



## 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:** Joseph Dahonick

**August 29, 2021**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### Prelude

### What Shall I Do My God To Love

Music by John B. Dykes

### Call to Worship

We gather to share in community

*We are called to be love.*

We gather to open our minds

*We are called to be wisdom*

We gather to listen to stories.

*We are called to be truth*

We gather to live in mutuality

*We are called to be respect*

We gather to serve each other

*We are called to be humble*

We gather to name our wrongdoing

*We are called to be honest*

We gather to build the future

*We are called to be brave*

We are gathered to worship

*We are called to worship together*



### Response

### Dance With The Spirit

MV 156

Words and Music: Jim Strathdee

© 1995 Desert Flower Music

*Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',  
Walk with the Spirit throughout the long day.  
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',  
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.*

*Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',  
Move with the Spirit throughout the long day.  
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',  
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.*

*Dance with the Spirit early in the mornin',  
Sing with the Spirit throughout the long day.  
Work and hope for the new life a-bornin',  
listen to the Spirit to show you the way.*

## **Life & Work of the Church**

*Welcome to online worship.*

*Whoever you are, however you identify, wherever you come from,  
you are welcome here at Birchcliff Bluffs United Church*



## **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**

### **Opening Hymn**

### **Oh, A Song Must Rise**

**MV 142**

Words and music: Paul B. Svenson

© 1995 Dad's Songbook Music

*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.*

*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. R*

*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. R*

*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. R*

### **Prayer of Approach**

*Creator God, the one who breathes life into our dust,  
You desire to be in relationship with us. We fear the  
uncertain and the unknown, so help us to trust each  
other and You in this moment.*

*You love us and have called us each by name and we  
approach You with humility and awe.*

*You call us to be in relationship with each other and we  
approach each other desiring mutuality, respect, and  
equity. In this way we give voice to the voiceless.*

*We are thankful for this church because it offers us a place to connect and live out our faith.*

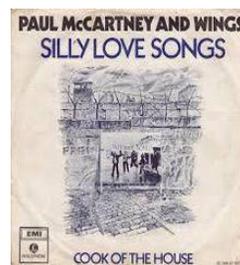
*Journey with us this morning Creator, Mother, Lover, and Friend.*

*May we be present to each other and to You through the action of the Spirit.*



### **WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD**

### **And Now for Something Completely Different**



### **Hymn**

### **Though I May Speak**

**VU 372**

Words: Hal Hopson

Music: Traditional English Melody

© 1972 Hope Publishing Company

Though I may speak with bravest fire,  
And have the gift to all inspire,  
And have not love, my words are vain,  
As sounding brass, and hopeless gain.

Though I may give all I possess,  
And striving so my love profess,  
But not be given by love within,  
The profit soon turns strangely thin.

Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,  
Our spirits long to be made whole.  
Let inward love guide every deed;  
By this we worship, and are freed.

### 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*

### Song of Solomon 2:8-13

New Revised Standard Version

<sup>8</sup> The voice of my beloved!  
Look, he comes,  
leaping upon the mountains,  
bounding over the hills.  
<sup>9</sup> My beloved is like a gazelle  
or a young stag.  
Look, there he stands  
behind our wall,  
gazing in at the windows,  
looking through the lattice.  
<sup>10</sup> My beloved speaks and says to me:  
“Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away;  
<sup>11</sup> for now the winter is past,  
the rain is over and gone.  
<sup>12</sup> The flowers appear on the earth;  
the time of singing has come,  
and the voice of the turtledove  
is heard in our land.  
<sup>13</sup> The fig tree puts forth its figs,  
and the vines are in blossom;  
they give forth fragrance.

Arise, my love, my fair one,  
and come away.

**James 1:17-27**

New Revised Standard Version

<sup>17</sup> Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the keeper of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup> In fulfillment of purpose birth was given to the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of God's creatures.

<sup>19</sup> You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup> for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup> Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

<sup>22</sup> But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup> For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup> for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup> But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

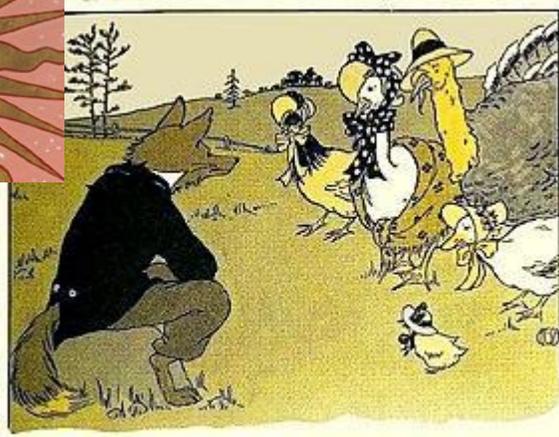
<sup>26</sup> If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup> Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

The word of God for the people of God.

*Thanks be to God*

Sermon

A Silly Love Song



Hymn  
Healing Stream

Like a

MV 144

Words and Music: Bruce Harding  
© 2003 by Bruce Harding

*Like a healing stream in a barren desert,  
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,  
God is trickling through our lives  
as in a dream unfolding,  
promising revival and rebirth  
like a healing stream.*

*Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,  
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,  
God is bubbling through the soil  
to coax a new creation  
yearning for an end to want and need  
like a gentle rain.*

*Like a river strong with a restless current,  
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,  
God is carving out a channel  
in a new direction,  
calling for an end to hate and war  
like a river strong.*

*Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,  
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,  
God is working in our hearts  
to shape a new tomorrow:  
God will always challenge and provide!  
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,  
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

**Offering**



**Prayers of the People (based on Mark 7)**



*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**

**Go Make a Difference**

**MV 209**

Words and Music: © 1997 Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek

*Go make a diff'rence.  
We can make a diff'rence.  
Go make a diff'rence in the world  
Go make a diff'rence.  
We can make a diff'rence.  
Go make a diff'rence in the world.*

*We are the salt of the earth,  
called to let the people see  
the love of God for you and me.  
We are the light of the world,  
not to be hidden but be seen.  
Go make a diff'rence in the world. R*

*We are the hands of Christ  
reaching out to those in need,  
the face of God for all to see.  
We are the spirit of hope;  
we are the voice of peace  
Go make a diff'rence in the world. R*

*So let your love shine on,  
let it shine for all to see.  
Go make a diff'rence in the world.  
And the spirit of Christ  
will be with us as we go.  
Go make a diff'rence in the world. R*

### **Benediction & Commissioning (based on Psalm 45)**



### **Postlude**

### **O Perfect Love**

Music by Joseph Barnby

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## Other Resources

### Silly Love Song

[\(153\) Wings 'Silly Love Songs' \[Original 1976 Music Video\] - YouTube](#)

### Seven Sacred Teachings

[Seven Grandfather Teachings First Nations Métis Inuit Student Education Resources Alberta Educators \(empoweringthespirit.ca\)](#)

## Other Lectionary Readings

### Psalm 45

New Revised Standard Version

*To the leader: according to Lilies. Of the Korahites. A Maskil. A love song.*

<sup>1</sup> My heart overflows with a goodly theme;

I address my verses to the sovereign;  
my tongue is like the pen of a ready scribe.

<sup>2</sup> You are the most handsome of people;

grace is poured upon your lips;  
therefore God has blessed you forever.

<sup>3</sup> Gird your sword on your thigh, O mighty one,  
in your glory and majesty.

<sup>4</sup> In your majesty ride on victoriously  
for the cause of truth and to defend the right;  
let your right hand teach you dread deeds.

<sup>5</sup> Your arrows are sharp  
in the heart of the sovereign's enemies;  
the peoples fall under you.

<sup>6</sup> Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever.

Your royal scepter is a scepter of equity;

<sup>7</sup> you love righteousness and hate wickedness.

Therefore God, your God, has anointed you  
with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;

<sup>8</sup> your robes are all fragrant with myrrh and aloes and cassia.

From ivory palaces stringed instruments make you glad;

<sup>9</sup> royalty flocks to stand in the assembly in honour of you;  
at your right hand stands your mate in gold of Ophir.

### Mark 7:1-23

New Revised Standard Version

<sup>7</sup> Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, <sup>2</sup> they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup> (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; <sup>4</sup> and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) <sup>5</sup> So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do

your disciples not live<sup>[d]</sup> according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?”<sup>6</sup> He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, ‘This people honours me with their lips,

but their hearts are far from me;

<sup>7</sup> in vain do they worship me,

teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

<sup>8</sup> You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

<sup>14</sup> Then Jesus called the crowd again and said to them, “Listen to me, all of you, and understand: <sup>15</sup> there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile.”

<sup>17</sup> When he had left the crowd and entered the house, his disciples asked him about the parable. <sup>18</sup> He said to them, “Then do you also fail to understand? Do you not see that whatever goes into a person from outside cannot defile, <sup>19</sup> since it enters, not the heart but the stomach, and goes out into the sewer?” (Thus he declared all foods clean.) <sup>20</sup> And he said, “It is what comes out of a person that defiles. <sup>21</sup> For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, <sup>22</sup> adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. <sup>23</sup> All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.”