



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Rev. Gregory Daly: Minister of Word & Sacrament

Rev. Carmen Llanos: Minister of Community Development

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

Reader: Vicky Kennedy

October 10, 2021 – Thanksgiving Sunday

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

For The Beauty of the Earth

Music: Conrad Kocher

Call to Worship (*with thanks to Judy Sears, Willowgrove United Church., Sault Ste. Marie, ON.*)

For the bounty of the harvest,
for the colours of the fall,

thanks be to God.

For the miracle of bird migration,
for the ingenuity of hibernation,

thanks be to God.

For the glories of the earth all around us,

we give thanks to God, our Creator.

In a spirit of humility and thankfulness come.

Let us worship God together.



Response

We Praise You, O God

VU 218

Words: Julia Cory Music: Netherlands Folk Song

*We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.*

*We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.*

*We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.*

*When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.*

*With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!*

Life & Work of the Church

Welcome to online worship

Land Acknowledgement

Candle Lighting

The Christ candle is lit.



Opening Hymn

Come, You Thankful People

Words: Henry Alford
Music: George Job Elvey

VU 516

*Come, you thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home!
All is safely gathered in,
safe before the storms begin;
God, our maker, does provide
for our needs to be supplied:
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home!*

*All the world is God's own field,
harvests for God's praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown,
here for joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
Harvest-giver, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.*

*For our God, one day, shall come,
and shall take this harvest home;
from the field shall in that day
all offences purge away;
giving angels charge at last
in the fire the weeds to cast;
but the fruitful ears to store
in the garner evermore.*

*Even so, God, quickly come
to your final harvest home!
Gather all your people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin;
there for ever purified,*

*in your presence to abide:
come, with all your angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.*

Prayer for Grace (with thanks to Rev Gord Dunbar, Kincardine Presbyterian Church Kincardine, ON)



Generous God, when we perceive scarcity, open us to embrace your reality of plenty.

When we feel isolated and abandoned, open us to risking companionship.

When we shrink from your touch out of shame-filled fear, prepare us for transformation.

When we are filled with worry or alarm, create space within us for your embrace, opening us to moments of healing and wholeness. Amen



Words of Assurance (with thanks to Rev Gord Dunbar, Kincardine Presbyterian Church Kincardine, ON)

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

And Now For Something Completely Different



Hymn

Soil of God, You and I

MV 174

Words and Music: © 1995 Jim Hannah

*Soil of God, you and I, stand ready to bear
seeds of faith nourished by God's tender care.
Growing in everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are Holy ground.*

*Soil of God, you and I, now ready to be
part of God's promise, for others to see.
Open to everyone for here God is found.
All stand together, we are Holy ground.*

*Soil of God, you and I, now called to re-birth,
joining as partners with all of the earth.
Living in harmony for here God is found.
All stand together, this is Holy ground.*

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*

Joel 2: 21-27 **New Revised Standard Version**

Do not fear, O soil; be glad and rejoice,
for God has done great things!
²² Do not fear, you animals of the field,
for the pastures of the wilderness are green;
the tree bears its fruit, the fig tree and vine give their full yield.
²³ O children of Zion, be glad and rejoice in God;
for he has given the early rain for your vindication,
he has poured down for you abundant rain,
the early and the later rain, as before.
²⁴ The threshing floors shall be full of grain,
the vats shall overflow with wine and oil.
²⁵ I will repay you for the years that the swarming locust has eaten,
the hopper, the destroyer, and the cutter,
my great army, which I sent against you.
²⁶ You shall eat in plenty and be satisfied,
and praise the name of God, who has dealt wondrously with you.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.
²⁷ You shall know that I am in the midst of Israel,
and that I, am your God and there is no other.
And my people shall never again be put to shame.

Matthew 6: 25-33 **New Revised Standard Version**

²⁵ “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your parent in heaven feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? ²⁸ And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the trilliums of the forest, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will God not much more clothe you—you of little faith? ³¹ Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ ³² For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your parent in heaven knows that you need all these things. ³³ But strive first for the kingdom of God and God’s righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

These are Jesus’ words for us to focus on today.

Thanks be to God

Sermon

We're So Poor That...



Hymn

For The Fruit of All Creation

VU 227

Words: Fred Pratt Green
© 1970 Hope Publishing Company
Music: Welsh folk melody, 1784

*For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.*

*In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering our Gifts to God



Prayers of the People:



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

Now Thank We All Our God

VU 236

Words: Martin Rinckart
English translation: Catherine Winkworth
Music: Johann Cruger

*Now thank we all our God,
with heart, and hands, and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.*

*O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us strong in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ill in this world and the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God
for all that has been given,
the Son, and Spirit blest
who dwell in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.*

Benediction & Commissioning



Postlude

Far and Near the Fields Are Teeming

Music: James Oren Thompson

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Other Resources for Today

Lectionary Readings

Psalm 126 New Revised Standard Version

A Song of Ascents.

¹ When God restored the fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.

² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,
“God has done great things for them.”

³ God has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.

⁴ Restore our fortunes, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

⁵ May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

⁶ Those who go out weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.

1 Timothy 2:1-7 New Revised Standard Version

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ² for monarchs and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³ This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour, ⁴ who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶ who gave himself a ransom for all—this was attested at the right time. ⁷ For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.