



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

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Twenty-First after Pentecost

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

With thankful hearts we gather here where the doors are open to all.

We come with open hearts and open minds, thankful that we are children of the light of Christ.

The candle is lit.

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.

Introit

Take Time To Be Holy

VU 672

1 Take time to be holy, speak oft with our God;
abide in him always, and feed on the word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.

3 Take time to be holy, be calm in your soul,
each thought and each motive beneath his control.
Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love,
you soon shall be fitted for service above.

Call to Worship

Creator of all goodness, we gather to worship you

In the sanctuary of our hearts and minds.

We open a way through the clutter of worry and distractions

For you to shine your searchlight into our souls.

Reveal to us the gifts you have set in us so we may serve others,

And show us the direction for our future as you intend it to be. Amen.

Life and Work

Opening Prayer

By joining in this worship, gracious GOD, we are making a choice to be a part of your transforming love in this world.

We offer ourselves to the mending and tending of your world. We are opening ourselves to be changes by your compassion

So that all may experience the love you sent in Jesus. May we share your love unconditionally, without judgement, freely, without price. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

VU 559

1 Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.

2 Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
precious presence, precious blood.

3 O, to grace how great a debt
or daily I am drawn anew!
Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.

Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Psalm 99

¹The LORD reigns, let the nations tremble;
the LORD sits enthroned between the cherubim,
let the earth shake.

² **Great is the LORD
who is exalted over all the nations.**

³Let them praise your great and awesome name—
GOD is holy.

⁴ **The King is mighty, he loves justice—
you have established equity; in Jacob you have done
what is just and right.**

⁵Exalt the LORD our God and worship at GOD'S footstool;
he is holy.

⁶ **Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel was among those who called on
his name;
they called on the LORD who answered them.**

⁷GOD spoke to them from the pillar of cloud;
they kept GOD'S statutes and the decrees GOD gave them.

⁸ **LORD our God, you answered them; you were to Israel a forgiving God,
though you punished their misdeeds.^[a]**

⁹Exalt the LORD our GOD and worship at the holy mountain,
for the LORD our GOD is holy.

Matthew 22:15-22 Paying the Imperial Tax to Caesar

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. ¹⁶They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others because you pay no attention to who they are. ¹⁷Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?"

¹⁸But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, ²⁰and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

²¹"Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

²²When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

The Word of God for the People of God.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn

All People That On Earth Do Dwell

VU p. 822

1 All people that on earth do dwell,
sing out your faith with cheerful voice;
delight in God whose praise you tell,
whose presence calls you to rejoice.

2 Know that there is one God, indeed,
who fashions us without our aid,
who claims us, gives us all we need,
whose tender care will never fade.

3 Enter the sacred gates with praise;
with joy approach the temple walls.
Extol and bless our God always
as people whom the Spirit calls.

4 Proclaim again that God is good,
whose mercy is forever sure,
whose truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

Sermon

Double Citizenship

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

Deep In Our Hearts

MV 154

1 Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

2 Deep in our hearts there is a common purpose;
deep in our hearts there is a common goal;
deep in our hearts there is a sacred message,
justice and peace in harmony.

3 Deep in our hearts there is a common longing;
deep in our hearts there is a common theme;

deep in our hearts there is a common current,
flowing to freedom like a stream.

4 Deep in our hearts there is a common vision;
deep in our hearts there is a common song;
deep in our hearts there is a common story,
telling Creation that we are one.

Offering

We respond to the gift of your word by sharing a portion of what we have.

May it be used to further your work among your people using our hands and feet.

Our offerings will now be received.

Prayers of the People

VU 400

Lord, listen to your children praying
Lord, send your spirit to this place
Lord, listen to your children praying
Send us love, send us power, send us grace

Music continues ...

Abundant GOD, our hearts overflow with love and compassion.

We are blessed with those who love us in our daily lives and help us live the best lives that we are able.

They encourage us to use our hands, our minds, our hearts, imperfect as we may be, to help create your

Dream for us in this place ...

Moment of silence

Your love for us is generous beyond measure, Jesus' examples lead us to good pathways, and the Holy Spirit moved within and around us
Showing the way to new life in you ... for we ask it in the name of Jesus ...

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

Jesus On The Mainline

- 1 Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want.
Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want.
Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want,
Just call Him up and tell Him what you want.

- 2 If you want your body healed, tell Him what you want.
If you want your body healed, tell Him what you want.
If you want your body healed, tell Him what you want,
Just call Him up and tell Him what you want.

- 3 If you want your soul revived, tell Him what you want.
If you want your soul revived, tell Him what you want.
If you want your soul revived, tell Him what you want,
Just call Him up and tell Him what you want.

- 4 Call Him up, call Him up, tell Him what you want.
Call Him up, call Him up, tell Him what you want.
Call Him up, call Him up, tell Him what you want,
Just call Him up and tell Him what you want.

- 5 Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want.
Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want.
Jesus on the mainline, tell Him what you want,
Just call Him up and tell Him what you want,
Just call Him up and tell Him what you want.

Commissioning and Benediction

Breathe deeply and know that GOD is good.

Our hearts are overflow with joy and peace,

Ready to serve our LORD.

May the blessing of God be with you until we meet again.

Choral Benediction

Go Now In Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe

Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, amen, amen!

Postlude

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