



## **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

**Scripture:** Joseph Dahonick

**Readers:** Michele Threndyle & Adriana Colavecchia

**January 24, 2021**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### **Prelude**

### **Awake My Soul, and With the Sun**

Music by F.H. Barthélémon

### **Call to Worship**

Jonah! Go to Nineveh.

*Why would I go there?*

Tell my people that they have forgotten.

Tell my people the end is coming.

Tell my people.... turn around.

*Why me?*

Because you know. You know what needs to be done.

*All I can do is tell them of your love.*

*All I can do is sing of hope.*

*All I can do is live what I believe.*

Jonah! Go to Nineveh.

Tell the words. Live the joy. Help my people understand.



### **Response**

### **God, Prepare Me**

**MV 18**

Words and Music: John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs  
© 1982 Whole Armor & Full Armor Publishing Co.

*God, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
pure and holy tried and true;  
with thanksgiving,  
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

### **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

### Will You Come and Follow Me

VU 567

Words: ©1987 The Iona Community  
Music: Scottish traditional

*Will you come and follow me  
if I but call your name?  
Will you go where you don't know  
and never be the same?  
Will you let my love be shown,  
will you let my name be known,  
will you let my life be grown  
in you and you in me?*

*Will you leave yourself behind  
if I but call your name?  
Will you care for cruel and kind  
and never be the same?  
Will you risk the hostile stare  
should your life attract or scare?  
Will you let me answer prayer  
in you and you in me?*

*Will you love the 'you' you hide  
if I but call your name?  
Will you quell the fear inside  
and never be the same?  
Will you use the faith you've found  
to reshape the world around,  
through my sight and touch and sound  
in you and you in me?*

*Christ, your summons echoes true  
when you but call my name.*

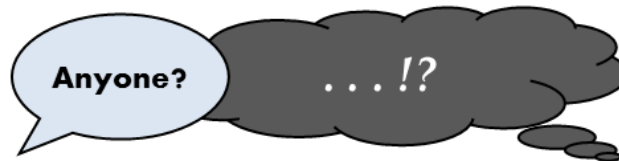
*Let me turn and follow you  
and never be the same.  
In your company I'll go  
where your love and footsteps show.  
Thus I'll move and live and grow  
in you and you in me.*

### **Prayer for Grace**

*You called us, O God. You continue to call us.  
Sometimes we respond willingly.  
Sometimes we respond with reluctance.  
Some things we hold back; sometimes we say, "No."  
We dedicate ourselves and our response to your service God.  
We pray that we become more willing as we journey in faith, knowing that you love us,  
whatever our response. Amen*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### **And Now for Something Completely Different**



### **Prayer of Illumination**

*The scriptures proclaim to us the message of your light.  
Loving and ever-present God, shine your light on us  
so that we may discover and live a path that follows you. Amen*

### **Psalm 62:5-12**

For God alone my soul waits in silence,  
for my hope is from God.  
<sup>6</sup>God alone is my rock and my salvation,  
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.  
<sup>7</sup>On God rests my deliverance and my honour;  
my mighty rock, my refuge is in God.  
<sup>8</sup>Trust in God at all times, O people;  
pour out your heart before God;  
who is a refuge for us.  
<sup>9</sup>Those of low estate are but a breath,  
those of high estate are a delusion;

in the balances they go up;  
they are together lighter than a breath.  
<sup>10</sup>Put no confidence in extortion,  
and set no vain hopes on robbery;  
if riches increase, do not set your heart on them.  
<sup>11</sup>Once God has spoken;  
twice have I heard this:  
that power belongs to God,  
<sup>12</sup> and steadfast love belongs to you Oh God.

## Hymn

## Jonah and the Whale

*In the Bible we are told  
Of a prophet who was called  
To a city that was steeped in awful sin;  
All the people in that place  
Were devoid of saving grace,  
And the prophet seemed afraid to enter in.*

*Over there, over there,  
In that land bright and fair,  
Oh, he'll tell me all about it over there;  
On the hallelujah strand  
I'll take Jonah by the hand,  
And he'll tell me all about it over there.  
Then this prophet forth was sent  
That old Nineveh might repent,  
But instead of that to Tarshish he set sail;  
Oh! the winds began to blow,  
Overboard did Jonah go,  
And he found a mercy seat inside the whale.*

*Over there, over there,  
In that land bright and fair,  
Oh, he'll tell me all about it over there;  
On the hallelujah strand  
I'll take Jonah by the hand,  
And he'll tell me all about it over there.*

*In the cold and briny deep  
Tears of grief did Jonah weep,  
And the big fish threw him out upon the shore;  
Then he gladly went his way,  
Preached to Nineveh night and day,  
And he did not care to backslide any more.*

*Over there, over there,  
In that land bright and fair,  
Oh, he'll tell me all about it over there;  
On the hallelujah strand  
I'll take Jonah by the hand,  
And he'll tell me all about it over there.*

*Oh, some people don't believe  
That a whale could him receive.  
But that does not make my song at all untrue;  
There are whales on every side,  
With their big mouths open wide—  
Just take care, my friend, or one will swallow you.*

*Over there, over there,  
In that land bright and fair,  
Oh, he'll tell me all about it over there;  
On the hallelujah strand  
I'll take Jonah by the hand,  
And he'll tell me all about it over there.*

*Many souls are tossed about  
By the whales of fear and doubt,  
But the Savior wants to take them by the hand.  
If they will His voice obey,  
He will save them right away,  
And will guide them safely to the promised land.*

*Over there, over there,  
In that land bright and fair,  
Oh, he'll tell me all about it over there;  
On the hallelujah strand  
I'll take Jonah by the hand,  
And he'll tell me all about it over there.*



### **Jonah Story**

A dramatic telling of the story of Jonah and his trip on the Mediterranean Sea

## Mark 1: 14-20

After John the Baptist was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

<sup>16</sup>As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed Jesus. <sup>19</sup>As they went a little farther, Jesus saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>Immediately Jesus called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired help, and followed Jesus.

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

*Thanks be to God*

**Sermon**

**Time is Up**



**Hymn**

**Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore**

**VU 563**

Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore  
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;  
you only asked me to follow humbly.

*O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,  
and while smiling, have spoken my name;  
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;  
by your side I will seek other seas.*

You know so well my possessions;  
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;  
- you will find there my nets and labour. R

You need my hands, full of caring  
through my labours to give others rest,  
and constant love that keeps on loving. R

You, who have fished other oceans,  
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,  
my loving friend, as thus you call me. R

## WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

### Offering



### 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

Words & Music: © 1997 Steve Angrisano and Tom Tomaszek  
Published by spiritandsong.com

*Refrain:*

*Go make a diff'rence.*

*We can make a diff'rence.*

*Go make a diff'rence in the world,*

*Go make a diff'rence.*

*We can make a diff'rence.*

*Go make a diff'rence in the world.*

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 diff'rence in the world.

*Go make a diff'rence.*

*We can make a diff'rence.*

*Go make a diff'rence in the world,*

*Go make a diff'rence.*

*We can make a diff'rence.*

*Go make a diff'rence in the world.*

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.*

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 Sun**

Music: Samuel Webbe

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## Other Resources for Today

Benefits of Sitting with Silence:

[20 Ways Sitting in Silence Can Completely Transform Your Life \(tinybuddha.com\)](http://tinybuddha.com)

## Other Lectionary Readings

### Jonah 1 to Jonah 3:10

Now the word of God came to Jonah son of Amittai, saying, <sup>2</sup>“Go at once to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before me.” <sup>3</sup>But Jonah set out to flee to Tarshish from the presence of God. He went down to Joppa and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid his fare and went on board, to go with them to Tarshish, away from the presence of God.

<sup>4</sup>But God hurled a great wind upon the sea, and such a mighty storm came upon the sea that the ship threatened to break up. <sup>5</sup>Then the mariners were afraid, and each cried to their god. They threw the cargo that was in the ship into the sea, to lighten it for them. Jonah, meanwhile, had gone down into the hold of the ship and had lain down, and was fast asleep. <sup>6</sup>The captain came and said to him, “What are you doing sound asleep? Get up, call on your god! Perhaps the god will spare us a thought so that we do not perish.”

<sup>7</sup>The sailors said to one another, “Come, let us cast lots, so that we may know on whose account this calamity has come upon us.” So they cast lots, and the lot fell on Jonah. <sup>8</sup>Then they said to him, “Tell us why this calamity has come upon us. What is your occupation? Where do you come from? What is your country? And of what people are you?” <sup>9</sup>“I am a Hebrew,” he replied. “I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.” <sup>10</sup>Then the men were even more afraid, and said to him, “What is this that you have done!” For the men knew that he was fleeing from the presence of God, because he had told them so.

<sup>11</sup>Then they said to him, “What shall we do to you, that the sea may quiet down for us?” For the sea was growing more and more tempestuous. <sup>12</sup>He said to them, “Pick me up and throw me into the sea; then the sea will quiet down for you; for I know it is because of me that this great storm has come upon you.” <sup>13</sup>Nevertheless the men rowed hard to bring the ship back to land, but they could not, for the sea grew more and more stormy against them. <sup>14</sup>Then they cried out to God, “Please, we pray, do not let us perish on account of this man’s life. Do not make us guilty of innocent blood; for you, O God, have done as it pleased you.” <sup>15</sup>So they picked Jonah up and threw him into the sea; and the sea ceased from its raging. <sup>16</sup>Then the men feared God even more, and they offered a sacrifice to God and made vows.

<sup>17</sup>But God provided a large fish to swallow up Jonah; and Jonah was in the belly of the fish three days and three nights.

Then Jonah prayed to God from the belly of the fish, <sup>2</sup>saying,

“I called out of my distress,  
and God answered me;  
out of the belly of Sheol I cried,  
and you heard my voice.

<sup>3</sup>You cast me into the deep,  
into the heart of the seas,

and the flood surrounded me;  
all your waves and your billows  
passed over me.  
<sup>4</sup>Then I said, 'I am driven away  
from your sight;  
how shall I look again  
upon your holy temple?'  
<sup>5</sup>The waters closed in over me;  
the deep surrounded me;  
weeds were wrapped around my head  
<sup>6</sup> at the roots of the mountains.  
I went down to the land  
whose bars closed upon me forever;  
yet you brought up my life from the Pit, my God.  
<sup>7</sup>As my life was ebbing away,  
I remembered God;  
and my prayer came to you,  
into your holy temple.  
<sup>8</sup>Those who worship vain idols  
forsake their true loyalty.  
<sup>9</sup>But I with the voice of thanksgiving  
will sacrifice to you;  
what I have vowed I will pay.  
Deliverance belongs to God!"  
<sup>10</sup>Then God spoke to the fish, and it spewed Jonah out upon the dry land.

The word of God came to Jonah a second time, saying, <sup>2</sup>"Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you." <sup>3</sup>So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of God. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. <sup>4</sup>Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, "Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" <sup>5</sup>And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

<sup>6</sup>When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. <sup>7</sup>Then he had a proclamation made in Nineveh: "By the decree of the king and his nobles: No human being or animal, no herd or flock, shall taste anything. They shall not feed, nor shall they drink water. <sup>8</sup>Human beings and animals shall be covered with sackcloth, and they shall cry mightily to God. All shall turn from their evil ways and from the violence that is in their hands. <sup>9</sup>Who knows? God may relent and change God's own mind; God may turn from fierce anger, so that we do not perish."

<sup>10</sup>When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.

### **1 Corinthians 7:29-31**

Siblings, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have spouses be as though they had none, <sup>30</sup>and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those

who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions,<sup>31</sup> and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.