



**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

**Scripture:** Loralie Vancourt

**Prayer:** Janet Bawcutt

**January 23, 2022 – Season of Epiphany**

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

**Prelude**

**Awake My Soul, and With the Sun**

Music by F.H. Barthélemon

**Call to Worship**

Jesus embraced his friends with love.

*Let us witness to God with our arms.*

Jesus wept when his friends experienced grief.

*Let us witness to God with our hearts.*

Jesus healed people with his touch.

*Let us witness to God with our hands.*

Jesus taught in the synagogues.

*Let us witness to God with our ears.*

Jesus walked alongside the oppressed.

*Let us witness to God with our feet.*

Jesus taught us that to experience life to its fullest requires our entire selves.

*Let us worship God with all of ourselves: mind, body, soul, and spirit.*

**Response**

**God, Prepare Me**

**MV 18**

Words and Music: John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs

© 1982 Whole Armor & Full Armor Publishing Co.

God, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
pure and holy tried and true;  
with thanksgiving,  
I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.

God, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
pure and holy tried and true;  
with thanksgiving,  
I’ll be a living sanctuary for you.

## Life & Work of the Church

*Welcome to online worship*



## Land Acknowledgement

## Candle Lighting

## Opening Hymn

### We Are One

VU 402

Words © 1988 Doreen Lankshear-Smith  
Music © 1995 Jeeva Sam

*We are one as we come,  
as we come, joyful to be here,  
in the praise on our lips  
there's a sense that God is near.*

*We are one as we sing,  
as we seek, we are found;  
and we come needful of God's grace  
as we meet, together in this place.*

*We are one as we share,  
as we share brokenness and fear,  
in the touch of a hand  
there's a sense that God is here.*

*We are one as we care,  
as we heal, we are healed;  
and we share warmth in God's embrace  
as we pray together in this place.*

*We are one as we hear,  
as we hear, heart and hand unite;  
in the word we receive  
there's a sense that God is light.*

*We are one as we leave,  
as we love, we are loved;  
and we seek justice in God's ways  
as we move together from this place.*

## Opening Prayer

***Creator of all, you call us into community, to work together as one body. Be with us today as we join our hearts and voices to offer praise to you who have perfectly created each of us. Help us to see past our perceived imperfections to see the beauty you create in us and in the world. Accept the praise of your family as we reach out to you, and each other, in worship and love. Amen***

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

And Now for Something Completely Different



Hymn

**Christ Has No Body Now But Yours**      **MV 171**

Words: Adapted by Stephen C. Warner from St. Teresa of Avila  
© 2003, World Library Publications  
Music: © 2006 Rick Gunn

*Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.  
Here on this earth, yours is the work,  
to serve with the joy of compassion.*

*No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,  
no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,  
no touch but yours to bind the broken hope  
of the people of God.*

*Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.  
Here on this earth, yours is the work,  
to serve with the joy of compassion.*

*No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,  
to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;  
no eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy  
of the city of God.*

*Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.  
Here on this earth, yours is the work,  
to serve with the joy of compassion.  
Through ev'ry gift, give back to those in need;  
as Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,  
with ev'ry gift a benediction, be  
to the people of God.*

*Christ has no body now but yours, no hands but yours.  
Here on this earth, yours is the work,  
to serve with the joy of compassion.*

## **Prayer of Illumination**

*The scriptures proclaim to us the message of your light.  
Loving and ever-present God, shine your light on us  
so that we may discover and live a path that follows you. Amen*

### **1 Corinthians 12:12-31**      **New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>12</sup> For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. <sup>13</sup> For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

<sup>14</sup> Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. <sup>15</sup> If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>16</sup> And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. <sup>17</sup> If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? <sup>18</sup> But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. <sup>19</sup> If all were a single member, where would the body be? <sup>20</sup> As it is, there are many members, yet one body. <sup>21</sup> The eye cannot say to the hand, “I have no need of you,” nor again the head to the feet, “I have no need of you.” <sup>22</sup> On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, <sup>23</sup> and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; <sup>24</sup> whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, <sup>25</sup> that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. <sup>28</sup> And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. <sup>29</sup> Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? <sup>30</sup> Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? <sup>31</sup> But strive for the greater gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way.

### **Luke 4: 14-21**      **New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. <sup>15</sup> He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone.

<sup>16</sup> When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, <sup>17</sup> and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

<sup>18</sup> “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free,  
<sup>19</sup> to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

<sup>20</sup> And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. <sup>21</sup> Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

These are stories of Jesus for us to consider in our lives today.

*Thanks be to God*

## Sermon

## Uniting Unique Universe



## Hymn

### Live Into Hope

VU 699

Words: © 1981 Jane Parker Huber  
Music: Thomas Williams' Psalmodia Evangelica

*Live into hope of captives freed,  
of sight regained, the end of greed.  
The oppressed shall be the first to see  
the year of God's own jubilee!*

*Live into hope the blind shall see  
with insight and with clarity,  
removing shades of pride and fear,  
a vision of our God brought near.*

*Live into hope of liberty,  
the right to speak, the right to be,  
the right to have one's daily bread,  
to hear God's word and thus be fed.*

*Live into hope of captives freed  
from chains of fear or want or greed.  
God now proclaims our full release  
to faith and hope and joy and peace.*

## 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. Amen.*

### BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

### Closing Hymn

#### **I Am a Child of God**

**MV 157**

Words & Music © 2002 Cheryl and Bruce Harding

*I am a child of God, I am a glimpse of God's new creation.  
I am a child of God, I am a child of God.*

*I am an endless prayer, I am a yearning for contemplation,  
I am an endless prayer, I am an endless prayer.*

*I am a cry for peace, I am commitment and dedication,  
I am a cry for peace, I am a cry for peace.*

*I am a song of joy, I am the moment of jubilation,  
I am a song of joy, I am a song of joy.*

### Benediction & Commissioning

May the perfect love of God,  
and the unending grace of Jesus  
and the presence of our comforter, the Holy Spirit,  
be with you, and with everyone you meet. Amen.

### Postlude

#### **Now Every Morning Is The Love**

Music: Samuel Webbe

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## Other Lectionary Readings

### Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

### New Revised Standard Version

8 <sup>1</sup>all the people gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had given to Israel. <sup>2</sup>Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. <sup>3</sup>He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

<sup>5</sup>And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. <sup>6</sup>Then Ezra blessed God, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped God with their faces to the ground.

<sup>8</sup>So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading.

<sup>9</sup>And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. <sup>10</sup>Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our LORD; and do not be grieved, for the joy of God is your strength."

### Psalms 19

### New Revised Standard Version

<sup>1</sup>The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>Day to day pours forth speech,  
and night to night declares knowledge.

<sup>3</sup>There is no speech, nor are there words;  
their voice is not heard;

<sup>4</sup>yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heavens <sup>God</sup> has set a tent for the sun,

<sup>5</sup>which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,  
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

<sup>6</sup>Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to the end of them;  
and nothing is hid from its heat.

<sup>7</sup>The law of God is perfect,  
reviving the soul;

the decrees of God are sure,  
making wise the simple;  
<sup>8</sup>the precepts of God are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of God is clear,  
enlightening the eyes;  
<sup>9</sup>the fear of God is pure,  
enduring forever;  
the ordinances of God are true  
and righteous altogether.  
<sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey,  
and drippings of the honeycomb.

<sup>11</sup>Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.  
<sup>12</sup>But who can detect their errors?  
Clear me from hidden faults.  
<sup>13</sup>Keep back your servant also from the insolent;<sup>[d]</sup>  
do not let them have dominion over me.  
Then I shall be blameless,  
and innocent of great transgression.

<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you,  
O God, my rock and my redeemer.