



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Minister of Word & Sacrament: Rev. Dr. Ellen Redcliffe

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

Reader: Beth Moore

April 21, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Camping Sunday

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

O Lord God, you have called us and we have come.

The candle is lit.

We take upon ourselves the yoke of obedience and seek to do your will.

Amen.

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 traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit River.

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

Called By Earth and Sky

MV 135

Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

1 Precious these waters, endless seas,
deep ocean’s dream,
waters of healing, rivers of rain,

the wash of love again.

Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

2 Precious this gift, the air we breathe;
wind born and free.
Breath of the Spirit, blow through this place,
our gathering and our grace.

Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

3 Precious these mountains, ancient sands;
vast fragile land.
Seeds of our wakening, rooted and strong,
Creation's faithful song.

Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky.

4 Precious the fire that lights our way,
bright dawning day.
Fire of passion, sorrows undone,
our faith and justice one.

Called by earth and sky,
promise of hope held high.
This is our sacred living trust,
treasure of life sanctified,
called by earth and sky,
called by earth and sky.

Call to Worship

Give God glory for all things.

We give God glory for all things in heaven and on earth. Let us worship our God!

Life and Work

Opening Prayer

Gracious holy God, we give you thanks...

for the glory of morning and night, of sunrise and sunset. No one is denied your goodness and your love. Day after day we are filled with your strength your wisdom and understanding. As we gather this morning, help us receive your word. Amen.

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture **Psalm 23** A psalm of David.

¹The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.

² **He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,**

³ he refreshes my soul.

He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake.

⁴ **Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ **Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the
house of the LORD forever.**

John 10:11-18

¹¹“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. ¹² The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. ¹³ The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

¹⁴“I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me - ¹⁵ just as God knows me and I know God - and I lay down my life for the sheep. ¹⁶ I have other sheep that are not of this sheep pen. I must bring them also. They too will listen to my voice, and there shall be one flock and one shepherd. ¹⁷ The reason God loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. ¹⁸ No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my God.”

The word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Oh a Song Must Rise

MV 142

Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend
Oh a song must rise once again
Singing out God's praises and glory,
the faithful voices blend,
Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

1 From the mountains to the valleys,
from the desert to the sea,
a song must rise once again.
From the voices of our leaders,
the voice of you and me,
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend
Oh a song must rise once again
Singing out God's praises and glory,
the faithful voices blend,
Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

2 From poverty and riches,
from the voice of young and old,
a song must rise once again.
From the free and the imprisoned,
the timid and the bold,
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend
Oh a song must rise once again
Singing out God's praises and glory,
the faithful voices blend,
Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

3 From ev'ry house of worship,
in ev'ry faith and tongue,
a song must rise once again.
From the villages and cities
a new song must be sung,
a song must rise for the spirit to descend.

Oh a song must rise for the spirit to descend
Oh a song must rise once again
Singing out God's praises and glory,

Prayers of the People

God who gives to all life its goodness, we come before your presence with joy.

You fill our lives with beauty and satisfy the hunger of our hearts. We thank you for those whose lives are rooted in love where character is formed and values are learned, where lives are filled with hopefulness and laughter. May you continue to be a source of blessing and abundant life to all ...

Moment of silence

**Gracious God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For yours is the kingdom and the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever, Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

It's a Song of Praise to the Maker (v. 1, 2, 4) MV 30

1 It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker,
The gray whale sings in the sea,
And by the Spirit
you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

2 It's a call of life to the Giver
when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver
when high tides break on the shore,
And by the Spirit
you and I can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

4 It's the chorus of all creation;
it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation;
a song the universe sings,
And by the Spirit
you and I can join our voice to the holy cry

and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

Commissioning and Benediction

Go forth, seeking God's joyful, liberation action in the world.

Mark it, declare it, celebrate it, and share it with your neighbours.

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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