



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

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

Minister of Community Development: Rev. Carmen Llanos

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

Reader: Mary Cannings

February 27, 2022 - Transfiguration Sunday

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

God Is Gone Up On High

Music by John Darwall, 1770

Call to Worship

I was glad when they said unto me:

Let us go into the house of the Lord!

We come from busy lives to this place of sanctuary and peace.

To pray and to be renewed for the week ahead.

It is good for us to be here!

Response

God comes when we call upon the presence of the Spirit.

May we be opened to renewing our commitment to God's way.

Opening Hymn

Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies

VU 336

Words: Charles Wesley

Music: Werner's Choralbuch

Christ whose glory fills the skies,
 Christ the true, the only light,
 sun of righteousness, arise,
 triumph o'er the shades of night.
 Dayspring from on high, be near;
 daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn

unaccompanied by thee;
 joyless is the day's return,
 till thy mercy's beams I see,
 till they inward light impart,
 glad my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
 pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
 fill me, radiancy divine,
 scatter all my unbelief;
 more and more thyself display,
 shining to the perfect day.



Life & Work of the Church

Welcome to online worship. We are very happy that you have decided to worship with us here today at Birchcliff Bluffs United Church. Information about our programs and services can be found on our website at www.bbuc.ca

Land Acknowledgement

As we prepare for worship we now take a moment to acknowledge this sacred land beside the water on which we gather.



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 the Mississaugas of the Credit and Scugog. The lands where Birchcliff Bluffs United Church sits are part of the Williams Treaty.

Today, the meeting place around Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island (the ancestral name for these lands). 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.



Candle Lighting

Light to soften the shadows.

Light to warm the air.

Light to warm our hearts.

Light of presence, refining light of Christ.

Opening Prayer

O God,

**We come today to refresh and restore all that is within our hearts and minds.
We come prepared to experience your love. May we find our true selves just as Jesus' true self was revealed on the mountain top. Amen**

Hymn**Jesus On the Mountain Peak****VU 102**

Words: Brian Wren

Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor

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Jesus on the mountain peak
stands alone in glory blazing;
let us, if we dare to speak,
join the saints and angels praising.
Hallelujah!

Trembling at his feet we saw
Moses and Elijah speaking.
All the prophets and the law
shout through them their joyful greeting:
Hallelujah!

Swift the cloud of glory came,
God proclaiming, in its thunder,
Jesus as the Son by name!
Nations, cry aloud in wonder:
Hallelujah!

This is God's beloved one!
Law and prophets sing before him,
first and last and only One.
All creation shall adore him!
Hallelujah!

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading**Luke 9:28-36****New Revised Standard Version**

²⁸ Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James, and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹ And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³⁰ Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. ³¹ They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. ³² Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep; but since they had stayed awake, they saw his glory and the two men who stood with

him. ³³ Just as they were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, “Master, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah”—not knowing what he said. ³⁴ While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them; and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵ Then from the cloud came a voice that said, “This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!” ³⁶ When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen.

The word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Hymn

How Good, God, To Be Here

VU 103

Words: Joseph Armitage Robinson
Music: Charles Lockhart

How good, God, to be here!
Your glory fills the night;
your face and garments, like the sun,
shine with unborrowed light.

How good, God, to be here,
your beauty to behold,
where Moses and Elijah stand,
your messengers of old.

Fulfiller of the past
and hope of things to be,
we hail your body glorified,
and our redemption see!

How good, God, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
but, since you bid us leave the mount,
come with us to the plain.

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

Offering



As we consider our gifts of the spirit, we take time to think about how we might offer them back to the world. There are many ways that we can offer our gifts to this faith community and to the people in our lives.

Our time, our talents, the work of our hands, each piece works to change the world around us. Please visit our website at www.bbuc.ca/donate to learn how you can support the work of this place in this community.

Prayers of the People

Great wisdom, holy one,

You hide me and save me from the fierce madness of the world. You hide me and save me by giving me into the care of a stranger. Tender God, by your grace and in confidence of your care, we have been drawn out of hiding and have found our place in this world. Though it is not always safe - you have called and we have answered - use us! Remind us of your ways as we go forward in your name.

In Jesus' name we ask it, who taught all followers when they pray together to say...



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

I Want To Be A Christian In My Heart

African American Spiritual

Oh, I want to be a Christian
in my heart, in my heart.
Oh, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Oh, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Oh, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart.
Oh, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,

Oh, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Oh, I want to be more holy
in my heart, in my heart.
Oh, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Oh, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Oh, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart.
Oh, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Oh, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

Benediction & Commissioning

Friends, next week Lent begins, reminding us of the joy, the power, the way of Jesus Christ.

**We need courage for the journey remembering that we are the church
That God relies on to spread the gospel message.**

Go in peace knowing that God goes with you now and always.

Amen

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Additional Lectionary Readings

Exodus 34:29-35

New Revised Standard Version

²⁹ Moses came down from Mount Sinai. As he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the covenant^[a] in his hand, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. ³⁰ When Aaron and all the Israelites saw Moses, the skin of his face was shining, and they were afraid to come near him. ³¹ But Moses called to them; and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses spoke with them. ³² Afterward all the Israelites came near, and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him on Mount Sinai. ³³ When Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil on his face; ³⁴ but whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would take the veil off, until he came out; and when he came out, and told the Israelites what he had been commanded, ³⁵ the Israelites would see the face of Moses, that the skin of his face was shining; and Moses would put the veil on his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Psalms 99

New Revised Standard Version

- ¹ The LORD is king; let the peoples tremble!
 He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!
- ² The LORD is great in Zion;
 he is exalted over all the peoples.
- ³ Let them praise your great and awesome name.
 Holy is he!
- ⁴ Mighty King,¹ lover of justice,
 you have established equity;
 you have executed justice
 and righteousness in Jacob.
- ⁵ Extol the LORD our God;
 worship at his footstool.
 Holy is he!
- ⁶ Moses and Aaron were among his priests,
 Samuel also was among those who called on his name.
 They cried to the LORD, and he answered them.
- ⁷ He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud;
 they kept his decrees,
 and the statutes that he gave them.

⁸ O LORD our God, you answered them;
 you were a forgiving God to them,
 but an avenger of their wrongdoings.

⁹ Extol the LORD our God,
 and worship at his holy mountain;
 for the LORD our God is holy.

2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 New Revised Standard Version

¹² Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with great boldness, ¹³ not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, that same veil is still there, since only in Christ is it set aside. ¹⁵ Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds; ¹⁶ but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.

4 Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ² We have renounced the shameful things that one hides; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word; but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

Luke 9:37-43 New Revised Standard Version

³⁷ On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met him. ³⁸ Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹ Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰ I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not." ⁴¹ Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and bear with you? Bring your son here." ⁴² While he was coming, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ⁴³ And all were astounded at the greatness of God.