



**Birchcliff Bluffs United Church**

**Ministers:** All the People – wherever and however they gather

**Minister of Word & Sacrament:** Katie Vardy

**Music Director:** Randy Vancourt

**Reader:** Norma Grech

**May 24, 2026**

**COUNTRY MUSIC SERVICE  
PENTECOST SUNDAY**

**WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE**

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

As we light this candle, we remember that in a world full of so much darkness, we are called to bring the light.

**Lighting the Rainbow Candle**

We also remember that all are welcome in this place. May the light that shines from these flames illuminate our path ahead, and help us to flourish together in love, peace and justice.

**Land Acknowledgement**

We now 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 traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit River.

**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.**

**Opening Hymn**

**Turn Your Radio On**

1. Well, come and listen in to the radio station  
where the mighty Hosts of Heaven sing;  
Turn your radio on, Turn your radio on,  
If you wanna hear the songs of Zion  
coming from the land of endless spring  
Get in touch with God,  
Turn your radio on.

Turn your radio on,  
and listen to the music in the air.

Turn your radio on,  
heaven's glory share  
Turn your lights down low,  
and listen to the Master's radio.  
Get in touch with God,  
Turn your radio on.

2 People listen in to the glory land chorus  
listen to the glad hosannas roll  
Turn your radio on, turn your radio on  
Get a little taste of joy awaiting  
get a little heaven in your soul  
Get in touch with God  
Turn your radio on.

Turn your radio on,  
and listen to the music in the air.

Turn your radio on,  
heaven's glory share  
Turn your lights down low,  
and listen to the Master's radio.  
Get in touch with God,  
Turn your radio on.

3 Don't you know that everybody is a radio receiver  
all you have to do is listen to the call  
Turn your radio on, Turn your radio on  
If you listen in you will be a believer  
leaning on the truths that will never fall  
Get in touch with God  
Turn your radio on.

4 Listen to the songs of the fathers and mothers  
And the many friends gone on before  
Turn your radio on, Turn your radio on  
Some eternal morning we shall meet them  
over on the hallelujah shore  
Get in touch with God  
Turn your radio on.

Turn your radio on,  
and listen to the music in the air.

Turn your radio on,  
heaven's glory share  
Turn your lights down low,  
and listen to the Master's radio.  
Get in touch with God,  
Turn your radio on.  
(repeat chorus)

### **Call to Worship**

Come, let us sing.

Sing about peace and dignity for every person, every family,  
about the Spirit that lies at the heart of each life and speaks to the depth of each heart.

Come, let us sing for joy;

Let us rejoice with thanksgiving and extol all that is good,  
with music and song.

### **Passing the Peace**

We take this moment to share some peace with our neighbours; with a handshake, a bow, a wave  
or a nod to remind us of the light that is in each of us, and that we are called to reconciliation and  
community.

Let us greet those around you, saying:

Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

### **Life and Work of the Church**

#### **Hymn**

#### **When We All Get To Heaven**

1 Sing the wondrous love of Jesus,  
Sing His mercy and His grace;  
In the mansions bright and blessed  
He'll prepare for us a place.

When we all get to heaven,  
what a day of rejoicing that will be!  
When we all see Jesus,  
we'll sing and shout the victory!

2 While we walk the pilgrim pathway  
Clouds will overspread the sky;  
But when trav'ling days are over  
Not a shadow, not a sigh.

When we all get to heaven,  
what a day of rejoicing that will be!  
When we all see Jesus,  
we'll sing and shout the victory!

3 Let us then be true and faithful,  
Trusting, serving ev'ry day;  
Just one glimpse of Him in glory  
Will the toils of life repay.

When we all get to heaven,  
what a day of rejoicing that will be!  
When we all see Jesus,  
we'll sing and shout the victory!  
(repeat)

## RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

**Acts 2:1-21**

**New International Version**

### **The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost**

2 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. <sup>4</sup> All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. <sup>5</sup> Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing people from every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup> When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. <sup>7</sup> Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" <sup>8</sup> Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?

<sup>12</sup> Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?" <sup>13</sup> Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

<sup>14</sup> Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

<sup>15</sup> These people are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! <sup>16</sup> No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

<sup>17</sup> "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions,

your old men will dream dreams.

<sup>18</sup> Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days,  
and they will prophesy.

<sup>19</sup> I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below.

<sup>20</sup> The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to red  
before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> And everyone who calls on the name of God will be saved.'

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

**Peace in the Valley**

1 I am tired and weary but I must toil on  
Till the Lord comes to call me away  
Where the morning is bright and the Lamb is the light  
And the night is fair as the day

There'll be peace in the valley for me some day  
There'll be peace in the valley for me, I pray  
no more sorrow and sadness or trouble will be  
There'll be peace in the valley for me

2 There the flow'rs will be blooming, the grass will be green  
And the skies will be clear and serene  
The sun ever shines, giving one endless beam  
And the clouds there will ever be seen

There'll be peace in the valley for me some day  
There'll be peace in the valley for me, I pray  
no more sorrow and sadness or trouble will be  
There'll be peace in the valley for me

3 There the bear will be gentle, the wolf will be tame  
And the lion will lay down by the lamb  
The host from the wild will be led by a Child  
I'll be changed from the creature I am

There'll be peace in the valley for me some day  
There'll be peace in the valley for me, I pray  
no more sorrow and sadness or trouble will be  
There'll be peace in the valley for me

no more sorrow and sadness or trouble will be  
There'll be peace in the valley for me

## COUNTRY SONGS

### Reflection

#### Song

#### On The Wings of a Dove

On the wings of a snow-white dove  
He sends His pure sweet love  
A sign from above  
On the wings of a dove

1 When troubles surround us  
When evils come  
The body grows weak  
The spirit grows numb  
When these things beset us  
He doesn't forget us  
He sends down His love  
On the wings of a dove

On the wings of a snow-white dove  
He sends His pure sweet love  
A sign from above  
On the wings of a dove

2 When noah had drifted  
On the flood many days  
He searched for land  
In various ways  
Troubles, he had some  
But wasn't forgotten  
He sent him His love  
On the wings of a dove

On the wings of a snow-white dove  
He sends His pure sweet love  
A sign from above  
On the wings of a dove

3 When Jesus went down  
to the waters that day  
He was baptized in the usual way  
When it was done, God blessed his Son  
He sent Him His love  
On the wings of a dove

On the wings of a snow-white dove  
He sends His pure sweet love  
A sign from above  
On the wings of a dove  
(repeat)

### **Offering**

At this time of Offering we remember the many gifts we all enjoy and consider ways that we may give back, as we are able, to help support the work of this church in our community.

**Bless these gifts that we offer. Bless those who offer them.  
Bless those who will receive, in turn.  
May this circle of blessings continue.  
Amen.**

### **Hymn**

#### **Will The Circle Be Unbroken**

1 There are loved ones in the glory  
Whose dear forms you often miss.  
When you close your earthly story,  
Will you join them in their bliss?

Will the circle be unbroken  
By and by, O by and by?  
Is a better home awaiting  
In the sky, O in the sky?

2 You remember songs of heaven  
Which you sang with childish voice.  
Do you love the hymns they taught you,  
Or are songs of earth your choice?

Will the circle be unbroken  
By and by, O by and by?  
Is a better home awaiting  
In the sky, O in the sky?

3 You can picture happy gath'ings  
Round the fireside long ago,  
And you think of tearful partings  
When they left you here below.

Will the circle be unbroken  
By and by, O by and by?  
Is a better home awaiting  
In the sky, O in the sky?

4 One by one their seats were emptied.  
One by one they went away.  
Now the family is parted.  
Will it be complete one day?

Will the circle be unbroken  
By and by, O by and by?  
Is a better home awaiting  
In the sky, O in the sky?  
(repeat)

## Prayers of the People

### A Country Prayer

Oh yes, I'm proud to know for sure,  
I'm going Home one day;  
But Lord I've got just one request,  
about where I'm gonna stay.

I know you've got a place for me,  
a huge mansion in the sky;  
But living big is not for me,  
no matter how I try.

I'd like to make a simple trade:  
my mansion, harp and crown;  
For just a simple cabin placed  
beyond the edge of town.

I'll give up walking streets of gold,  
for pathway through the woods;  
As long as Heaven's where I'm at,  
I think that I'll be good.

I ask for just a piece of land,  
a place to hang my wings;  
A porch with hooks up in the roof,  
to hold my favourite swing.

A view of hills with grass so green,  
in shade of big old trees;  
The smell of lilacs in the air,  
will be alright with me. Amen.

## Lord's Prayer

**Creator, in heaven, hallowed be your name.  
Your dominion come, your will be done  
on earth, as in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our debts,  
as we forgive our debtors,  
And lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil,  
For you reign eternally,  
in power, and in glory,  
For ever and ever, Amen.**

## BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

### Bread for the Journey

What song—country or otherwise—has carried you through an important season of your life, and why does it still stay with you?

### Closing Hymn

#### Put Your Hand in the Hand

Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the water  
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea  
Take a look at yourself, and you can look at others differently  
By puttin' your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee

Every time I look into the Holy Book, I want to tremble  
When I read about the part where a carpenter cleared the temple  
For the buyers and the sellers were no different fellas  
than what I profess to be  
And it causes me shame to know  
I'm not the person I should be

Put your hand in the hand of the man who stilled the water  
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea  
Take a look at yourself, and you can look at others differently  
By puttin' your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee

Mama taught me how to pray  
Before I reached the age of seven  
And when I'm down on my knees, that's when I'm close to heaven  
But I'm feeling kinda guilty  
'Bout the number of times we what we must do  
But He showed me enough of what it takes to get you through

Put your hand in the hand  
Of the man who stilled the water  
Put your hand in the hand of the man who calmed the sea  
Take a look at yourself, and you can look at others differently  
By puttin' your hand in the hand of the man from Galilee  
(repeat chorus)

### **Benediction**

**And now may goodness and mercy be our source, our guide, and our destination as we continue our journey. Go forward, sharing that love with all those who we meet, and work for justice and peace for all people.  
Amen.**

### **Choral Response**

### **I'll Fly Away**

Some glad morning when this life is o'er  
I'll fly away  
To that home on God's celestial shore  
I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh, Glory  
I'll fly away  
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by  
I'll fly away

When the shadows of this life have gone  
I'll fly away  
Like a bird from prison bars has flown  
I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh, Glory  
I'll fly away  
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by  
I'll fly away

Oh how glad and happy when we meet  
I'll fly away  
No more cold iron shackles on my feet  
I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh, Glory  
I'll fly away  
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by  
I'll fly away

Just a few more weary days and then  
I'll fly away  
To a land where joy shall never end  
I'll fly away

I'll fly away, oh, Glory  
I'll fly away  
When I die, Hallelujah, by and by  
I'll fly away  
Yeah, when I die, Hallelujah, by and by  
I'll fly away  
(repeat chorus)

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