



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

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

Minister of Community Development: Rev. Carmen Llanos

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

Readers: Janet Bawcutt

February 13, 2022 - Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

If You Will Trust In God To Guide You

Music by Georg Neumark

Call to Worship

God's people have gathered for worship.

and God is with us.

Strangers and friends, familiar and new,

yet one in God's love.

Feeling lost and hopeless, feeling found and thankful,

we come in gratitude and hope.

Come, let us worship our God!

Opening Hymn

Come and Seek The Ways of Wisdom

MV 10

Words: © 1993 Ruth Duck

Music: © 1995 Donna Kasbohm

Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,
she who danced when earth was new.

Follow closely what she teaches,
for her words are right and true.

Wisdom clears the path to justice,
Showing us what love must do.

Listen to the voice of Wisdom,
crying in the market-place.
Hear the Word made flesh among us,
full of glory, truth, and grace.
When the word takes root and ripens,
peace and righteousness embrace.

Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;
nurture all who seek rebirth.
Spirit guide and close companion,
bring to light our sacred worth.
Free us to become your people,
holy friends of God and earth.

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 and we honour the stewardship of the Mississauga of the New Credit, the Anishnaabe, the Iroquois, the Haudenosaunee, and the Huron-Wendat. We are grateful to have the opportunity to live, work and meet on this territory. We seek to be mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.



Candle Lighting

We light this small candle.

Even one candle can be a beacon of hope.

We pray that hope and love may fill our hearts.

May we carry this light with us, always.

Opening Prayer

*Hear us O God of past, present, and future,
who calls us forth to worship. We, your people, members of your body, have gathered
in this special place, in answer to your call to worship. Be with us as we open ourselves
to the gift of your presence, we pray. Amen*

Words by Fanny Crosby
Music by Robert S. Lowry

All the way my Saviour leads me;
what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy
who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
here by faith in God to dwell,
for I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.

All the way my Saviour leads me,
cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for every trial,
feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,
and my soul athirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me,
lo, a spring of joy I see!

All the way my Saviour leads me;
O the fullness of his love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
in my Saviour's house above.
When my spirit, clothed, immortal,
wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages,
'Jesus led me all the way!'

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination

Open our hearts to the mystery of your word. Open our spirits to its meaning for our lives. be with us as we listen for and receive your word today. Amen

Jeremiah 17:5-10 New International Version

⁵This is what the LORD says:
"Cursed is the one who trusts in man,
who draws strength from mere flesh

and whose heart turns away from the LORD.
⁶ That person will be like a bush in the wastelands;
they will not see prosperity when it comes.
They will dwell in the parched places of the desert,
in a salt land where no one lives.
⁷ “But blessed is the one who trusts in the LORD,
whose confidence is in him.
⁸ They will be like a tree planted by the water
that sends out its roots by the stream.
It does not fear when heat comes;
its leaves are always green.
It has no worries in a year of drought
and never fails to bear fruit.”
⁹ The heart is deceitful above all things
and beyond cure.
Who can understand it?
¹⁰ “I the LORD search the heart
and examine the mind,
to reward each person according to their conduct,
according to what their deeds deserve.”

Luke 6:17-26 Blessings and Woes

¹⁷ He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, ¹⁸ who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, ¹⁹ and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all.
²⁰ Looking at his disciples, he said:
“Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.
²¹ Blessed are you who hunger now,
for you will be satisfied.
Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.
²² Blessed are you when people hate you,
when they exclude you and insult you
and reject your name as evil,
because of the Son of Man.
²³ “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.
²⁴ “But woe to you who are rich,
for you have already received your comfort.
²⁵ Woe to you who are well fed now,

for you will go hungry.
Woe to you who laugh now,
for you will mourn and weep.
²⁶ Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you,
for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come;
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering



There is much to give thanks for and part of what we do when we take stock of this is to consider who we can give back in gratitude. Our time, our talents, the work of our hands, each piece works to change the world around us. There are many ways for you to give,

please visit our website www.bbuc.ca/donate to learn how you can support the work of this place in this community.

Prayers of the People

Loving God, with joyful shouts, our souls cry out of your greatness and wonder. With patience we await, trusting in the good things you have promised. You have fixed us in your sight, despite our weakness, offering us strength and protection. Through you, the poor and hungry will be fed. Through our faith, we are bound to your promise and are blessed to be part of your transforming power.

We now take a moment to remember those we keep in our prayers...

God, grant that, as we proclaim your name,
all people will know the power of love at work in the world.
We ask this through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray...



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

Take Up The Song

MV 213

Words & Music: © 2005 Laura A. Herman

Take up the song of peace
and go into the world,
Take up the song of peace
in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey,
we're laying down our lives,
lay them down, in peace,
lay them down, and take up the song.

Take up the song of hope
and go into the world,
Take up the song of hope
in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey,

we're laying down our lives,
lay them down, in hope,
lay them down, and take up the song.

Take up the song of faith
and go into the world,
Take up the song of faith
in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey,
we're laying down our lives,
lay them down, in faith,
lay them down, and take up the song.

Take up the song of love
and go into the world,
Take up the song of love
in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey,
we're laying down our lives,
lay them down, in love,
lay them down, and take up the song.

Benediction & Commissioning

May the God of creation, power, strength and glory,
*Bless us all as we go bravely to face the uncertainties of life,
Knowing full well that we do not go alone.*

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Additional Lectionary Readings

Psalm 1 - New Revised Standard Version

The Two Ways

¹ Happy are those

who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;

² but their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and on his law they meditate day and night.

³ They are like trees
planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.

In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴ The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.

⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;

⁶ for the LORD watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.

1 Corinthians 15:12-20 - New Revised Standard Version

The Resurrection of the Dead

¹² Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? ¹³ If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; ¹⁴ and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. ¹⁵ We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ—whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. ¹⁶ For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. ¹⁷ If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have died^[a] in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.