



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: **All the People – wherever and however they gather**
Minister of Word & Sacrament: **Rev. Dr. Ellen Redcliffe**
Minister of Community Development: **Rev. Carmen Llanos**
Music Director: **Randy Vancourt**
Readers: **Linda McKay, Betty McCulloch**
Guest Musician: **Mark Cassius**

May 29, 2022

Gospel Music Service

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Call to Worship

O Lord, open our lips,
and our mouth will proclaim your praise.

It is good to praise the Lord
and make music in your name, O Most High,
to proclaim your love in the morning
and your faithfulness all day.

Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord;
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before God with thanksgiving
and extol God with music and song.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

Just A Closer Walk With Thee

1. I am weak but Thou art strong;
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
As I walk, let me walk close to Thee.

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

2. Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but Thee, dear Lord, none but Thee.

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

3. When my feeble life is o'er,
Time for me will be no more;
Guide me gently, safely o'er
To Thy kingdom shore, to Thy shore.

Just a closer walk with Thee,
Grant it, Jesus, is my plea,
Daily walking close to Thee,
Let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

Land Acknowledgement

This land on which we gather is the traditional land of the Huron-Wendat, the Haudenosaunee and the Mississaugas of the Credit. We live, work, play and worship the Creator on this land and acknowledge with respect the thousands of years of ceremony and relationship that are etched in footprints, fire, and faithfulness on the soil and rock that surrounds us.

Candle Lighting

In a world filled with so much tragedy, there are often no words to adequately express our sorrow. We light this candle to remind us that the light of Jesus disperses the darkness of hatred and sin. May this light guide us, inflame our hearts with grace, keep us in the radiance of truth and fill our hearts with divine love.

Opening Prayer

**Creator God,
because you make all that draws forth our praise
and the forms in which to express it,
we praise you.**

**Because you make artists of us all,
awakening courage to look again at what is taken for granted,
grace to share these insights with others,
vision to reveal the future already in being,
we praise you.**

**Because you form your Word among us,
and in your great work embrace all human experience,
even death itself, inspiring our resurrection song,
we praise you.**

Yours is the glory. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Hymn

I'll Fly Away

Some bright morning when this life is o'er
I'll fly away
To that home on God's celestial shore
I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh glory
I'll fly away in the morning
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 walls has flown
I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh glory
I'll fly away in the morning
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 in the morning
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 joys will never end
I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh glory
I'll fly away in the morning
When I die hallelujah by and by
I'll fly away

Scripture

Psalm 97

The Glory of God's Reign

- ¹ The LORD reigns! Let the earth rejoice;
 let the many coastlands be glad!

² Clouds and thick darkness are all around him;
 righteousness and justice are the foundation of his throne.

³ Fire goes before him,
 and consumes his adversaries on every side.

⁴ His lightnings light up the world;
 the earth sees and trembles.

⁵ The mountains melt like wax before the LORD,
 before the Lord of all the earth.

⁶ The heavens proclaim his righteousness;
 and all the peoples behold his glory.

⁷ All worshippers of images are put to shame,
 those who make their boast in worthless idols;
 all gods bow down before him.

⁸ Zion hears and is glad,
 and the towns of Judah rejoice,
 because of your judgements, O God.

⁹ For you, O LORD, are most high over all the earth;
 you are exalted far above all gods.

¹⁰ The LORD loves those who hate evil;
 he guards the lives of his faithful;

he rescues them from the hand of the wicked.

¹¹ Light dawns for the righteous,
and joy for the upright in heart.

¹² Rejoice in the LORD, O you righteous,
and give thanks to his holy name!

Gospel John 17:20-26

²⁰ ‘I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

²⁵ ‘Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.’

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God

Guest Artist

MARK CASSIUS

Reflection

Hymn

Just Over In The Glory Land

I've a home prepared where the saints abide
Just over in the glory land
And I long to be by my Savior's side
Just over in the glory land

Just over in the glory land
I'll join the happy angel band
Just over in the glory land
Just over in the glory land
There with the mighty host I'll stand
Just over in the glory land

I am on my way to those mansions fair
Just over in the glory land
There to sing God's praise and His glory share
Just over in the glory land

Just over in the glory land
I'll join the happy angel band
Just over in the glory land
Just over in the glory land
There with the mighty host I'll stand
Just over in the glory land

What a joyful thought that my Lord I'll see
Just over in the glory land
And with kindred saved, there forever be
Just over in the glory land

Just over in the glory land
I'll join the happy angel band
Just over in the glory land
Just over in the glory land
There with the mighty host I'll stand
Just over in the glory land

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Life & Work of the Church

Offering

Our lives are incredibly blessed with music that creates joy, both inspiring and challenging.
In response to the blessings in our lives, we share our offerings.

We offer these gifts so that we might continue to build relationships with one another and with your whole creation.

**Bless these gifts that they may bring wholeness and life abundance to all your people.
We pray. Amen.**

Hymn

Standing In The Need of Prayer

Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer;
Not my brother, not my sister, but it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer.

It's me (it's me), it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer;
It's me (it's me), it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer.

Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer;
Not the preacher, not the deacon, but it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer.

It's me (it's me), it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer;

It's me (it's me), it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer.

Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer;
Not my father, not my mother, but it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer.

It's me (it's me), it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer;
It's me (it's me), it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer.

Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer;
Not the stranger, not my neighbor, but it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer.

It's me (it's me), it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer;
It's me (it's me), it's me, O Lord,
Standing in the need of prayer.

Prayers of the People

God, sometimes it feels like all around us the waters are rising. We feel helpless, for we cannot stop the rain from falling or the waters from rising. We feel powerless, for the current is strong and the body is tired.

God, grant us your strength, your patience and your perspective, so that we may better understand your irreplaceable grace. Give us eyes to see how precious your gifts are: family and friends, faith and mercy. And God, when the waters rise around us in our spirit, and our faith and hope feel like they may be swept downstream, help us to remember how you will get us through every flood.

We now take a moment to remember those in need of prayer; both members of our church family and those outside these walls, who we keep in our thoughts today...

We ask all this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray...

Lord's Prayer (sung) VU 960

**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 them 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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

O Happy Day

O happy day that fixed my choice
On Thee, my Savior and my God!
Well may this glowing heart rejoice,
And tell its raptures all abroad.

Happy day, happy day,
When Jesus washed my sins away!
He taught me how to watch and pray,
And live rejoicing every day;
Happy day, happy day,
When Jesus washed my sins away!

Oh, happy day (Oh, happy day)
Oh, happy day (Oh, happy day)
When Jesus washed (When Jesus washed)
Oh, when He washed (When Jesus washed)
When Jesus washed (When Jesus washed)
He washed my sins away (Oh, happy day)
Oh, happy day (Oh, happy day)

Oh, happy day (Oh, happy day)
Oh, happy day (Oh, happy day)
When Jesus washed (When Jesus washed)
Oh, when He washed (When Jesus washed)
When Jesus washed (When Jesus washed)

He washed my sins away (Oh, happy day)
Oh, happy day (Oh, happy day)

He taught me how (He taught me how)
To watch and fight and pray
Watch and pray

And live rejoicing every day
Every day

Oh, happy day (Oh, happy day)
Oh, happy day (Oh, happy day)
When Jesus washed (When Jesus washed)
Oh, when He washed (When Jesus washed)
When Jesus washed (When Jesus washed)
He washed my sins away (Oh, happy day)
Oh, happy day (Oh, happy day)
Oh, happy day (Oh, happy day)
Oh, happy day

Benediction & Commissioning

Having learned new words from our God,
we will go to warm others in this often cold and difficult world,
to whisper to them of grace and hope.

Having learned new ways to serve from Jesus,
we will go to clear paths for those lost in oppression,
to wait with those in hospital rooms and job lines.

Having learned new songs from the Spirit,
we will go to sing of peace in all the broken places,
to light the way out of the shadows of injustice. Amen.

Hymn

Jesus On The Mainline

Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want.
Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want.
Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want,
Just call Him up and tell Him what you want.

If you want your body healed, tell Him what you want.
If you want your body healed, tell Him what you want.
If you want your body healed, tell Him what you want,
Just call Him up and tell Him what you want.

If you want your soul revived, tell Him what you want.
If you want your soul revived, tell Him what you want.
If you want your soul revived, tell Him what you want,
 Just call Him up and tell Him what you want.

Call Him up, call Him up, tell Him what you want.
Call Him up, call Him up, tell Him what you want.
Call Him up, call Him up, tell Him what you want,
 Just call Him up and tell Him what you want.

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**Additional Lectionary Readings
Birchcliff Bluffs United Church
Year C –7th Sunday of Easter
Sunday, May 29, 2022**

Acts 16:16-34

New Revised Standard Version

¹⁶ One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, “These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you^[a] a way of salvation.” ¹⁸ She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, “I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And it came out that very hour.

¹⁹ But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace before the authorities. ²⁰ When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, “These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews^{²¹} and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.” ²² The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. ²³ After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into

prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely.²⁴ Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. ²⁶ Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. ²⁷ When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. ²⁸ But Paul shouted in a loud voice, "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here." ²⁹ The jailer^[b] called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. ³⁰ Then he brought them outside and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" ³¹ They answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household." ³² They spoke the word of the Lord^[c] to him and to all who were in his house. ³³ At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. ³⁴ He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.