



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

October 9th, 2022

Thanksgiving Sunday

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

For The Beauty of the Earth

Music: Conrad Kocher

Call to Worship

Happy Thanksgiving as you come into this space – to celebrate the abundance with which God blesses us all.

When the leaves turn colour and fall, when the temperature gets cooler and the days grow shorter, we lean into creation’s cycle of life as God’s gift.

We come to rejoice that God made us for one another and teaches us faithfulness when sharing from our abundance.

In our listening, may we recognize whispers of becoming. In our praying, may we discover our union with God. In our singing, may we delight in life’s possibilities.

God’s love is never ending, so on this day of harvest celebration ...

We bring gifts to God, who shares with us this land, flowing with milk and honey, flowing with God’s love. In Christ’s name may it always be so.

Hymn

Come, You Thankful People

VU 516

Words: Henry Alford

Music: George Job Elvey

Come, you thankful people, come,
raise the song of harvest home!

All is safely gathered in,
safe before the storms begin;
God, our maker, does provide
for our needs to be supplied:
come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home!

All the world is God's own field,
harvests for God's praise to yield;
wheat and weeds together sown,

here for joy or sorrow grown;
first the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear:
Harvest-giver, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.

Even so, God, quickly come
to your final harvest home!
Gather all your people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin;
there for ever purified,
in your presence to abide:
come, with all your angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home.

Land Acknowledgement

We now take a moment to acknowledge the sacred land beside the water on which we gather. 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 Mississaugas of the Credit and Scugog. The lands where Birchcliff Bluffs United Church sits are part of the Williams Treaty. Today, the meeting place around Toronto is still home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. 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.



Candle Lighting

We light this candle inviting the Spirit of God to be with us.

Light candle here

We feel its presence and know we are not alone.

Opening Prayer

Praise to you, our God!

We gather in awe and thanksgiving. Our blessings overflow as our gardens reap plenty. The lakes shimmer, wildlife dots the hillsides, the valleys deck themselves with grain. For all your creation, we give thanks. Amen.

Hymn

We Praise You, O God

VU 218

Words: Julia Cory

Music: Netherlands Folk Song

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our mothers and fathers,
through trial and tempest, companion and guide.
When perils o'ertake us, you will not forsake us,
but faithful to your promise, you walk by our side.

With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
Our sins now confessing, we pray for your blessing,
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

Scripture Reading Psalm 100

A Psalm of thanksgiving.

- 1 Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.
- 2 Worship the LORD with gladness;
come into his presence with singing.
- 3 Know that the LORD is God.
It is God that made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
- 4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise.
Give thanks to him, bless his name.
- 5 For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Gospel John 6:25-35

²⁵ When they found him on the other side of the sea, they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you come here?”

²⁶ Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate your fill of the loaves.

²⁷ Do not work for the food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.”

²⁸ Then they said to him, “What must we do to perform the works of God?”

²⁹ Jesus answered them, “This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.”

³⁰ So they said to him, “What sign are you going to give us, then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?”

³¹ Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, as it is written, ‘He gave them bread from heaven to eat.’ ”

³² Then Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven.

³³ For the bread of God is that which^[a] comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

³⁴ They said to him, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

³⁵ Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

Hymn

Sermon Food for Thought

Offering

As we yearn for new opportunities to put our faith into action...

As individuals who seek to follow Christ’s teachings ...

We long to make a difference in our community and world.

We share our hope and love through our mission, our service, our offerings.

Thankful for all that we have, are and will be.

Choir

Prayers of the People

Like the fruitfulness of this harvest season, O God,

You provide us with all we need. There is wonder at the plenty of your gifts to us.

We open our hearts fully and are transformed by your grace ... knowing we are truly blessed as we listen and hear your voice leading us ...

moment of silence

The unconditional love we feel is your grace revealed to us in Jesus – the sharing of this love is called out from us – even as we receive ...

Now, hear the prayers of each of our hearts for we offer them to you, saying,

**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 them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For thine is the kingdom and the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever, Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

Benediction & Commissioning

Go, ready to share the bread of life with all whom you meet.

Offering forgiveness, love and mercy.

May God's Spirit be your guide now and always. Amen.

Postlude

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**Birchcliff Bluffs United Church
Additional Lectioary**

Jeremiah 29:1 New Revised Standard Version

Jeremiah's Letter to the Exiles in Babylon

29 These are the words of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the remaining elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom Nebuchadnezzar had taken into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon.

Jeremiah 29:4-7 New Revised Standard Version

⁴ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all the exiles whom I have sent into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: ⁵ Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. ⁶ Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. ⁷ But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the LORD on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

2 Kings 5:1-3 New Revised Standard Version

The Healing of Naaman

5 Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from a skin disease. ² Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³ She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his skin disease."

2 Kings 5:7-15 New Revised Standard Version

⁷ When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his skin disease? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.”

⁸ But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.” ⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha’s house. ¹⁰ Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.” ¹¹ But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, “I thought that for me he would surely come out and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God and would wave his hand over the spot and cure the skin disease! ¹² Are not Abana^[a] and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³ But his servants approached and said to him, “Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, ‘Wash, and be clean?’” ¹⁴ So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

¹⁵ Then he returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before him and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel; please accept a present from your servant.”

Psalm 66:1-12

New Revised Standard Version

Praise for God’s Goodness to Israel

To the leader. A Song. A Psalm.

¹ Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth;

² sing the glory of his name;
give to him glorious praise.

³ Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!

Because of your great power, your enemies cringe before you.

⁴ All the earth worships you;

they sing praises to you,
sing praises to your name.” *Selah*

⁵ Come and see what God has done:

he is awesome in his deeds among mortals.

⁶ He turned the sea into dry land;

they passed through the river on foot.

There we rejoiced in him,

⁷ who rules by his might forever,

whose eyes keep watch on the nations—

let the rebellious not exalt themselves. *Selah*

⁸ Bless our God, O peoples;
let the sound of his praise be heard,
⁹ who has kept us among the living
and has not let our feet slip.
¹⁰ For you, O God, have tested us;
you have tried us as silver is tried.
¹¹ You brought us into the net;
you laid burdens on our backs;
¹² you let people ride over our heads;
we went through fire and through water;
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.^[a]

Psalm 111

New Revised Standard Version

Praise for God's Wonderful Works

¹ Praise the LORD!
I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.
² Great are the works of the LORD,
studied by all who delight in them.
³ Full of honor and majesty is his work,
and his righteousness endures forever.
⁴ He has gained renown by his wonderful deeds;
the LORD is gracious and merciful.
⁵ He provides food for those who fear him;
he is ever mindful of his covenant.
⁶ He has shown his people the power of his works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.
⁷ The works of his hands are faithful and just;
all his precepts are trustworthy.
⁸ They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.
⁹ He sent redemption to his people;
he has commanded his covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is his name.
¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it^[a] have a good understanding.
His praise endures forever.

2 Timothy 2:8-15

New Revised Standard Version

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, ⁹ for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God

is not chained. ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹ The saying is sure:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹² if we endure, we will also reign with him;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

¹³ if we are faithless, he remains faithful—
he^[a] cannot deny himself.

A Worker Approved by God

¹⁴ Remind them of this, and warn them before the Lord^[b] that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved by him, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

Luke 17:11-19

New Revised Standard Version

Jesus Cleanses Ten Men with a Skin Disease

¹¹ On the way to Jerusalem Jesus^[a] was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee.

¹² As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance,

¹³ they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” ¹⁴ When he saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵ Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶ He prostrated himself at Jesus’s^[b] feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷ Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? ¹⁸ Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹ Then he said to him, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”