



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

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HONKY TONK HYMNS SERVICE

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle

This morning we light this candle to remind us that even as one light is extinguished, many more will take its place, and that we are called to carry that light out into the world.

Lighting the Rainbow Candle

Lighting this rainbow candle celebrates God's promise, human diversity, and our commitment to being an inclusive and Affirming ministry.

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

Old Time Religion

Give me that old time religion,
Give me that old time religion,
Give me that old time religion,
It's good enough for me.

1 It was good for Paul and Silas,
It was good for Paul and Silas,
It was good for Paul and Silas,
It's good enough for me.

2 It was good for the Hebrew children,
It was good for the Hebrew children,
It was good for the Hebrew children,
It's good enough for me.

Give me that old time religion,
Give me that old time religion,
Give me that old time religion,
It's good enough for me.

3 It was good for our mothers,
It was good for our fathers,
It was good for our families,
It's good enough for me.

4 Makes me love ev'rybody,
Makes me love ev'rybody,
Makes me love ev'rybody,
It's good enough for me.

Give me that old time religion,
Give me that old time religion,
Give me that old time religion,
It's good enough for me.

Give me that old time religion,
Give me that old time religion,
Give me that old time religion,
It's good enough for me

Give me that old time religion,
It's good enough for me.

Call to Worship

God does not look at outward appearances, but looks directly at the heart.

Create in us clean hearts and renew a right spirit within us.

Let us join our voices with the saints whose lives and music inspire us to love courageously.

We come to give thanks for the light shared through every act of kindness and song.

Let us sing together in spirit and in truth, celebrating a legacy of grace, resilience, and joy.

Passing the Peace

We take this moment to share some peace with our neighbours; with a handshake, a bow, a wave or a nod to remind us of the light that is in each of us, and that we are called to reconciliation and community.

Let us greet those around you, saying: Peace be with you. **And also with you.**

Life and Work of the Church

Hymn

The Church in the Wildwood

1 There's a church in the valley by the wildwood,
No lovelier spot in the dale;
No place is so dear to my childhood
As the little brown church in the vale.

Come to the church in the wildwood,
Oh, come to the church in the vale;
No spot is so dear to my childhood
As the little brown church in the vale.

3 How sweet on a clear Sunday morning,
To list to the clear ringing bell;
Its tones so sweetly are calling,
Oh, come to the church in the vale.

Come to the church in the wildwood,
Oh, come to the church in the vale;
No spot is so dear to my childhood
As the little brown church in the vale.

4 From the church in the valley by the wildwood,
When day fades away into night,
I would fain from this spot of my childhood
Wing my way to the mansions of light.

Come to the church in the wildwood,
Oh, come to the church in the vale;
No spot is so dear to my childhood
As the little brown church in the vale.

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture

Matthew 18:21-35

New International Version

The Parable of the Unmerciful Servant

²¹ Peter came to Jesus. He asked, “Lord, how many times should I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?”

²² Jesus answered, “I tell you, not seven times, but 77 times.

²³ “The kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to collect all the money his servants owed him. ²⁴ As the king began to do it, a man who owed him 10,000 bags of gold was brought to him.

²⁵ The man was not able to pay. So his master gave an order. The man, his wife, his children, and all he owned had to be sold to pay back what he owed.

²⁶ “Then the servant fell on his knees in front of him. ‘Give me time,’ he begged. ‘I’ll pay everything back.’ ²⁷ His master felt sorry for him. He forgave him what he owed and let him go.

²⁸ “But then that servant went out and found one of the other servants who owed him 100 silver coins. He grabbed him and began to choke him. ‘Pay back what you owe me!’ he said.

²⁹ “The other servant fell on his knees. ‘Give me time,’ he begged him. ‘I’ll pay it back.’

³⁰ “But the first servant refused. Instead, he went and had the man thrown into prison. The man would be held there until he could pay back what he owed. ³¹ The other servants saw what had happened and were very angry. They went and told their master everything that had happened.

³² “Then the master called the first servant in. ‘You evil servant,’ he said. ‘I forgave all that you owed me because you begged me to. ³³ Shouldn’t you have had mercy on the other servant just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ In anger his master handed him over to the jailers. He would be punished until he paid back everything he owed.

³⁵ “This is how you will be treated unless you forgive your brother or sister from your heart.”

Romans 12:9-21

New Revised Standard Version

Marks of the True Christian

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; do not be arrogant, but

associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. ¹⁷ Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. ¹⁸ If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. ¹⁹ Beloved, never avenge yourselves. ²⁰ Instead, “if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink, for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.” ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

HONKY TONK HYMNS

Hymn

In The Sweet By and Bye

1 There's a land that is fairer than day,
and by faith we can see it afar;
for the Father waits over the way
to prepare us a dwelling place there.

In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

2 We shall sing on that beautiful shore
the melodious songs of the blest;
and our spirits shall sorrow no more-
not a sigh for the blessing of rest.

In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

3 To our bountiful Father above
we will offer our tribute of praise,
for the glorious gift of His love,
and the blessings that hallow our days.

In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

Hymn

In The Garden

1 I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

2 He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

3 I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho' the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling.

And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

Hymn

Keep on the Firing Line

1. If you're in the battle for the Lord and right,
Keep on the firing line;
If you win, my brother, surely you must fight,
Keep on the firing line.
There are many dangers that we all must face,
If we die still fighting it is no disgrace;
Cowards in the service will not find a place,
So keep on the firing line.

Oh, you must fight, be brave against all evil,
Never run, nor even lag behind;
If you would win for God and the right,
Just keep on the firing line.

2. God will only use the soldier He can trust,
Keep on the firing line;
If you'll wear a crown then bear the cross you must,
Keep on the firing line.
Life is but to labor for the Master dear,
Help to banish evil and to spread good cheer;
Great you'll be rewarded for your service here,
So keep on the firing line.

Oh, you must fight, be brave against all evil,
Never run, nor even lag behind;
If you would win for God and the right,
Just keep on the firing line.

3. When we get to heaven, brother, we'll be glad,
Keep on the firing line;
How we'll praise the Savior for the call we had,
Keep on the firing line.
When we see the souls that we have helped to win,
Leading them to Jesus, from the paths of sin,
With a shout of welcome, we will all march in,
So keep on the firing line.

Oh, you must fight, be brave against all evil,
Never run, nor even lag behind;
If you would win for God and the right,
Just keep on the firing line.

Reflection

Hymn

When the Roll Is Called Up Yonder

1 When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound,
and time shall be no more,
and the morning breaks, eternal, bright and fair;
When the saved of earth shall gather
over on the other shore,
and the roll is called up yonder,
I'll be there.

When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

2 On that bright and cloudless morning
when the dead in Christ shall rise,
and the glory of His resurrection share;
When His chosen ones shall gather
to their home beyond the skies,
And the roll is called up yonder,
I'll be there.

When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.

3 Let us labor for the Master
from the dawn till setting sun;
let us talk of all His wondrous love and care.
Then when all of life is over,
and our work on earth is done,
and the roll is called up yonder,
I'll be there.

When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder,
When the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there.
(repeat chorus)

Offering

As we open our hearts in this moment, we give thanks for the good gifts around us; for the beauty of the earth that sustains us, and for the quiet grace found in the lives we share together.

Having received so much kindness and strength, may we freely offer our own hands in service, bringing comfort where there is hurt and hope where there is shadow.

May peace fill our spirits, compassion guide our steps, and the gift of this day be cherished by all.

Prayers of the People

Creator, because you spark the wonder that fills our hearts with praise and give us voices to sing, we thank you.

Because you place the spirit of the maker inside each of us, giving us eyes to see the extraordinary hidden in the ordinary, the generosity to offer our gifts to the world, and the hope to imagine a tomorrow shaped by love, we thank you.

Because you walk beside us in the fullness of the human story, meeting us in our joy, carrying us through our deepest grief, and promising that light will always overcome the dark, we thank you.

We hold in our hearts and minds today those near and far who are in need of healing, comfort, and peace...

(A moment of silent prayer)

And now, in the words we were taught, we join together to sing...

Creator in Heaven

Creator, in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your dominion come, your will be done
on earth, as in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors,
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil,
For you reign eternally,
in power, and in glory,
For ever and ever, Amen.

Hymn

Keep On The Sunny Side

1 There's a dark and a troubled side of life;
There's a bright and a sunny side, too;
Tho' we meet with the darkness and strife
The sunny side we also may view.

Keep on the sunny side,
Always on the sunny side,
Keep on the sunny side of life,
It will help us every day,
It will brighten all the way,
If we keep on the sunny side of life.

2 Tho' the storm in its fury breaks today,
Crushing hopes that we cherished so dear;
Storm and cloud will in time pass away,
The sun again will shine bright and clear.

Keep on the sunny side,
Always on the sunny side,
Keep on the sunny side of life,
It will help us every day,
It will brighten all the way,
If we keep on the sunny side of life.

3 Let us greet with a song of hope each day,
Tho' the moments be cloudy or fair;
Let us trust in our Saviour always,
Who keeps every one in His care.

Keep on the sunny side,
Always on the sunny side,
Keep on the sunny side of life,
It will help us every day,
It will brighten all the way,
If we keep on the sunny side of life.
Keep on the sunny side,
Always on the sunny side,
Keep on the sunny side of life,
It will help us every day,
It will brighten all the way,
If we keep on the sunny side of life.

It will brighten all the way,
If we keep on the sunny side of life.

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Bread for the Journey

Where have you heard the sacred in music you might not normally call a hymn?

Closing Hymn

If We Never Meet Again This Side of Heaven

1 Soon we'll come to the end of life's journey
And perhaps we'll never meet anymore
'Til we gather in Heaven's bright city
Far away on that beautiful shore

If we never meet again this side of Heaven
As we struggle through this world and its strife
There's another meeting place somewhere in Heaven
By the side of the river of life

Where the charming roses bloom forever
And where separation comes no more
If we never meet again this side of Heaven
I will meet you on that beautiful shore

2 Oh, so often we're parted with sorrow
Benedictions often quicken our pain;
But we never shall sorrow in heaven,
God be with you 'til we meet again.

If we never meet again this side of Heaven
As we struggle through this world and its strife
There's another meeting place somewhere in Heaven
By the side of the river of life

Where the charming roses bloom forever
And where separation comes no more
If we never meet again this side of Heaven
I will meet you on that beautiful shore

3 Oh they say we shall meet by the river
Where no storm clouds ever darken the sky
And they say we'll be happy in Heaven
In that wonderful sweet by and by

If we never meet again this side of Heaven
As we struggle through this world and its strife
There's another meeting place somewhere in Heaven
By the side of the river of life

Where the charming roses bloom forever
And where separation comes no more
If we never meet again this side of Heaven
I will meet you on that beautiful shore
If we never meet again this side of Heaven
I will meet you on that beautiful shore

Benediction

Go out into the world with a little extra grace in your step. May you be granted the rhythm to keep walking the high road, even when the floorboards are creaky. May your heart stay humble,

and your burdens roll off your back like rain on a tin roof. When the week gets heavy and the world plays out of key, remember that mercy is always free, redemption is just one prayer away, and there is always a seat saved for you at the Table. Walk in peace, love your neighbor, and go make some joyful noise.

Amen.

Choral Response

This Train

- 1 This train is bound for glory, this train.
This train is bound for glory, this train.
This train is bound for glory,
Don't carry nothing but the righteous and the holy.
This train is bound for glory, this train.
- 2 This train don't carry no gamblers, this train;
This train don't carry no gamblers, this train;
This train don't carry no gamblers,
Liars, thieves, nor big shot rambler,
This train is bound for glory, this train.
- 3 This train don't carry no liars, this train;
This train don't carry no liars, this train;
This train don't carry no liars,
She's streamlined and a midnight flyer,
This train don't carry no liars, this train.
- 4 This train don't carry no con men, this train;
This train don't carry no con men, this train;
This train don't carry no con men,
No wheeler dealers, here and gone men,
This train don't carry no con men, this train.
- 5 1 This train is bound for glory, this train.
This train is bound for glory, this train.
This train is bound for glory,
Don't carry nothing but the righteous and the holy.
This train is bound for glory, this train
This train is bound for glory, this train
This train is bound for glory, this train.

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