



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Minister of Word and Sacrament: Rev. Gregory Daly

Minister of Community Development: Rev Carmen Llanos

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

Readings: Carmen Llanos

September 20, 2020 – Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Call to Worship

The people gather to share in the wisdom of God.

Some of us hope for guidance.

Some of us hope for everything to just fall into our lap.

Some of us hope to be assured.

Some of us hope for the good old days.

Some of us hope to be challenged.

The people gather to share in the wisdom of God.

Come, let us worship the God of bounty and wisdom.

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

For The Fruit of All Creation

VU 227

Words: Fred Pratt Green © 1970 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: Welsh folk melody

- 1 For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For the gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the ploughing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping, thanks be to God.
- 2 In the just reward of labour, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbour, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing, God's will is done.
- 3 For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God

Prayer for Grace



*Gracious God, as people called to be your presence in the world,
we search our hearts, and ask your forgiveness:
For opportunities not taken, for care not given, forgive us we pray.
For sorrow not shared, for joy not celebrated, forgive us we pray.
For love not offered, forgiveness not extended, forgive us we pray.
For those failings we cannot speak aloud, forgive us we pray.
God we seek your healing grace, that in receiving it we offer it
back to all, knowing that you are in all things. Amen.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

And Now for Something Completely Different



Words: Isaac Watts

Music: Franz Joseph Haydn

- 1 I sing the mighty power of God
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad,
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day;
the moon shines full at God's command
and all the stars obey.
- 2 I sing the goodness of the One
who filled the earth with food;
who formed the creatures with a word,
and then pronounced them good.
O God, your wonders are displayed
where'er I turn my eye;
if I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky!
- 3 There's not a plant or flower below
but makes your glories known;
and clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from your throne;
while all that borrows life from you
is ever in your care,
and everywhere that I may be,
you, God, are present there.

Prayer of Illumination

Help us O God, to come to you with open lives to receive your words.

May we give them new life as we listen to what you have to say.

Open our hearts as we embark on this journey with each other and with you. Amen

Matthew 20: 1-16

NRSV

“For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for the vineyard. ²After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, they were sent into the vineyard. ³When the landowner went out about nine o’clock, others standing idle in the marketplace; ⁴were told by the landowner, ‘You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you

whatever is right.’ So they went. ⁵The landowner went out again about noon and about three o’clock, doing the same. ⁶And about five o’clock the landowner went out and found others standing around; ‘Why are you standing here idle all day?’ ⁷They said to the landowner, ‘Because no one has hired us.’

‘You also go into the vineyard.’ Said the landowner.

⁸When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to the manager, ‘Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.’ ⁹When those hired about five o’clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. ¹⁰Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. ¹¹And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, ¹²saying, ‘These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.’ ¹³But the landowner replied to one of them, ‘Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? ¹⁴Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. ¹⁵Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?’ ¹⁶So the last will be first, and the first will be last.”

Hymn

Lead On, O Cloud of Presence

VU 421

Words: Ruth Duck © 1992 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.

Music: Henry Thomas Smart

- 1 Lead on, O cloud of Presence, the exodus is come.
In wilderness and desert our tribe shall make its home.
Our slavery left behind us,
new hopes within us grow.
We seek the land of promise
where milk and honey flow.

- 2 Lead on, O fiery Pillar, we follow yet with fears,
but we shall come rejoicing though joy be born of tears.
We are not lost, though wandering,
for by your light we come,
and we are still God's people.
The journey is our home.

- 3 Lead on, O God of freedom, and guide us on our way,
and help us trust the promise through struggle and delay.
We pray our sons and daughters
may journey to that land
where justice dwells with mercy,
and love is law's demand

Exodus 16: 2-16

NRSV

²The whole congregation of the Israelites complained against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness. ³The Israelites said to them, “If only we had died by the hand of God in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread; for you have brought us out into this wilderness to kill this whole assembly with hunger.”

⁴Then God said to Moses, “I am going to rain bread from heaven for you, and each day the people shall go out and gather enough for that day. In that way I will test them, whether they will follow my instruction or not. ⁵On the sixth day, when they prepare what they bring in, it will be twice as much as they gather on other days.” ⁶So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “In the evening you shall know that it was God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, ⁷and in the morning you shall see the glory of God, because your complaining against God has been heard. For what are we, that you complain against us?” ⁸And Moses said, “When God gives you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning, because God has heard the complaining that you utter—what are we? Your complaining is not against us but against God.”

⁹Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole congregation of the Israelites, ‘Draw near to God, for your complaining has been heard.’” ¹⁰And as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the Israelites, they looked toward the wilderness, and the glory of God appeared in the cloud. ¹¹God spoke to Moses and said, ¹²“I have heard the complaining of the Israelites; say to them, ‘At twilight you shall eat meat, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread; then you shall know that I am your God.’”

¹³In the evening quails came up and covered the camp; and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp. ¹⁴When the layer of dew lifted, there on the surface of the wilderness was a fine flaky substance, as fine as frost on the ground. ¹⁵When the Israelites saw it, they said to one another, “What is it?” For they did not know what it was. Moses said to them, “It is the bread that God has given you to eat. ¹⁶This is what God has commanded: ‘Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents.’”

The word of God for the People of God

Thanks be to God

Sermon

Enough is Enough



Hymn

Are You a Shepherd

MV 126

Words: Ruth Duck, Music: William P. Rowan

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Are you a shepherd, good shepherd who leads us
safely through danger, while calming our fears?

Are you a father who shelters and feeds us,
shares in our laughter and wipes away tears?

Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,
but you are greater than all that we know.

Holy and living, loving and giving,
God, you are with us wherever we go.

Are you a mother, good mother who bears us,
comforts, protects us and helps us to rest?

Are you a teacher who daily prepares us,
challenging students to offer their best?

Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,
but you are greater than all that we know.

Holy and living, loving and giving,
God, you are with us wherever we go.

Great, gentle shepherd, forever beside us,
lead all you children in paths that are right.
Great, loving parent, wise teacher, you guide us.
We want to love you and bring you delight.

Yes, you are shepherd, parent and teacher,
but you are greater than all that we know.

Holy and living, loving and giving,
God, you are with us wherever we go.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering our Gifts to God

God has abundantly bestowed upon us the gift of life.
Our best response is to offer our whole lives
as agents for God's mission in the world.
Give as you are able to grow the community of God
in our homes, our congregation and around the world.



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

God of The Bible

MV 28

Words: Shirley Erena Murray © 1996 Hope Publishing Company

Music: Tony E. Alonso © 2001 by GIA Publications, Inc.

1. God of the Bible, God in the Gospel,
hope seen in Jesus, hope yet to come,
you are our centre, daylight or darkness,
freedom or prison, you are our home.
Refrain (2X)
Fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise,
God always faithful, you do not change.
2. God in our struggles, God in our hunger,
suffering with us, taking our part,
still you empow'r us, mothering Spirit,
feeding, sustaining, from your own heart.
3. Those without status, those who are nothing,
you have made royal, gifted with rights,
chosen as partners, midwives of justice,
birthing new systems, lighting new lights.
4. Not by your finger, not by your anger
will our world order change in a day,
but by your people, fearless and faithful,
small paper lanterns, lighting the way.
5. Hope we must carry, shining and certain
through all our turmoil, terror and loss,
bonding us gladly one to the other,
'til our world changes facing the Cross.

Benediction & Commissioning



Postlude

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Other Resources and acknowledgements for Today

Additional Lectionary Readings

Psalm 145: 1-8 NRSV

Praise. Of David.

- ¹ I will extol you, my God and King,
and bless your name forever and ever.
- ² Every day I will bless you,
and praise your name forever and ever.
- ³ Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;
his greatness is unsearchable.
- ⁴ One generation shall laud your works to another,
and shall declare your mighty acts.
- ⁵ On the glorious splendor of your majesty,
and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.
- ⁶ The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,
and I will declare your greatness.
- ⁷ They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,
and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.
- ⁸ The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Philippians 1: 21-30 NRSV

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. ²² If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. ²³ I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; ²⁴ but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. ²⁵ Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, ²⁶ so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

²⁷ Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, ²⁸ and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. ²⁹ For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well— ³⁰ since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.