



**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

**November 8, 2020 – Remembrance Sunday**



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Prelude**

**To Thee, O Lord, Our Hearts We Raise**

Music: Arthur Seymour Sullivan

**Call to Worship**

In silent fields, poppies blow.

*In empty streets, silence dwells*

In vacant rooms, sit letters and photos.

*War does not end with a picture, a pen or a parade.*

Into the silence, the emptiness, the sorrow,

*let us bring the peace, the song, the hope of reconciliation.*

*Let us worship together.*

**Response**

**O God, Our Help in Ages Past**

Text: Isaac Watts

Music: William Croft

**VU 806**

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home:

under the shadow of thy throne  
thy saints have dwelt secure,  
sufficient is thine arm alone,  
and our defence is sure.

Before the hills in order stood,  
or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting thou art God,  
to endless years the same.

A thousand ages in thy sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.

Time like an ever-rolling stream  
soon bears us all away;  
we fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the opening day.

O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
be thou our guard while troubles last,  
and our eternal home.

**Life & Work of the Church**



**Land Acknowledgement**

**Candle Lighting**



**Opening Hymn**

**God! As With Silent Hearts**

**VU 527**

Text: Fred Kaan

Music: James Langran

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God! As with silent hearts we bring to mind  
how hate and war diminish humankind,  
we pause, and seek in worship to increase  
our knowledge of the things that make for peace.

Hallow our will as humbly we recall  
the lives of those who gave and give their all.  
We thank you, God, for women, children, men  
who seek to serve in love, today as then.

Give us deep faith to comfort those who mourn,  
high hope to share with all the newly born,  
strong love in our pursuit of human worth:  
'lest we forget' the future of this earth.

So, Prince of Peace, disarm our trust in power,  
teach us to coax the plant of peace to flower.  
May we, impassioned by your living Word,  
remember forward to a world restored.

### **Prayer for Grace**

*God of Peace and understanding, we gather today to remember those who have gone before. So many of your children have been lost to war. As we remember them, call us to peace, call us to understanding so that our words and actions work towards joy and justice instead of the chaos that comes from our inability to live harmoniously with ourselves and others. May this remembrance inspire us to do the work of peace in this world. Let us prepare the way for your vision: founded on the message of Jesus, grounded in humility, focused on mutuality and equity for all. Amen.*

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

### **And Now For Something Completely Different**



We ring the church bell for peace to remind us of the work and commitment it requires.

### **Hymn**

#### **I Vow To Thee**

Text: Cecil Spring-Rice

Music: Gustav Theodore Holst

I vow to thee, my country, all earthly things above,  
entire and whole and perfect, the service of my love:  
the love that asks no question, the love that stands the test,  
that lays upon the altar the dearest and the best;  
the love that never falters, the love that pays the price,  
the love that makes undaunted the final sacrifice.

And there's another country I've heard of long ago,  
most dear to them that love her, most great to them that know;  
we may not count her armies, we may not see her King;

her fortress is a faithful heart, her pride is suffering;  
and soul by soul and silently her shining bounds increase,  
and her ways are ways of gentleness and all her paths are peace.

**1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18**      **New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed siblings about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring along those who have died. <sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by the word of God, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup> For God, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with God forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**Matthew 25: 1-13**      **New Revised Standard Version**

“The kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridal attendants took their lamps and went to meet the groom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup> but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> As the groom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the groom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup> Then all those attendants got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup> But the wise replied, ‘No! There will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup> And while they went to buy it, the groom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup> Later the other attendants came along, saying, ‘Please, please, open the door to us.’ <sup>12</sup> But the reply came, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup> Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

These are Jesus' words for us to consider today.

*Thanks be to God*

**Sermon**

**Preparing for Peace**



Make me a channel of your peace:  
 where there is hatred, let me bring your love;  
 where there is injury, your healing power,  
 and where there's doubt, true faith in you:

Make me a channel of your peace:  
 where there's despair in life, let me bring hope;  
 where there is darkness, only light;  
 and where there's sadness, ever joy.  
 O Spirit, grant that I may never seek  
 so much to be consoled as to console,  
 to be understood as to understand,  
 to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Make me a channel of your peace.  
 It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,  
 in giving to all that we receive,  
 and in dying that we're born to eternal life.

#### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

#### Offering



Oppression, scarcity, and intolerance are the kindling for conflict. Through our offerings, gracious God, address injustice, encourage dialogue, and fill minds and stomachs, to put out the embers before they become the fire for war.

Amen.

#### 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

#### Let There Be Light

#### VU 679

Let there be light, let there be understanding,  
 let all the nations gather, let them be face to face;

open our lips, open our minds to ponder,  
open the door of concord opening into grace;

perish the sword, perish the angry judgement,  
perish the bombs and hunger, perish the fight for gain;

hallow our love, hallow the deaths of martyrs,  
hallow their holy freedom, hallowed be your name;

let there be light; open our hearts to wonder,  
perish the way of terror, hallow the world God made.

### **Benediction & Commissioning**

### **Postlude**



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## Other Resources for Today

**And Now for Something Completely Different: Why do we ring church bells?**

<https://worship.calvin.edu/resources/resource-library/uncovering-the-blessing-of-fixed-hour-prayer/>

**Sermon: United Church of Canada Resources on Israel/Palestine**

<https://www.united-church.ca/social-action/justice-initiatives/unsettling-goods-choose-peace-palestine-and-israel>

## Other Lectionary Readings

**Psalm 78: 1-7            NRSV**

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

<sup>2</sup> I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will utter dark sayings from of old,

<sup>3</sup> things that we have heard and known,  
that our ancestors have told us.

<sup>4</sup> We will not hide them from their children;  
we will tell to the coming generation  
the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might,  
and the wonders that he has done.

<sup>5</sup> He established a decree in Jacob,  
and appointed a law in Israel,  
which he commanded our ancestors  
to teach to their children;

<sup>6</sup> that the next generation might know them,  
the children yet unborn,  
and rise up and tell them to their children,

<sup>7</sup> so that they should set their hope in God,  
and not forget the works of God,  
but keep his commandments;

**Joshua 24: 1-18            New Revised Standard Version**

Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. <sup>2</sup> And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. <sup>3</sup> Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac; <sup>4</sup> and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. <sup>5</sup> Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in its midst; and afterwards I brought you out. <sup>6</sup> When I brought your ancestors out of Egypt, you came to the sea; and the Egyptians

pursued your ancestors with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. <sup>7</sup> When they cried out to God, there was created darkness between you and the Egyptians, and the sea came upon them and covered them; and your eyes saw what I did to Egypt. Afterwards you lived in the wilderness a long time. <sup>8</sup> Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan; they fought with you, and I handed them over to you, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you. <sup>9</sup> Then King Balak son of Zippor of Moab, set out to fight against Israel. He sent and invited Balaam son of Beor to curse you, <sup>10</sup> but I would not listen to Balaam; therefore God blessed you; so I rescued you out of his hand. <sup>11</sup> When you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, the citizens of Jericho fought against you, and also the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites; and I handed them over to you. <sup>12</sup> I sent the hornet ahead of you, which drove out before you the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. <sup>13</sup> I gave you a land on which you had not laboured, and towns that you had not built, and you live in them; you eat the fruit of vineyards and oliveyards that you did not plant.

<sup>14</sup> “Now therefore revere God, and serve God in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve God. <sup>15</sup> Now if you are unwilling to serve God, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve God.”

<sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; <sup>17</sup> for it is God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. God protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; <sup>18</sup> and God drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve God.”