



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: Robin Pyatt Bellamy

November 15, 2020

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Stand Up and Bless the Lord

Music: Louis Bourgeois

Call to Worship

Come! Share the joy of the creator!

Delight in God's goodness.

Praise God who gives each person special gifts to be nurtured and shared.

God, we thank you for these gifts.

Come, let us worship God who entrusts us with so much.

God, we celebrate your love and trust in us.

Let us worship together.

Response

For the Fruit of All Creation

VU 227

Text: Fred Pratt Green © 1970 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: Welsh folk melody

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God.

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 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 territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently, the Mississauga's of the Credit and Scugog, part of the Williams Treaty. 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. We seek to be mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.



Candle Lighting



Opening Hymn

Take My Life and Let It Be

Text: Frances Ridley Havergal

Music: Anonymous

VU 506

1 Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of your love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.

3 Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as you shall choose.

5 Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Prayer for Grace

God of mercy and justice, you have given us gifts and talents to be used in your world. You have entrusted us to use them well and we are grateful that you are with us in this work. We know that we disappoint you when we denigrate their value or become so fearful of failure that we don't engage our talents and gifts in the world. God, forgive us. Help us to trust in the gifts we are given and trust your guidance as we use them. Forgive us for those times that we are fearful, stubborn, apathetic, or indifferent to those around us. May we live each day in service to the world. Amen

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

And Now for Something Completely Different



Hymn

Come Labour On

Text: Jane Borthwick
Music: T. Tertius Noble

Come, labour on.

Who dares stand idle on the harvest plain
while all around us waves the golden grain?
And to each servant does the Master say,
"Go work today."

Come, labour on.

Claim the high calling angels cannot share;
to young and old the gospel gladness bear.
Redeem the time; its hours too swiftly fly.
The night draws nigh.

Come, labour on.

No time for rest, till glows the western sky,
till the long shadows o'er our pathway lie,

and a glad sound comes with the setting sun,
"Well done, well done!"

Hosea 4 1-16, 5:1

New Living Translation

Hear the word of the Lord, O people of Israel!

The Lord has brought charges against you, saying:

"There is no faithfulness, no kindness,
no knowledge of God in your land.
You make vows and break them;
you kill and steal and commit adultery.
There is violence everywhere—
one murder after another.

That is why your land is in mourning,
and everyone is wasting away.
Even the wild animals, the birds of the sky,
and the fish of the sea are disappearing.

"Don't point your finger at someone else
and try to pass the blame!
They offer sacrifices to idols on the mountaintops.
They go up into the hills to burn incense
in the pleasant shade of oaks, poplars, and terebinth trees.

"That is why your daughters turn to prostitution,
and your daughters-in-law commit adultery.
But why should I punish them
for their prostitution and adultery?
For your men are doing the same thing,
sinning with whores and shrine prostitutes.
O foolish people! You refuse to understand,
so you will be destroyed.
"Hear this, you priests.
Pay attention, you leaders of Israel.
Listen, you members of the royal family.
Judgment has been handed down against you.

Matthew 25: 14-30 and 31-46

New Living Translation

¹⁴"Again, the Kingdom of Heaven can be illustrated by the story of a man going on a long trip. He called together his servants and entrusted his money to them while he was gone. ¹⁵He gave five bags of silver to one, two bags of silver to another, and one bag of silver to the last—dividing it in proportion to their abilities. He then left on his trip.

¹⁶“The servant who received the five bags of silver began to invest the money and earned five more. ¹⁷The servant with two bags of silver also went to work and earned two more. ¹⁸ But the servant who received the one bag of silver dug a hole in the ground and hid the master’s money.

¹⁹“After a long time their master returned from his trip and called them to give an account of how they had used his money. ²⁰ The servant to whom he had entrusted the five bags of silver came forward with five more and said, ‘Master, you gave me five bags of silver to invest, and I have earned five more.’

²¹“The master was full of praise. ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together.’

²²“The servant who had received the two bags of silver came forward and said, ‘Master, you gave me two bags of silver to invest, and I have earned two more.’

²³“The master said, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!’

²⁴“Then the servant with the one bag of silver came and said, ‘Master, I knew you were a harsh man, harvesting crops you didn’t plant and gathering crops you didn’t cultivate. ²⁵ I was afraid I would lose your money, so I hid it in the earth. Look, here is your money back.’

²⁶“But the master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy servant! If you knew I harvested crops I didn’t plant and gathered crops I didn’t cultivate, ²⁷ why didn’t you deposit my money in the bank? At least I could have gotten some interest on it.’

²⁸“Then he ordered, ‘Take the money from this servant, and give it to the one with the ten bags of silver. ²⁹ To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who do nothing, even what little they have will be taken away. ³⁰ Now throw this useless servant into outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

³¹“But when the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit upon his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered in his presence, and he will separate the people as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will place the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left.

³⁴“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the creation of the world. ³⁵ For I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me a drink. I was a stranger, and you invited me into your home. ³⁶ I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me.’



³⁷“Then these righteous ones will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry and feed you? Or thirsty and give you something to drink?’ ³⁸Or a stranger and show you hospitality? Or naked and give you clothing?’ ³⁹When did we ever see you sick or in prison and visit you?’

⁴⁰“And the King will say, ‘I tell you the truth, when you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were doing it to me!’

⁴¹“Then the King will turn to those on the left and say, ‘Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. ⁴²For I was hungry, and you didn’t feed me. I was thirsty, and you didn’t give me a drink. ⁴³I was a stranger, and you didn’t invite me into your home. I was naked, and you didn’t give me clothing. I was sick and in prison, and you didn’t visit me.’

⁴⁴“Then they will reply, ‘Lord, when did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and not help you?’

⁴⁵“And he will answer, ‘I tell you the truth, when you refused to help the least of these my brothers and sisters, you were refusing to help me.’

⁴⁶“And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.”

Jesus' words for us to consider in our lives today.

Thanks be to God

Sermon

About Face



Hymn

When a Poor One

VU 702

Text and Music: © 1971 J.A. Olivar & Migüel Manzano

English Text: George Lockwood

©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House

1 When a poor one who has nothing shares with strangers,
when the thirsty, water give unto us all,
when the wounded in their weakness strengthen others,
then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

2 When at last all those who suffer find their comfort,

when they hope though even hope seems hopelessness,
when we love, though hate at times seems all around us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

3 When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,
when our lips can speak no words other than true,
when we know that love for simple things is better,
then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

4 When our homes fill up with goodness in abundance,
when we learn how to make peace instead of war,
when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbour,
then we know that God still goes that road with us,
then we know that God still goes that road with us.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD



Offering

God, help us to redistribute our wealth in ways that support justice and dignity for all.

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

Go Make a Difference

MV 209

Text and Music:

© 1997 Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world.

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world.

1. 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 difference in the world.

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world.

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world.

2. 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 difference in the world.

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world.

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world.

3. So let your love shine on,
let it shine for all to see.

Go make a difference in the world.

And the spirit of Christ
will be with us as we go.

Go make a difference in the world.

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world.

Go make a difference. We can make a difference.

Go make a difference in the world.

Benediction & Commissioning



Postlude

Now Every Morning Is The Love

Text: John Keble

Music: Samuel Webbe

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Other Resources for Today

Herzog, William. “*The Vulnerability of the Whistleblower*,” in *Parables as Subversive Speech: Jesus as Pedagogue of the Oppressed*. Louisville, Kentucky: Westminster Press c. 1994 pgs. 152-168

- Sermon Images:
1. Stained glass (detail) from the parable of the Talents, St Edward the Martyr's Church, Corfe Castle, Dorset
 2. Stain glass: The Parables of the Talents and the Prodigal Son Window in the north aisle at St Mary the Virgin, Datchet. Dedicated to the Northcroft Family c1865, designer J.M Allen.
 3. Hosea, from Menologion of Basil II, 985. [Vatican Library](#).
 4. The 1%
 5. Hosea and Gomer. Stone relief quatrefoils, [Amiens Cathedral](#), 1220-40.

Other Lectionary Readings

Zephaniah 1: 7-18

New Revised Standard Version

Be silent before GOD!

For the day is at hand;
God has prepared a sacrifice,
and has consecrated the guests.

⁸ And on the day of God's sacrifice
I will punish the officials and the sovereign's children
and all who dress themselves in foreign attire.

⁹ On that day I will punish
all who leap over the threshold,
who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.

¹⁰ On that day, says God,
a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.

¹¹ The inhabitants of the Mortar wail,
for all the traders have perished;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.

¹² At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently[Ⓜ] on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“God will not do good,
nor will God do harm.”

¹³ Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;

though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.
¹⁴ The great day of God is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of God is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.
¹⁵ That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.
¹⁷ I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against God,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
¹⁸ Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of God's wrath;
in the fire of passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
God will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

New Revised Standard Version

⁵ Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴ But you, beloved¹ are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶ So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷ for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.