



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

January 22, 2023

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Lighting the Christ candle

When the light of your love grows dim,

May this candle rekindle the flame so that your love lights up the room.

Christ candle is lit

Call to Worship

From many moments to this moment,

We come as children of God, called by God's grace.

From many places to this place,

We come as disciples of Christ, called by Christ's peace.

From many communities to this community,

We come as people of the Spirit, called by the Spirit's life!

God smiles because we come-

To worship God!

Introit

All People That on Earth Do Dwell

VU 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.

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 Prayer

We have come to worship you, loving God.

Thank you for your presence.

We have come to sing praises to you and to greet one another with your peace.

Thank you for the peace of Christ.

We have come to receive your Word and share with you in prayer.

Thank you for the written word and for receiving our prayers.

May all that is shared here today be pleasing and honoring to you, our God. **Amen.**

Hymn

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

VU 271

- 1 There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
- 2 There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such gracious judgement given.
- 4 Troubled souls, why will you scatter
like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Foolish hearts, why will you wander
from a love so true and deep?
- 5 For the love of God is broader
than the measures of the mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind

Life and Work of the Church

Scripture Psalm 27:1, 4-9

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold^[a] of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

⁴One thing I asked of the LORD;
this I seek:

to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in his temple.

⁵For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

⁶Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.

⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”
Your face, LORD, do I seek.

⁹Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off; do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!

Gospel Matthew 4:12-23 Jesus Begins His Ministry in Galilee

¹²Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.

¹³He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali,

¹⁴so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

¹⁶the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”

¹⁷From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”

Jesus Calls the First Disciples

¹⁸ As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers.

¹⁹ And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.”

²⁰ Immediately they left their nets and followed him.

²¹ As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.

²² Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.

Jesus Ministers to Crowds of People

²³ Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

You Leadeth Me

VU 657

1 You leadeth me: O blessed thought!
O words with heavenly comfort fraught!
Whate'er I do, where'er I be,
still it's God's hand that leadeth me.

You leadeth me! You leadeth me!
By your own hand you leadeth me!
Your faithful follower I would be,
for by your hand you leadeth me!

2 Sometimes 'mid scenes of deepest gloom,
Sometimes where E-den's bowers bloom,
by waters calm, o'er troubled sea,
still it's your hand that lead-eth me.

You leadeth me! You leadeth me!
By your own hand you leadeth me!
Your faithful follower I would be,
for by your hand you leadeth me!

3 God, I would clasp your hand in mine,
nor ever murmur nor repine,
content, whatever lot I see,
since it's my God that leadeth me.

You leadeth me! You leadeth me!
By your own hand you leadeth me!
Your faithful follower I would be,
for by your hand you leadeth me!

4 And when my task on earth is done,
when by your grace the victory's won,
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee,
since God through Jordan leadeth me.

You leadeth me! You leadeth me!
By your own hand you leadeth me!
Your faithful follower I would be,
for by your hand you leadeth me!

Sermon **Will I Give My All?**

Hymn

I Heard the Voice of Jesus

VU 626

1 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down
 your head upon my breast.'
 I came to Jesus as I was,
 weary and worn and sad;
I found in him a resting place,
 and he has made me glad.

2 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'Behold, I freely give
 the living water; thirsty one,
stoop down, and drink, and live.'
 I came to Jesus, and I drank
 of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
 and now I live in him.

3 I heard the voice of Jesus say,
 'I am this dark world's light;
look unto me, your morn shall rise,
 and all your day be bright.'
 I looked to Jesus, and I found
 in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk
 till travelling days are done.

Offering

Bless these gifts we offer, O God, that they may teach us to live as disciples:

Creating peace, building bridges, learn understanding.

Bless us with your Spirit's guidance that we may be a living offering for your work in the world.
Amen.

Prayers of the People

Gracious God, you are more than we can begin to imagine!

You loved creation into being. You loved us into wholeness. Alleluia!

But we have a question for you. Do you really think we can do it? Can we really be more than we are? As disciples, can we really be what you want us to be? Can we really be salt and light to each other? Fill us with your love, your wisdom, your grace, we pray ...

Let us hold silence together ...

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

**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 and the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever, Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

They'll Know We Are Christians

We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord;
And we pray that all unity will one day be restored.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
We will walk with each other, we will walk hand in hand;
And together we'll spread the news that God is in our land.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
We will work with each other, we will work side by side;
And we'll guard human dignity and we'll save human pride.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

All praise to the Father, from whom all things come;
And all praise to Christ Jesus, His only Son.
And all praise to the Spirit who makes us one.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love,
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Benediction & Commissioning

May the warmth of your love radiate from our being and spark us into a place of grace.

May the light we cast be an inspiration to all it touches.

Go in peace, in love, in unity, one in Christ. **Amen.**

Postlude

* Permission to podcast/stream and reproduce the music and lyrics obtained from
ONE LICENSE with license A-737645.
All rights reserved.



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church Third After Epiphany Additional Lectionary

Isaiah 9:1-4

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

The Righteous Reign of the Coming King

9 ^[a]But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

2 ^[b]The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—
on them light has shined.

3 You have multiplied exultation;^[c]

you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.
⁴For the yoke of their burden
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

1 Corinthians 1:10-18 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

Divisions in the Church

¹⁰Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you but that you be knit together in the same mind and the same purpose. ¹¹For it has been made clear to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. ¹²What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." ¹³Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? ¹⁴I thank God^[a] that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, ¹⁵so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. ¹⁶I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. ¹⁷For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel—and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

Christ the Power and Wisdom of God

¹⁸For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.