



**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

**Reader:** Joseph Dahonick

**November 1, 2020 – All Saints' Day**



**WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE**

**Prelude**

**Come, Let Us Join Our Friends Above**

Text: Charles Wesley

Melody: Forest Green

**Call to Worship**

Today we honour all the saints who have lived before us, who live with us, who will live after us.

***Long Live the Saints***

To the saints of our tradition: Mary, Paul, Martha and Lydia, Peter and Simon, Priscilla, Dorcas, Simon and Andrew, and many more, too numerous to count we are blessed because of you.

***Long Live the Saints***

To the saints in our community: we see their faces and we recall their work within these walls, their memory lives in our recollection of them and in our work now.

***Long Live the Saints***

To the present day saints that live and walk among us each and every day.

***Long Live the Saints***

Thanks be for God's call that makes each of us saints in our own way.

***Long Live the Saints***

**Response**

**Sing With All the Saints In Glory**

Words: William J. Irons

Music: Ludwig van Beethoven

Sing with all the saints in glory,  
Sing the resurrection song!  
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story,

To the former days belong.  
All around the clouds are breaking,  
Soon the storms of time shall cease;  
In God's likeness we awaken,  
Knowing everlasting peace.

Life eternal! O what wonders  
Crowd on faith; what joy unknown,  
When, amid earth's closing thunders,  
Saints shall stand before the throne!  
Oh, to enter that bright portal,  
See that glowing firmament,  
Know, with you, O God immortal,  
Jesus Christ whom you have sent!

## 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 – All Saint's Day

### Opening Hymn

### For All The Saints

VU 705

Words: William Walsham How

Music Ralph Vaughan Williams

For all the saints, who from their labours rest,  
all who by faith before the world confessed,  
your name, O Jesus, be forever blest.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

O blest communion, fellowship divine!  
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;  
yet all are one within your great design.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

But lo! there breaks a yet more glorious day  
the saints triumphant rise in bright array:  
as God to glory calls them all away.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,  
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,  
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:  
Hallelujah, hallelujah!

### Opening Prayer

*God, we praise you that you can take me, [say your own name]  
And call me to your way, the way of Jesus.  
You name us saints just as we are.  
We give thanks that you are never finished with us.  
We thank you for Jesus' example and for the grace you offer in all ways at all times.  
Be with us as we worship and give thanks for all those who have gone before us in this place and  
in this world.  
Transform us so that we may be your people here and now. Amen*

### WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### And Now For Something Completely Different

*Who are the Saints in our lives?*



### Hymn

### Blessed Assurance

VU 337

Words: Fanny J. Crosby  
Music: Phoebe Palmer Knapp

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
O what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of the Spirit, washed in the blood.

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight!  
Visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending, bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.

Perfect submission, all is at rest,  
I in my Saviour am happy and blessed;  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with God's goodness, lost in Christ's love.

This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long;  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Saviour all the day long.

#### **Revelation 7:9-17**

#### **New Revised Standard Version**

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup> They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!”

<sup>11</sup> And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup> singing, “Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”



<sup>13</sup> Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, “Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?” <sup>14</sup> I said to the elder, “You are the one that knows.” Then the elder said to me, “These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

<sup>15</sup> For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship God day and night within the temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

<sup>16</sup> They will hunger no more, and thirst no more;

the sun will not strike them,  
nor any scorching heat;  
<sup>17</sup>for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd,  
and will guide them to springs of the water of life,  
and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”

**Matthew 5: 1-12**                      **New Revised Standard Version**

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup>Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

These are Jesus’ words for us to consider today.

*Thanks be to God*



**Sermon**

**You are Blessed**



## Hymn

## God of Grace and God of Glory

VU 686

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick

Music: Welsh traditional melody

God of grace and God of glory,  
on your people pour your power;  
now fulfil your church's story;  
bring its bud to glorious flower.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us  
scorn your Christ, assail your ways;  
fears and doubts too long have bound us;  
free our hearts to work and praise.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
for the living of these days.

Set our feet on lofty places,  
gird our lives that they may be  
armoured with all Christlike graces,  
pledged to set all captives free.  
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,  
that we fail not them nor thee.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD



## Communion

God be with you.

*And also with you.*

Lift up your hearts.

*We lift them up to God.*

Let us give thanks to God.

*It is right to give God thanks and praise.*



*O holy, holy, holy God,  
O God of time and space.  
All earth and sea and sky above  
bear witness to your grace.  
Hosanna in the highest heav'n,  
creation sings your praise.  
And blessed is the One who comes  
and bears your name always!*

...And in the Spirit of the risen Christ, sing together

*Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!  
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,  
Christ will come again!*

...Restore the earth with your grace making all things new.

*Amen, amen, O Holy One!  
Hosanna and Amen!  
Amen, amen, O Holy One!  
Hosanna and Amen!*

Communion is served...

### **Prayer after Communion**

*We thank you, Most Holy God,  
for refreshment at your table  
where along with your saints  
we receive Christ's gifts.  
Provide for your church on earth strength to fully love one another.  
Give us the grace to praise you with our lives  
in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*



### **Stewardship Moment**

*When we are gone, what legacy will we leave? Will it be one of generous giving from God's abundance, or one of hoarding and fear?*

### **Invitation to Offering**

### **Prayer**

## 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

### When The Saints Go Marching In

Traditional

Oh, when the saints go marching in  
Oh, when the saints go marching in  
Oh, how I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in.

Oh when the sun refused to shine  
Oh, when the sun refused to shine  
Oh, how I want to be in that number  
When the sun refused to shine

Oh, when the stars fall from the sky  
Oh, when the stars fall from the sky  
Oh, how I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in.

Oh, when the trumpet sounds its call  
Oh, when the trumpet sounds its call  
Oh, how I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in.

Oh, when the saints go marching in  
Oh, when the saints go marching in  
Oh, how I want to be in that number  
When the saints go marching in.

### Benediction & Commissioning

### Postlude



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## Other Resources for Today

Image in New Testament Reading: *God Inviting Christ to Sit on the Throne at His Right Hand* (1645) by Pieter de Grebber

Image in Gospel Reading: *The Lecture of Christ* (circa 1600) by Jan Brueghel the Elder

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## Other Lectionary Readings

Psalm 34: 1-10, 22

New Revised Standard Version

- <sup>1</sup> I will bless God at all times;  
God's praise shall continually be in my mouth.
- <sup>2</sup> My soul makes its boast in God;  
let the humble hear and be glad.
- <sup>3</sup> O magnify God with me,  
and let us exalt God's name together.
- <sup>4</sup> I sought God, and God answered me,  
delivering me from all my fears.
- <sup>5</sup> Look to God, and be radiant;  
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
- <sup>6</sup> This poor soul cried, and was heard by God,  
and was saved from every trouble.
- <sup>7</sup> The angel of God encamps  
around those who fear God, and delivers them.
- <sup>8</sup> O taste and see that God is good;  
happy are those who take refuge in God.
- <sup>9</sup> O fear God, holy ones,  
for those who fear God have no want.
- <sup>10</sup> The young lions suffer want and hunger,  
but those who seek God lack no good thing.
- <sup>11</sup> Come, O children, listen to me;  
I will teach you the fear of God
- <sup>22</sup> God redeems the life of God's servants;  
none of those who take refuge in God will be condemned.

**1 John 3:1-3**

New Revised Standard Version

See what love ABBA God has given us that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know God. <sup>2</sup> Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when God is revealed, we will be like God, for we will see God as God is. <sup>3</sup> And all who have this hope in God purify themselves, just as God is pure.