



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: Jessie Gordon

November 14, 2021

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Alleluia! Alleluia!

Music: Arthur Seymour Sullivan

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 16)



Come, to the One in whom we find our refuge and safety.

***You are our God;
Good things come from you.***

Come, to the One who offers a rich inheritance,
and surrounds us with abundance.

***You are our God;
our lives are in your hands.***

Come, to the One who guides us on the path of life,
whose presence strengthens and sustains us.

***You are our God;
we will not be shaken.***

Let’s worship God together!

Response

I Can Feel You Near Me God

MV 48

Words and Music © 2000 Pat Mayberry

*I can feel you near me God, I can feel you near
Yes I know you’re with me God, I feel you here
I can feel you near me God, I can feel you near
Yes I know you’re with me God, Heaven is here.
And I’ll jump for joy, I’m singing Alleluia
Jump for joy for you
I will jump for joy, I’m singing Alleluia
Jump for joy for you*

*I can feel you loving me, yes I know you care
 God I know you're loving me, always everywhere
 I can feel you loving me, yes I know you care
 God I know you're loving me, I know you're there.
 And I'll jump for joy, I'm singing Alleluia
 Jump for joy for you
 I will jump for joy, I'm singing Alleluia
 Jump for joy for you*

Life & Work of the Church

Welcome to online worship



Land Acknowledgement

Candle Lighting

Opening Hymn

O God of Every Nation

VU 677

Words: William Watkins Reid
 © 1958, renewal 1986 The Hymn Society.
 Music: Welsh folk melody

*O God of every nation, of every race and land,
 redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand;
 where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,
 in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.*

*From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
 from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,
 from pride of race and station and blindness to your way,
 deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.*

*Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
 when hatred and division, give way to love and peace,
 till dawns the morning glorious when peace on earth shall reign
 and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.*

Prayer for Grace

*God of all knowledge, the prayers of those who have gone before us
 resonate not only across the ages but in our hearts, as we, like them,
 praise you. We worship you with awe. You are more than we can
 imagine. And yet you took on our humanity to reveal your love and
 your mercy. When Jesus took the form of a servant we were taught
 about power. Power in the service of others, raising up the powerless,*



strengthening the weak, healing the sick, replacing despair with hope, bringing life where there was death. Where we have failed to take up Jesus' call we ask your mercy. We praise you, O God, for these wonderful signs of your love. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

And Now For Something Completely Different

Where is Jesus in the climate crisis?

<https://youtu.be/R-ej39fq2mg>

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

Mark 13:1-8

New Revised Standard Version

1 As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ²Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴“Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am the One!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

1 Samuel 2:1-10

New Revised Standard Version

Hannah prayed and said,

“My heart exults in the LORD;
my strength is exalted in my God.
My mouth derides my enemies,
because I rejoice in my victory.

²“There is no Holy One like the LORD,
no one besides you;
there is no Rock like our God.

³Talk no more so very proudly,
let not arrogance come from your mouth;
for the LORD is a God of knowledge,

and by him actions are weighed.
⁴The bows of the mighty are broken,
but the feeble gird on strength.
⁵Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread,
but those who were hungry are fat with spoil.
The barren has borne seven,
but she who has many children is forlorn.
⁶The LORD kills and brings to life;
he brings down to Sheol and raises up.
⁷The LORD makes poor and makes rich;
he brings low, he also exalts.
⁸He raises up the poor from the dust;
he lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honour.
For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, and on them he has set the world.

⁹“He will guard the feet of his faithful ones,
but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness;
for not by might does one prevail.
¹⁰The LORD! His adversaries shall be shattered;
the Most High will thunder in heaven.
The LORD will judge the ends of the earth;
he will give strength to his king,
and exalt the power of his anointed.”

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God

Hymn

Song of Hannah

VU 878

Words: Emily R. Brink © 1987 CRC Publications

Music: Joseph Barnby

*My soul is filled with joy in my Redeemer,
for God has lifted me and set me high.
There is no Holy One, no Rock like our God,
who answered my request, who heard my cry.*

*All those who talk with pride now see who God is,
who weighs our deeds and knows our every move.
Proud ones are humbled, but the poor are lifted;
all might and power are yours, O God of love.*

*The strong have fallen, but the weak are strengthened;
those who were hungry have enough to spare.
She who was barren sees her children's children;
all things are ever in your loving care.*

*O God, you set the earth on sure foundations;
help for your saints is found in you alone.
Those who oppose your truth will fall in judgement,
but you will strengthen your anointed one.*

Sermon

A Song and a Prayer



Hymn

God, Take My Hand

VU 638

Words: Julie van Hausmann
English: Herman Bruckner and Rudolph A. John
Music: Friedrich Silcher

*God, take my hand and lead me upon life's way;
direct, protect and feed me from day to day.
Without your grace and favour I go astray;
so take my hand, O Saviour, and lead the way.*

*God, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;
for you, the Rock of Ages, are always near.
Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe,
for when your hand is guiding, in peace I go.*

*God, when the shadows lengthen and night has come,
I know that you will strengthen my steps toward home,
and nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!
So, take my hand and lead me unto the end.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering our Gifts to God

Through our offering; the work of our hands and the sharing of our wealth, we can grow new things in the world.

May we prayerfully consider how best we can contribute to growing your kingdom here in Birchcliff.



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

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.*

Benediction & Commissioning



Postlude

Will Your Anchor Hold

Music: William J. Kirkpatrick

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Resources to Support this week's service

Call to Worship: Split Rock Lighthouse, North Shore Lake Superior

Prayer for Grace: After the Thunderstorm, Thomas Cole, 1838

And Now for Something Completely Different

[Climate change mitigation a matter of faith for the United Church of Canada | Canada's National Observer: News & Analysis](#)

Lectionary Readings

1 Samuel 1:4-20

New Revised Standard Version

⁴On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters; ⁵but to Hannah he gave a double portion, because he loved her, though the LORD had closed her womb. ⁶Her rival used to provoke her severely, to irritate her, because the LORD had closed her womb. ⁷So it went on year by year; as often as she went up to the house of the LORD, she used to provoke her. Therefore Hannah wept and would not eat. ⁸Her husband Elkanah said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why do you not eat? Why is your heart sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

⁹After they had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the LORD. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. ¹⁰She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD, and wept bitterly. ¹¹She made this vow: "O LORD of hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a Nazirite until the day of his death. He shall drink neither wine nor intoxicants, and no razor shall touch his head."

¹²As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³Hannah was praying silently; only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard; therefore Eli thought she was drunk. ¹⁴So Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine." ¹⁵But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled; I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. ¹⁶Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time." ¹⁷Then Eli answered, "Go in peace; the God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him." ¹⁸And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight." Then the woman went to her quarters, ate and drank with her spouse, and her countenance was sad no longer.

¹⁹They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. Elkanah knew his wife Hannah, and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰In due time Hannah conceived and bore a son. She named him Samuel, for she said, "I have asked him of the LORD."

Psalm 16

New Revised Standard Version

¹Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

²I say to the LORD, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."

³As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble,
in whom is all my delight.

- ⁴ Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.
- ⁵ The LORD is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.
- ⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.
- ⁷ I bless the LORD who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.
- ⁸ I keep the LORD always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.
- ⁹ Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.
- ¹⁰ For you do not give me up to Sheol,
or let your faithful one see the Pit.
- ¹¹ You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.