



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

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Twenty-Fourth after Pentecost

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

With thankful hearts we gather here where the doors are open to all.

We come with open hearts and open minds, thankful that we are children of the light of Christ.

The candle is lit.

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 Mississauga’s 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.

Opening Hymn

Bring Many Names

VU 268

- 1 Bring many names, beautiful and good,
celebrate, in parable and story,
holiness in glory, living, loving God.
Hail and hosanna! Bring many names!

- 2 Strong mother God, working night and day,
planning all the wonders of creation,
setting each equation, genius at play:
Hail and hosanna, strong mother God!

3 Warm father God, hugging every child,
feeling all the strains of human living,
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:
Hail and hosanna, warm father God!

5 Young, growing God, eager, on the move,
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,
crying out for justice, giving all you have:
Hail and hosanna, young, growing God!

6 Great, living God, never fully known,
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:
Hail and hosanna, great, living God!

Call to Worship

We live in such a wounded world-beyond the grief of natural disasters...

We face the devastation of human violence. How do we give prayerful expression to grief?

Life and Work

Opening Prayer

GOD of generations, you called us by name and hoped we would be a new creation in your love.

We discerned our earthly and spiritual gifts yet are not sure how to offer them; made holy by your love, your joy, your sacrifice, your laughter, may your healing flow through us, our neighbourhood, and around the world. Amen.

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture **Psalm 78:1-7** God's Goodness and Israel's Ingratitude

¹ Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

² I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will utter dark sayings from of old,

³ things that we have heard and known,
that our ancestors have told us.

**⁴ We will not hide them from their children;
we will tell to the coming generation
the glorious deeds of the LORD and his might
and the wonders that he has done.**

⁵ He established a decree in Jacob
and appointed a law in Israel,
which he commanded our ancestors
to teach to their children,

**⁶ that the next generation might know them,
the children yet unborn,
and rise up and tell them to their children,**

⁷ so that they should set their hope in God,
and not forget the works of God,
but keep his commandments;

Matthew 25:1-13 The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids

25 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women^[a] took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom.^[b] **2** Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. **3** When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, **4** but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. **5** As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. **6** But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ **7** Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. **8** The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ **9** But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ **10** And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. **11** Later the other young women came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ **12** But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ **13** Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Teach Me, God, to Wonder

VU 299

Teach me, God, to wonder, teach me, God, to see;
let your world of beauty capture me.
Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
life be celebrated, joy you give.

2 Let me, God, be open, let me loving be;
let your world of people speak to me.
Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
life be celebrated, joy you give.

3 Let me, God, be ready, let me be awake,
in your world of loving my place take.
Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
life be celebrated, joy you give.

4 Teach me, God, to know you, hear you when you speak,
see you in my neighbour when we meet.
Praise to you be given, love for you be lived,
life be celebrated, joy you give.

Sermon **Look Who's Coming!**

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn **Give Me Oil in My Lamp**

1 Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,
give me oil in my lamp, I pray;
give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning,
keep me burning till the break of day.

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King!

2 Give me love in my heart, keep me sharing,
give me joy in my heart, I pray;
give me love in my heart, keep me sharing,
keep me sharing till the break of day.

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King!

3 Give me joy in my heart, keep me singing,
give me joy in my heart, I pray;
give me joy in my heart, keep me singing,
keep me singing till the break of day.

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King!

4 Give me faith in my heart, keep me praying,
give me faith in my heart, I pray;

give me faith in my heart, keep me praying,
keep me praying till the break of day.

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King!

Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the King!

Offering

Accept O GOD, our gifts freely given. May they be signs of freedom for others:

Freedom from hunger, from oppression, from conflict, from violence. Use these gifts and us for your purposes in the world. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Hidden GOD, sometimes we search for you, but we cannot find you. All of our lives you have been there...

So close, that we knew that you dwelled in our hearts. Come to us now as we need to feel your presence. Your Spirit provides courage and faithfulness amidst chaos. Continue to teach us to live the ways of Jesus. For now, we sit in silence and wait...

Moment of silence...

**Creator, 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 and the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever, Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing 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.

Commissioning and Benediction

In times of peace wounds are not always noticed.

**Today we remember, and in our remembering, we think of the sacrifices made
willingly and unwillingly.**

As we go from this place let us walk hand in hand as members of Christ's family. **Amen.**

Choral Benediction

Go Now In Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, amen, amen!

Postlude

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