



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Minister of Word & Sacrament: Rev. Dr. Ellen Redcliffe

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

Musical Guest: Valerie Boyle

Reader: Shirley Scott

June 25, 2023

**MUSIC SUNDAY
SING INTO SUMMER**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle

As we light our candles today

let us raise our voices in song.

It is good to make music to your name

to proclaim your love in the morning

and your faithfulness at night.

Come, let us sing for joy;

Let us come here with thanksgiving

and extol all that is good with music and song.

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 territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit and Scugog, all part of the Williams Treaty. 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

Draw The Circle Wide

MV 145

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.

Let this be our song, no one stands alone,

standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

God the still-point of the circle,
'round whom all creation turns;
nothing lost, but held forever,
in God's gracious arms.

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

Let our hearts touch far horizons,
so encompass great and small;
let our loving know no borders,
faithful to God's call.

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

Let the dreams we dream be larger,
than we've ever dreamed before;
let the dream of Christ be in us,
open every door.

Draw the circle wide. Draw it wider still.
Let this be our song, no one stands alone,
standing side by side, draw the circle wide.

Life and Work of the Church

Children's Time

This Little Light of Mine

This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
This little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine
Let it shine, Let it shine, Let it shine.

Scripture Psalm 150

Alleluia!
We praise you, God, in your sanctuary;
we praise you in your mighty skies!
We praise you for your powerful deeds;
we praise you for your overwhelming glory!

We praise you with the blast of the trumpet;
we praise you with lyre and harp!
We praise you with timbrel and dance;
we praise you with strings and flute!
We praise you with clashing cymbals;
we praise you with resounding cymbals!
Let everything that has breath praise God!
Alleluia!

Gospel Matthew 10:24-32, 40-42

Chosen One comes.

- 24 “A student is not superior to the teacher; the follower is not above the leader.
25 The student should be glad simply to become like the teacher, the follower like the leader.
26 “Don’t let people intimidate you. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, and nothing is hidden that will not be made known.
27 What I tell you in darkness, speak in the light. What you hear in private, proclaim from the housetops.
28 “Don’t fear those who can deprive the body of life but can’t destroy the soul. Rather, fear the one who can destroy both body and soul.
29 “Are not the sparrows sold for pennies? Yet not a single sparrow falls to the ground without your God’s knowledge.
30 As for you, every hair of your head has been counted.
31 So don’t be afraid of anything—you are worth more than an entire flock of sparrows.
32 “Whoever acknowledges me before others, I will acknowledge before God in heaven.
40 “Those who welcome you also welcome me, and those who welcome me welcome the One who sent me.
41 “Those who welcome prophets just because they are prophets will receive the reward reserved for the prophets themselves; those who welcome holy people just because they are holy will receive the reward of the holy ones.
42 “The truth is, whoever gives a cup of cold water to one of these lowly ones just for being a disciple will not lack a reward.”

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Operator

Operator, information,
Give me Jesus on the line.
Operator, information
I'd like to speak to a friend of mine.
Prayer is the number
and faith is the exchange,
Heaven is the city,
Jesus is the name.

Now operator, information,
Give me Jesus on the line.

Operator, information,
Tell me why it's taking so long;
Operator, information,
Don't try to tell me what number to call.
My mother used this number
when I was very small,
And every time she dialed it
she always got a call;
Oh operator, information,
Please give me Jesus on the line.

Operator, information,
Please help me if you can.
Operator, information,
Please connect me with the Man.
Don't worry about the money,
I will pay the charge,
Just give me a private line
I'm calling from the heart.
Operator, information,
Give me Jesus on the line
Operator, information,
Give me Jesus on the line
Operator, information,
Give me Jesus on the line.

Introduction

Guest Performer

Valerie Boyle

Hymn

Morning Has Broken

VU 409

1 Morning has broken like the first morning,
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!

2 Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,
like the first dewfall on the first grass.
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,
sprung in completeness where God's feet pass.

3 Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning
born of the one light Eden saw play!
Praise with elation, praise every morning,
God's recreation of the new day!

Offering

At this time of Offering let us 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 them, in turn.
May this circle of blessings continue.
Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Creator God,
because you make all that draws forth our praise
and the forms in which to express it,
we thank you.

Because you make artists of us all,
awakening courage to look again at what is taken for granted,
grace to share these insights with others,
vision to reveal the future already in being,
we thank you.

Because you form your Word among us,
and in your great work embrace all human experience,
even death itself, inspiring our resurrection song,
we thank you.

We now take a moment to remember those who we keep in our prayers today... *(pause)*

And now, using the words Jesus taught us, we sing...

**Our Creator, 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 and the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever, Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

Kum Ba Yah

Kum bah ya, my Lord, kum bah ya
Kum bah ya, my Lord, kum bah ya
Kum bah ya, my Lord, kum bah ya
Oh Lord, kum bah ya

Somebody needs you Lord, kum bah ya
Somebody needs you Lord, kum bah ya
Somebody needs you Lord, kum bah ya
Oh Lord, kum bah ya

In the morning won't you kum bah ya
In the morning won't you kum bah ya
In the morning won't you kum bah ya
Oh Lord, kum bah ya

Kum bah ya, my lord, kum bah ya
Kum bah ya, my lord, kum bah ya
Kum bah ya, my lord, kum bah ya
Oh Lord, kum bah ya

Sinners need you Lord, kum bah ya
Sinners need you Lord, kum bah ya
Sinners need you Lord, kum bah ya
Oh Lord, kum bah ya

I'm gonna need you Lord, kum bah ya
I'm gonna need you Lord, kum bah ya
I'm gonna need you Lord, kum bah ya
Oh Lord, kum bah ya

Kum bah ya, my Lord, kum bah ya
Kum bah ya, my Lord, kum bah ya
Kum bah ya, my Lord, kum bah ya
Oh Lord, kum bah ya

Benediction & Commissioning

**May the blessing of God,
the giver of every good and perfect gift;
and of Christ, who summons us to service;
and of the Holy Spirit, who inspires generosity and love,
be with us all, now and forever. Amen.**

Postlude

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Birchcliff Bluffs United Church Fourth After Pentecost Sunday, June 25, 2023 Additional Lectionary

Genesis 21:8-21 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away

⁸ The child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned. ⁹ But Sarah saw the son of Hagar the Egyptian, whom she had borne to Abraham, playing with her son Isaac.^[a] ¹⁰ So she said to Abraham, “Cast out this slave woman with her son, for the son of this slave woman shall not inherit along with my son Isaac.” ¹¹ The matter was very distressing to Abraham on account of his son. ¹² But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because of the boy and because of your slave woman; whatever Sarah says to you, do as she tells you, for it is through Isaac that offspring shall be named for you. ¹³ As for the son of the slave woman, I will make a nation of him also, because he is your offspring.” ¹⁴ So Abraham rose early in the morning and took bread and a skin of water and gave it to Hagar, putting it on her shoulder, along with the child, and sent her away. And she departed and wandered about in the wilderness of Beer-sheba.

¹⁵ When the water in the skin was gone, she cast the child under one of the bushes. ¹⁶ Then she went and sat down opposite him a good way off, about the distance of a bowshot, for she said, “Do not let me look on the death of the child.” And as she sat opposite him, she lifted up her voice and wept. ¹⁷ And God heard the voice of the boy, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, “What troubles you, Hagar? Do not be afraid, for God has heard the voice of the boy where he is. ¹⁸ Come, lift up the boy and hold him fast with your hand, for I will make a great nation of him.” ¹⁹ Then God opened her eyes, and she saw a well of water. She went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

²⁰ God was with the boy, and he grew up; he lived in the wilderness and became an expert with the bow. ²¹ He lived in the wilderness of Paran, and his mother got a wife for him from the land of Egypt.

Psalms 86:1-10 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Supplication for Help against Enemies

A Prayer of David.

- ¹ Incline your ear, O LORD, and answer me,
for I am poor and needy.
- ² Preserve my life, for I am devoted to you;
save your servant who trusts in you.
You are my God; ³ be gracious to me, O Lord,
for to you do I cry all day long.
- ⁴ Gladden the soul of your servant,
for to you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- ⁵ For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving,
abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.
- ⁶ Give ear, O LORD, to my prayer;
listen to my cry of supplication.
- ⁷ In the day of my trouble I call on you,
for you will answer me.
- ⁸ There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
nor are there any works like yours.
- ⁹ All the nations you have made shall come
and bow down before you, O Lord,
and shall glorify your name.
- ¹⁰ For you are great and do wondrous things;
you alone are God.

Psalm 86:16-17

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

- ¹⁶ Turn to me and be gracious to me;
give your strength to your servant;
save the child of your maidservant.
- ¹⁷ Show me a sign of your favor,
so that those who hate me may see it and be put to shame,
because you, LORD, have helped me and comforted me.

Jeremiah 20:7-13

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Jeremiah Denounces His Persecutors

- ⁷ O LORD, you have enticed me,
and I was enticed;
you have overpowered me,
and you have prevailed.
I have become a laughingstock all day long;

everyone mocks me.

⁸ For whenever I speak, I must cry out;
I must shout, "Violence and destruction!"
For the word of the LORD has become for me
a reproach and derision all day long.

⁹ If I say, "I will not mention him
or speak any more in his name,"
then within me there is something like a burning fire
shut up in my bones;
I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.

¹⁰ For I hear many whispering:
"Terror is all around!
Denounce him! Let us denounce him!"

All my close friends
are watching for me to stumble.
"Perhaps he can be enticed,
and we can prevail against him
and take our revenge on him."

¹¹ But the LORD is with me like a terrifying warrior;
therefore my persecutors will stumble,
and they will not prevail.
They will be greatly shamed,
for they will not succeed.
Their eternal dishonor
will never be forgotten.

¹² O LORD of hosts, you test the righteous;
you see the heart and the mind;
let me see your retribution upon them,
for to you I have committed my cause.

¹³ Sing to the LORD;
praise the LORD!
For he has delivered the life of the needy
from the hands of evildoers.

Psalm 69:7-18

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

⁷ It is for your sake that I have borne reproach,
that shame has covered my face.

⁸ I have become a stranger to my kindred,
an alien to my mother's children.

⁹ It is zeal for your house that has consumed me;
the insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.

¹⁰ When I humbled my soul with fasting,^[a]

they insulted me for doing so.
11 When I made sackcloth my clothing,
I became a byword to them.
12 I am the subject of gossip for those who sit in the gate,
and the drunkards make songs about me.
13 But as for me, my prayer is to you, O LORD.
At an acceptable time, O God,
in the abundance of your steadfast love, answer me.
With your faithful help 14 rescue me
from sinking in the mire;
let me be delivered from my enemies
and from the deep waters.
15 Do not let the flood sweep over me
or the deep swallow me up
or the Pit close its mouth over me.
16 Answer me, O LORD, for your steadfast love is good;
according to your abundant mercy, turn to me.
17 Do not hide your face from your servant,
for I am in distress—make haste to answer me.
18 Draw near to me; redeem me;
set me free because of my enemies.

Romans 6:1-11 **New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**
Dying and Rising with Christ

6 What then are we to say? Should we continue in sin in order that grace may increase? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin go on living in it? 3 Do you not know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 Therefore we were buried with him by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. 6 We know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be destroyed, so we might no longer be enslaved to sin. 7 For whoever has died is freed^[a] from sin. 8 But if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. 9 We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. 10 The death he died, he died to sin once for all, but the life he lives, he lives to God. 11 So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Matthew 10:24-39 **New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**

24 “A disciple is not above the teacher nor a slave above the master; 25 it is enough for the disciple to be like the teacher and the slave like the master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household!

Whom to Fear

²⁶ “So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered up that will not be uncovered and nothing secret that will not become known. ²⁷ What I say to you in the dark, tell in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim from the housetops. ²⁸ Do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, fear the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell.^[a] ²⁹ Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. ³⁰ And even the hairs of your head are all counted. ³¹ So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows.

³² “Everyone, therefore, who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven, ³³ but whoever denies me before others, I also will deny before my Father in heaven.

Not Peace, but a Sword

³⁴ “Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth; I have not come to bring peace but a sword.

³⁵ For I have come to set a man against his father,
and a daughter against her mother,
and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law,
³⁶ and one’s foes will be members of one’s own household.

³⁷ “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me, ³⁸ and whoever does not take up the cross and follow me is not worthy of me. ³⁹ Those who find their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it.