



**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

**Reader:** Shari Baker

**June 18, 2023**

**Third Sunday after Pentecost**

**Fathers Day**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Prelude**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

As we light this candle, may we be ever mindful of the light of Christ in our lives,

**May the Christ light shine through us so we too may shine today and always.**

**Call to Worship**

Jesus said, Come, follow me.

**We said, we are not good enough.**

Jesus said, Come, follow me.

**We replied, we cannot find our way.**

Jesus said, I love you and will show you the way.

**We replied, by God's grace, we will follow.**

**Introit**

**Take, O Take Me As I Am**

**MV 85**

Take, O take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
Set your seal upon my heart  
and live in me.

Take, O take me as I am;  
summon out what I shall be;  
Set your seal upon my heart  
and live in me.

**Opening Prayer**

Loving God, in response to your call, we have come to worship,

**And we reach out our hearts to show our love and care for all. May our worship today feed our work, may our praise energize our faith. May our prayers and songs feed our soul. Amen.**

## 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

### Sing a Happy Hallelujah

VU 224

1 Sing a happy hallelujah,  
sing it out with heart and style,  
we're the echo of God's laughter,  
we're the image of God's smile.

Hallelujah, all creation,  
hallelujah everyone!  
Hallelujah, all creation,  
hallelujah everyone!

2 We're the proof of God's good humour,  
we're the twinkle in God's eye,  
made to shine, reflect the glory,  
given light and space to fly.

Hallelujah, all creation,  
hallelujah everyone!  
Hallelujah, all creation,  
hallelujah everyone!

4 Every day sing hallelujah!  
We are loved, though so absurd,  
human, foolish, chosen people,  
God still takes us at our word!

Hallelujah, all creation,  
hallelujah everyone!  
Hallelujah, all creation,  
hallelujah everyone!

## Life and Work of the Church

### Children's Time

Jesus loves me this I know  
for the Bible tells me so.  
Little ones to him belong;  
they are weak but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me.  
Yes, Jesus loves me  
for the Bible tells me so.

**Scripture Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19**

<sup>1</sup> I love the LORD, for he heard my voice;  
he heard my cry for mercy.

<sup>2</sup> **Because he turned his ear to me,  
I will call on him as long as I live.**

<sup>12</sup> What shall I return to the LORD  
for all his goodness to me?

<sup>13</sup> **I will lift up the cup of salvation  
and call on the name of the LORD.**

<sup>14</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people.

<sup>15</sup> **Precious in the sight of the LORD  
is the death of his faithful servants.**

<sup>16</sup> Truly I am your servant, LORD;  
I serve you just as my mother did;  
you have freed me from my chains.

<sup>17</sup> **I will sacrifice a thank offering to you  
and call on the name of the LORD.**

<sup>18</sup> I will fulfill my vows to the LORD  
in the presence of all his people,

<sup>19</sup> **in the courts of the house of the LORD—  
in your midst, Jerusalem. Praise the LORD.**

**Gospel Matthew 9:35-10:8** The Workers Are Few

<sup>35</sup> Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.”

**Jesus Sends Out the Twelve**

**10** Jesus called his twelve disciples to him and gave them authority to drive out impure spirits and to heal every disease and sickness.

<sup>2</sup> These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; <sup>3</sup> Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; <sup>4</sup> Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

<sup>5</sup> These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: “Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. <sup>6</sup> Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. <sup>7</sup> As you go, proclaim this message: ‘The kingdom of heaven has come near.’ <sup>8</sup> Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have leprosy,<sup>[a]</sup> drive out demons. Freely you have received; freely give.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**Hymn**

**Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples**

**VU 507**

- 1 Today we all are called to be  
disciples of our God  
to help to set the captive free,  
make ploughshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst,  
make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor and homeless first,  
our ease and comfort last.
- 2 God made the world and at its birth  
ordained our human race  
to live as stewards of the earth,  
responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud,  
we sow not peace but strife,  
our discord spreads a deadly cloud  
that threatens all of life.
- 3 Pray justice may come rolling down  
as in a mighty stream,  
with righteousness in field and town  
to cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore  
an earth where conflicts cease,  
a world that was created for  
a harmony of peace.
- 4 May we in service to our God  
act out the living Word,  
and walk the road the saints have trod  
till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we  
give thanks in one accord  
to One who calls us all to be  
disciples of our God.

**Sermon – Cups of Cold Water**

**Cups of cold water giv'n in Jesus' name  
Cups of cold water are never giv'n in vain  
Some day in heaven when we meet the Lord  
Each deed of kindness will bring a rich reward.**

**Precious Lord, take my hand,  
lead me on, help me stand,  
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn,  
through the storm, through the night,  
lead me on to the light,  
Precious Lord, take my hand,  
lead me home.**

**One day at a time, sweet Jesus,  
that's all I'm asking of you.  
Just give me the strength to do  
every day what I have to do,  
Yesterday's gone, sweet Jesus,  
and tomorrow may never be mine,  
Lord, help me today, show me the way,  
one day at a time.**

**Here I am, Lord, it is I, Lord,  
I have heard you calling in the night,  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me,  
I will hold your people in my heart.**

**Cups of cold water giv'n in Jesus' name  
Cups of cold water are never giv'n in vain  
Some day in heaven when we meet the Lord  
Each deed of kindness will bring a rich reward.**

**Hymn**

**I Have Called You by Your Name**

**MV 161**

1 I have called you by your name, you are mine;  
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.  
I will not abandon you;  
all my promises are true.  
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.

2 I will help you learn my name as you go;  
read it written in my people, help them grow.  
Pour the water in my name,

speak the word your soul can claim,  
    offer Jesus' body given long ago.

3 I know you will need my touch as you go;  
  feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.  
    Like the woman reaching out,  
    choosing faith in spite of doubt,  
  hold the hem of Jesus' robe, then let it go.

4 I have given you a name, it is mine;  
  I have given you my Spirit as a sign.  
    With my wonder in your soul,  
    make my wounded children whole;  
  go and tell my precious people they are mine.

### **Offering**

We offer ourselves and our gifts to God.

**We give in response to God's generosity, as a sign of our commitment to serve God in all ways. Amen.**

### **Prayers of the People**

Encouraging God, open our hearts to hard words and deep truths.

**Nudge us with your spirit to recognize the message you have for us this day. Inspire us, with your love, to take your message into our hearts and into our lives ...**

We now take a moment to remember those we keep in our prayers.

**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**

**Go, Make a Difference**

**MV 209**

    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.

1 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 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.

2 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.

3 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**

Go in peace.

**Wherever we go, we dwell in God's presence.**

May God bless you, may Christ uphold you, may God's spirit sustain you. **Amen.**

## Postlude

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## **Birchcliff Bluffs United Church Third After Pentecost Sunday, June 18, 2023 Additional Lectionary**

### **Genesis 18:1-15 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition A Son Promised to Abraham and Sarah**

**18** The LORD appeared to Abraham<sup>[a]</sup> by the oaks<sup>[b]</sup> of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. **2** He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. **3** He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. **4** Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. **5** Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” **6** And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures<sup>[c]</sup> of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” **7** Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. **8** Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

**9** They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” **10** Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. **11** Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. **12** So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?” **13** The LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ **14** Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” **15** But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

### **Genesis 21:1-7 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition The Birth of Isaac**

**21** The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. **2** Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. **3** Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him. **4** And



Abraham circumcised his son Isaac when he was eight days old, as God had commanded him. <sup>5</sup> Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him. <sup>6</sup> Now Sarah said, “God has brought laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me.” <sup>7</sup> And she said, “Who would ever have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

## **Exodus 19:2-8**

## **New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**

<sup>2</sup> They journeyed from Rephidim, entered the wilderness of Sinai, and camped in the wilderness; Israel camped there in front of the mountain. <sup>3</sup> Then Moses went up to God; the LORD called to him from the mountain, “Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the Israelites: <sup>4</sup> ‘You have seen what I did to the Egyptians and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. <sup>5</sup> Now, therefore, if you obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession out of all the peoples. Indeed, the whole earth is mine, <sup>6</sup> but you shall be for me a priestly kingdom and a holy nation.’ These are the words that you shall speak to the Israelites.”

<sup>7</sup> So Moses went, summoned the elders of the people, and set before them all these words that the LORD had commanded him. <sup>8</sup> The people all answered as one, “Everything that the LORD has spoken we will do.” Moses reported the words of the people to the LORD.

## **Psalm 100**

## **New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**

### **All Lands Summoned to Praise God**

#### **A Psalm of thanksgiving.**

<sup>1</sup> Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness;  
come into his presence with singing.

<sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD is God.

It is he who made us, and we are his;<sup>[a]</sup>  
we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

<sup>4</sup> Enter his gates with thanksgiving  
and his courts with praise.

Give thanks to him; bless his name.

<sup>5</sup> For the LORD is good;  
his steadfast love endures forever  
and his faithfulness to all generations.

## **Romans 5:1-8**

## **New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**

### **Results of Justification**

<sup>5</sup> Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we<sup>[a]</sup> have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access<sup>[b]</sup> to this grace in which we stand, and

we<sup>[c]</sup> boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we<sup>[d]</sup> also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

**<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.**

**Matthew 9:35                      New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**  
**The Harvest Is Great, the Laborers Few**

<sup>35</sup> Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness.

**Matthew 10:8-23                      New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition**

<sup>8</sup> Cure the sick; raise the dead; cleanse those with a skin disease; cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment. <sup>9</sup> Take no gold, or silver, or copper in your belts, <sup>10</sup> no bag for your journey, or two tunics, or sandals, or a staff, for laborers deserve their food. <sup>11</sup> Whatever town or village you enter, find out who in it is worthy, and stay there until you leave. <sup>12</sup> As you enter the house, greet it. <sup>13</sup> If the house is worthy, let your peace come upon it, but if it is not worthy, let your peace return to you. <sup>14</sup> If anyone will not welcome you or listen to your words, shake off the dust from your feet as you leave that house or town. <sup>15</sup> Truly I tell you, it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah on the day of judgment than for that town.

**Coming Persecutions**

<sup>16</sup> "I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves. <sup>17</sup> Beware of them, for they will hand you over to councils and flog you in their synagogues, <sup>18</sup> and you will be dragged before governors and kings because of me, as a testimony to them and the gentiles. <sup>19</sup> When they hand you over, do not worry about how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you at that time, <sup>20</sup> for it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. <sup>21</sup> Sibling will betray sibling to death and a father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, <sup>22</sup> and you will be hated by all because of my name. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup> When they persecute you in this town, flee to the next, for truly I tell you, you will not have finished going through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.