



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: Mary Cannings

April 11, 2021 – Easter 2



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Arise, Arise My Soul

Music: William B. Bradbury

Call to Worship

Easter joy is for you and for all.
Easter hope stirs up creation.
This Easter, let your spirit swell.
Let the borders of your compassion expand.

*We join our voices and our lives
to share this joy and hope
as we worship together.*

Response

The Servant Song

Words & Music: Richard Gillard
© 1977 Scripture in Song

VU 595

*We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.*

Life & Work of the Church

Welcome to online worship



Land Acknowledgement

As we prepare for worship, we take a moment to acknowledge the sacred land 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 the Mississauga's of the Credit and Scugog. What we now know as Scarborough is part of the Williams Treaty lands. Today, the meeting place around Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We are grateful for the opportunity to live and work on this territory. It is now our time to share in the care and maintenance of the land. Part of that discussion is the work of reconciliation and we seek to be mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.



Candle Lighting

Christ is risen.

Christ is risen indeed.

Opening Hymn

Deep In Our Hearts

Words © 1995 by John Wesley Oldham
Music © 1996 by Ron Klusmeier

MV 154

*Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.*

*Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.*

*Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;*

*deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.*

*Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.*

Prayer for Grace

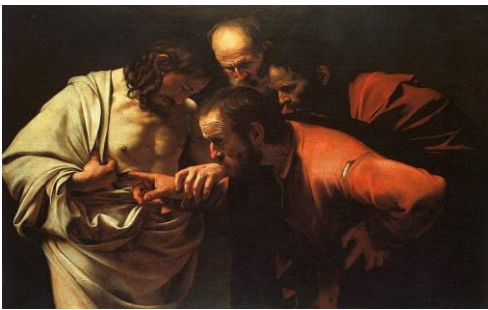
Creator, we bring you our doubts and our questions, and as you touch our unbelief, you turn them into adventures.

Come now Holy Spirit and create a moment of connection where we can sense you among us and in turn the world can witness in us the good news that resurrection brings.

Amen

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

And Now For Something Completely Different



Hymn

That Easter Day With Joy Was Bright

Words: 5th Century Latin Hymn
Translation: John Mason Neale
Music: Puer Nobis Nascitur

*That Easter day with joy was bright:
the sun shone out with fairer light
when to their longing eyes restored,
The glad apostles saw their Lord.*

*His risen flesh with radiance glowed,
his wounded hands and feet he showed;
those scars their solemn witness gave
that Christ was risen from the grave.*

*O Jesus, strong in gentleness,
Come now yourself our hearts possess,
that we may give you all our days
the tribute of our grateful praise.*

*Come risen Christ, with us abide
in this, our joyful Easter-tide;
your own redeemed forever shield
from ev'ry weapon death can wield.*

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*

Acts 4: 32-35

New Revised Standard Version

Now the whole group of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one claimed private ownership of any possessions, but everything they owned was held in common. ³³ With great power the apostles gave their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. ³⁴ There was not a needy person among them, for as many as owned lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold. ³⁵ They laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.

John 20: 19-31

New Revised Standard Version

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰ After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw Jesus. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As ABBA God has sent me, so I send you." ²² When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³ If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

²⁴ But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵ So the other disciples told him, "We have seen Jesus." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

²⁶ A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷ Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸ Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹ Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

³⁰ Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

This is the Gospel message for us to consider today.

Thanks be to God

Sermon

A Breath of Fresh Air



Hymn

God Who Gives to Life Its Goodness

VU 260

Words: © 1970 Walter Farquharson
Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor
© 1942, 1970 Hope Publishing Company

*God who gives to life its goodness,
God creator of all joy,
God who gives to us our freedom,
God who blesses tool and toy:
teach us now to laugh and praise you,
deep within your praises sing,
till the whole creation dances
for the goodness of its God.*

*God who fills the earth with beauty,
God who binds each friend to friend,
God who names us co-creators
God who wills that chaos end:
grant us now creative spirits,
minds responsive to your mind,
hearts and wills your rule extending
all our acts by Love refined.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering



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.

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

Good Christians All, Rejoice and Sing

VU 169

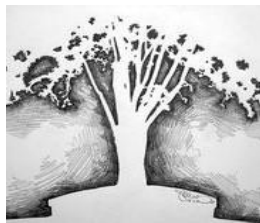
Words: Cyril Argentine Alington
© 1958 Hope Publishing Company
Music: Melchior Vulpus

*Good Christians all, rejoice and sing!
Now is the triumph of our God!
To all the world glad news we bring:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!*

*Praise we in songs of victory
that love, that life which cannot die,
and sing with hearts uplifted high:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!*

*Your name we bless, O risen God,
and sing today with one accord
the life laid down, the life restored:
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah!*

Benediction & Commissioning



Postlude

As Now Thy Children Lowly Kneel

Beati Immaculati
Music: Alexander Robert Reinagle

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Other Resources for Today

And Now for Something Completely Different

[Elisabeth Ohlson Wallin - Wikipedia](#)

Sermon Images

1. Mosaic from National Cathedral in Washington D.C. by Rowan and Irene LaCompte
2. Doubting Thomas by James He Qi

Lectionary Readings

Psalm 133

New Revised Standard Version

A Song of Ascents.

¹How very good and pleasant it is
when kindred live together in unity!
²It is like the precious oil on the head,
running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
running down over the collar of his robes.
³It is like the dew of Hermon,
which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there God ordained a blessing,
life forevermore.

1 John 1 – 2:2

New Revised Standard Version

1 We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ²this life was revealed, and we have seen it and testify to it, and declare to you the eternal life that was with God and was revealed to us— ³we declare to you what we have seen and heard so that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with God and with the Son Jesus Christ. ⁴We are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

⁵This is the message we have heard from God and proclaim to you, that God is light and in God there is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say that we have fellowship with God while we are walking in darkness, we lie and do not do what is true; ⁷but if we walk in the light as God is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus the Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, the One who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make God a liar, and God's word is not in us.

2 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with God, Jesus Christ the righteous; ²and he is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.