



**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

**Guest:** Roslyn Addison-Rudat

**Reader:** Shirley Scott

**January 29, 2023**

**Scottish Music Service**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship**

Come now, to this quiet place, to this centre of calm in a busy world.

**Come now, to the one who knows your every thought and care.**

Come now, to the one who has heard your every cry,

**and has suffered your hard hearts, and yet cares.**

Come now, to the God of energy and calm;

**to the one who walks with you and bids you rest.**

**Come now, and find the peace you need. Amen.**

**Introit**

**There Is a Happy Land**

1 There is a happy land,  
Far, far away,  
Where saints in glory stand,  
Bright, bright as day.  
O how they sweetly sing:  
Worthy is our Saviour-King!  
Loud let the praises ring,  
For evermore.

2 Bright in that happy land  
Beams every eye;  
Kept by the Saviour's hand,  
Love cannot die.  
On, then, to glory run;

Be a crown and kingdom won,  
And bright above the sun  
Reign evermore.

3 Come to this happy land,  
Come, come away;  
Why will you doubting stand,  
Why still delay?  
O we shall happy be  
When, from sin and sorrow free,  
God, we shall dwell with thee,  
Blest evermore.

### **Lighting the Christ candle**

**For all that is good in life, thank you,  
For the love of family and friends, thank you,  
For the kindness of good neighbours and strangers, thank you.**

**And may the light shining from our windows,  
across road and wynd, glen and ben, kyle and isle,  
be reflected in our hearts and hands and hopes.**

### **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.

### **Hymn**

### **Spirit, Open My Heart**

**MV 79**

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.

God, replace my stony heart  
with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear  
to your grace I now surrender.

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.

Write your love upon my heart  
as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed,  
may my living bring you glory.

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.

May I weep with those who weep,  
share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ,  
may we welcome one another.

Spirit, open my heart to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love, in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.

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

### **Hymn**

### **Up From the Depths I Cry to God**

**p. 852**

1 Up from the depths I cry to God:  
O listen, Lord, to me;  
O hear my voice in this distress,  
this mire of misery.

I wait for God with all my heart,  
my hope is in Your word;  
and more than watchers for the dawn  
I'm longing for you, God.

2 If you, my God, should measure guilt  
who then could ever stand?  
But those who fear your name will find  
forgiveness from your hand.

I wait for God with all my heart,  
my hope is in Your word;  
and more than watchers for the dawn  
I'm longing for you, God.

3 O Israel, set your hope on God  
whose mercy is supreme:

the nation mourning for its sins  
God surely will redeem.

I wait for God with all my heart,  
my hope is in Your word;  
and more than watchers for the dawn  
I'm longing for you, God.

**Scripture    Psalm 15    Who may be a guest in God's house?**

1 O God, who may abide in your tent?  
Who may dwell on your holy hill?  
2 Those who walk blamelessly and do what is right  
and speak the truth from their heart;  
3 who do not slander with their tongue  
and do no evil to their friends  
nor heap shame upon their neighbors;  
4 in whose eyes the wicked are despised  
but who honor those who fear God;  
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;  
5 who do not lend money at interest  
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.  
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

**Gospel    Matthew 5:1–12    The Beatitudes**

5 When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> And he began to speak and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup> “Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup> “Blessed are those who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup> “Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

The Word of God for the people of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

**Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise**

**VU 264**

1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise;  
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes;  
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

2 Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,  
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might;  
thy justice like mountains high soaring above  
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

3 To all, life thou givest, to both great and small;  
in all life thou livest, the true life of all;  
we blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,  
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

**Guest Musician**

**Roslyn Addison-Rudat**

**Skye Boat Song**

**Eriskay Love Lilt**

**Come By The Hills**

**Reflection**

**Hymn**

**Flow Gently, Sweet Afton**

1 Flow gently, sweet Afton, among thy green braes;  
Flow gently, I'll sing thee a song in thy praise;  
My Mary's asleep by thy murmuring stream,  
Flow gently, sweet Afton, disturb not her dream.

Thou stock-dove whose echo resounds from the hill,  
Ye wild whistling black-birds in yon thorny dell,  
Thou green-crested lapwing thy screaming forbear,  
I charge you, disturb not my slumbering fair.

2 How lofty, sweet Afton, thy neighboring hills,  
Far mark'd with the courses of clear winding rills!  
There daily I wander, as morn rises high,  
My flocks and my Mary's sweet cot in my eye.

How pleasant thy banks and green valleys below,  
Where wild in the woodlands, the primroses blow!  
There oft, as mild evening creeps over the lea,  
The sweet scented birk shades my Mary and me.

3 Thy crystal stream, Afton, how lovely it glides,  
And winds by the cot where my Mary resides!  
How wanton thy waters her snowy feet lave,  
As, gath'ring sweet flow'rets, she stems thy clear wave!

Flow gently, sweet Afton, among thy green braes,  
Flow gently, sweet river, the theme of my days:  
My Mary's asleep by thy murmuring stream,  
Flow gently, sweet Afton, disturb not her dream.

### **Offering**

**God of all goodness and grace,  
You have given us riches beyond measure.  
Receive these gifts we offer  
And use them, and us, in the service of Your world. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

**If there is righteousness in the heart,  
there will be beauty in the character.  
If there is beauty in the character,  
there will be harmony in the home.  
If there is harmony in the home,  
there will be order in the nation.  
If there is order in the nation,  
there will be peace in the world.  
So let it be.**

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

## **A Scottish Lord's Prayer**

**Our Creator in heaven, be hallowed thy name;  
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done  
on the earth, as in the Land of the Faithful  
Give us our bread for this incoming day;  
Forgive us the wrongs we have wrought,  
As we have forgiven the ills we have suffered;  
And try us not severely, but save us from evil  
For the Kingdom, the power and the glory are Thine  
Forever and aye.  
Amen.**

## **BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH**

**Closing Hymn**

**Will You Come and Follow Me**

**VU 567**

- 1 Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?
- 2 Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?
- 4 Will you love the 'you' you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?

## **Benediction & Commissioning**

May the blessing of light be on you - light without and light within. May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great peat fire, so that stranger and friend may come and warm themselves at it. And may light shine out of the two eyes of you, like a candle set in the window of a house, bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm.

And may the blessing of the rain be on you, may it beat upon your Spirit and wash it fair and clean, and leave there a shining pool where the blue of Heaven shines, and sometimes a star.

And may the blessing of the earth be on you, soft under your feet as you pass along the roads, soft under you as you lie out on it, tired at the end of day; and may it rest easy over you when, at last, you lie out under it.

May it rest so lightly over you that your soul may be out from under it quickly; up and off and on its way to God. And now may the Lord bless you, and bless you kindly. Amen.

## **Postlude**

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**Birchcliff Bluffs United Church  
Fourth After Epiphany  
Additional Lectionary**

## **Micah 6:1-8**

**New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**

### **God Challenges Israel**

6 Hear what the LORD says:

Rise, plead your case before the mountains,  
and let the hills hear your voice.

<sup>2</sup> Hear, you mountains, the case of the LORD,  
and you enduring foundations of the earth,  
for the LORD has a case against his people,  
and he will contend with Israel.

<sup>3</sup>“O my people, what have I done to you?  
In what have I wearied you? Answer me!  
<sup>4</sup>For I brought you up from the land of Egypt  
and redeemed you from the house of slavery,  
and I sent before you Moses,  
Aaron, and Miriam.  
<sup>5</sup>O my people, remember now what King Balak of Moab devised,  
what Balaam son of Beor answered him,  
and what happened from Shittim to Gilgal,  
that you may know the saving acts of the LORD.”

## **What God Requires**

<sup>6</sup>“With what shall I come before the LORD  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
<sup>7</sup>Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”  
<sup>8</sup>He has told you, O mortal, what is good,  
and what does the LORD require of you  
but to do justice and to love kindness  
and to walk humbly with your God?

## **1 Corinthians 1:18-31 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**

### **Christ the Power and Wisdom of God**

<sup>18</sup>For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup>Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, <sup>[a]</sup> not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what is

foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;  
<sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to abolish things that are,  
<sup>29</sup> so that no one<sup>[b]</sup> might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> In contrast, God is why you are in  
Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and  
redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in<sup>[c]</sup> the Lord.”