to God alone

In Christ alone, we're justified
His righteousness is all our plea
Your law's demands are satisfied
His perfect work has set us free

Gloria, gloria
Glory to God alone
Gloria, gloria
Glory to God alone

By grace alone, we have been saved
All that we are has come from You
Hearts that were once by sin enslaved
Now, by Your power, have been made new

Gloria, gloria
Glory to God alone
Gloria, gloria
Glory to God alone

Gloria, gloria
Glory to God alone
Gloria, gloria
Glory to God alone

How Bright Is The Day

1 How bright is the day when the Christian
Receives the sweet message to come,
To rise to the mansions of glory
And be there forever at home.

And be there forever at home,
and be there forever at home,
to rise to the mansions of glory
and be there forever at home.

2 The angels stand ready and waiting
The moment the spirit is gone,
To carry it upward to heaven,
And welcome it safely at home.

And welcome it safely at home,
And welcome it safely at home,

To carry it upward to heaven,
And welcome it safely at home.

3 The saints that have gone up before us
All raise a new song as we come
And sing hallelujah the louder
To welcome the travellers home

To welcome the travellers home
To welcome the travellers home
And sing hallelujah the louder
To welcome the travellers home

4 Then let us go onward rejoicing,
Till Jesus invites us to come,
To share in his glorious kingdom,
And be there forever at home.

And be there forever at home,
and be there forever at home,
to share in his glorious kingdom,
and be there forever at home.
(repeat)

Reflection

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice

1 Dear Christians, one and all, rejoice,
with exultation springing,
and with united heart and voice
and holy rapture singing,
Proclaim the wonders God has done,
how his right arm the vict'ry won.
What price our ransom cost him!

2 But God has seen my wretched state,
Before the world's foundation,
And mindful of His mercies great,
He planned for my salvation.
He turned to me a father's heart,
He did not choose the easy part,
But gave his dearest treasure.

3 God said to His beloved Son,
It's time to have compassion,
Then go, bright jewel of my crown,
And bring to all salvation.
From sin and sorrow set them free,
Slay bitter death for them that they
may live with you forever.

4 What I on earth have done and taught,
Guide all your life and teaching,
So shall the kingdom's work be wrought,
And honoured in your preaching.
Take care that no one's man-made laws
should e'er destroy the gospel's cause;
this final word I leave you.

Offering

The Swiss theologian Karl Barth once said that grace and gratitude go together like heaven and earth. We all desire to follow a life lived in gratitude for the gifts we have received. We then give back with our gifts of time, talent, and treasure for mission in the world. Accept our joyful offering as a token of our abiding love: may it be used to bring peace, justice and comfort to all the world. Amen.

Prayers of the People

On this Reformation Sunday,
we thank you for those persons you have poured your spirit into
that then set about reforming your church.
We thank you that you are still at work in the life of the church
reforming us reshaping us,
and remaking us into your image.

One of the ways we reflect your image
is how we care for one another with love, care and prayer.
We pray for those who are in the hospitals today.
We pray for those at home with illnesses,
and recovering from treatments and surgeries.
We pray for those in nursing homes
and those who are home bound.
We pray for their families during these times.
We pray for their Doctors, nurses,
health care workers and care takers.
May we reflect your image in our love, care and prayer
that we put to action for these, your children.

We reflect your image in how we love, care and pray for the world.
We pray for those around the world
who face imprisonment and martyrdom.
We pray for those countries torn by civil war.
We pray for those living in poverty.
We pray for those who live in starvation.
We pray for those who have been affected by disasters.
We pray for those in disaster areas who face outbreak of diseases.
May we put into action our love, care and prayers for the world.

We pray for your church
that we be a beacon of hope, grace, love and light in this world.
May our open doors reflect your open arms to all.
May our arms and hands reaching out to those in need reflect your love for all.
May our forgiveness of one another reflect your forgiveness for all.

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

And now, as Jesus taught us to pray, we sing...

**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 your reign eternally, in power and in glory,
For ever and ever, Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

When The Saints Are Marching In

1. Thro' the shining gate,
Where the angels wait,
When the saints are marching in,
The redeemed shall come,
And be crowned at home,
When the saints are marching in.

When the saints are marching in,
When the saints are marching in,
Joyful songs of salvation
thro' the sky shall ring,
When the saints are marching in.

2. Parted friends shall meet,
On the golden street,
When the saints are marching in,
Spotless robes shall wear,
Victor's palms shall bear,
When the saints are marching in.

When the saints are marching in,
When the saints are marching in,
Joyful songs of salvation
thro' the sky shall ring,
When the saints are marching in.

3. Ev'ry tongue and race
Shall extol God's grace,
When the saints are marching in,
And the blood-washed throng

Shall repeat the song,
When the saints are marching in.

When the saints are marching in,
When the saints are marching in,
Joyful songs of salvation
thro' the sky shall ring,
When the saints are marching in.

When the saints are marching in,
When the saints are marching in,
Joyful songs of salvation
thro' the sky shall ring,
When the saints are marching in.

Benediction

Go forth into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast that which is good; render to no person evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honour all people; love, serve and rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit. And the blessing of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Choral Response

Take Up The Song

MV 213

Take up the song of peace
and go into the world,
Take up the song of peace
in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey,
we're laying down our lives,
lay them down, in peace,
lay them down, and take up the song.

Take up the song of love
and go into the world,
Take up the song of love
in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey,
we're laying down our lives,
lay them down, in love,
lay them down, and take up the song.

Postlude

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