



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

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March 13, 2022 - Lent 2

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Jesu, Meines Lebens Leben

Darmstadt, 1687

Call to Worship

God is my light and my salvation – I have nothing to fear.

Words of Welcome

Today we come to open our senses, our minds, and our hearts, that we may perceive your light as we journey together. Come, bless us with the gift of your presence as we journey forward.

Hymn

A Place at the Table

Words: Shirley Erena Murray © 1998 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: Lori True © 2001 GIA Publications Inc.

For everyone born, a place at the table
 For everyone born, clean water and bread
 A shelter, a space, a safe place for growing
 For everyone born, a star overhead.

And God will delight
 when we are creators of justice and joy,
 Yes, God will delight
 when we are creators of justice,
 justice and joy.

For everyone here, a place at the table

Revising the roles, deciding the share
With wisdom and grace, dividing the power
For everyone here, a system that's fair

And God will delight
when we are creators of justice and joy,
Yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy.

For young and for old, a place at the table
A voice to be heard, a part in the song
The hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
For young and for old, the right to belong.

And God will delight
when we are creators of justice and joy,
Yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy.

For everyone born, a place at the table
To live without fear, and simply to be,
To work and speak out, to witness and worship,
For everyone born, the right to be free.

And God will delight
when we are creators of justice and joy,
Yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy,
Justice and joy.

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

The candle is lit as a reminder of Christ's light given to all, a symbol of God's presence and in hope that we may learn how to love, how to break down walls and to build bridges.

Opening Prayer

God, where do we look to find ourselves today? The angels have disappeared, the shepherds are back amongst their flocks, the magi back in the east. Today I find myself at the river, Jesus is here, may our eyes be opened to his message of love. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:31–35

The Lament over Jerusalem

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came to see him and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³² He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.' ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a

prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

Reflection It’s Okay To Cry

Song

Gethsemane

Words: Tim Rice / Music: Andrew Lloyd Webber

Hymn

For The Healing of the Nations

VU 678

Words: Fred Kaan

© 1968 Hope Publishing Co.

Music: Henry Purcell

For the healing of the nations,
God, we pray with one accord;
for a just and equal sharing
of the things the earth affords.
To a life of love in action
help us rise and pledge our word.

Lead us forward into freedom,
from despair your world release;
that, redeemed from war and hatred,
all may come and go in peace.
Show us how through care and goodness
fear will die and hope increase.

All that kills abundant living,
Let it from the earth be banned;
Pride of status, race or schooling
Dogmas that obscure your plan;
In our common quest for justice
May we hallow life’s brief span.

You, Creator-God, have written
your great name on humankind;
for our growing in your likeness

bring the life of Christ to mind;
that, by our response and service,
earth its destiny may find.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering



When you reach out to us, O God, it means the world to us. When we reach out to others, it gives meaning to your name. Bless this offering that it may touch many in the world.

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

Loving God,

in the swirling winds of violent conflict, we ask for your peace, your lasting peace,
a peace that turns those who seek to wage war into patient negotiators,
a peace that will not allow children to be harmed or older persons abandoned,
a peace that calms the fear of families faced with leaving their homes,
a peace that speaks the truth and will not descend to lies or deceit.

Loving God,

your peace will become a reality as those who run from conflict are accepted and helped,
your peace will become reality as the powerful ones think twice before unleashing military might,

your peace will become reality as confrontation gives way to understanding.

We will know your peace as we listen and as we pray.

We will speak of your peace to those who have power and influence.

We will act in the spirit of your peace to give shelter and end conflict.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who knew violence but lived the far more difficult way of peace.



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

This Path We Walk

Words: © 2016 S. Curtis Tuft

Music: Thomas Tallis

This path we walk, through joy and tears,
 a living Way of faith and fears,
 through each step's risk, each sorrow's pain,
 when walked in love, we'll rise again.

When life is shared, together, free
 we'll grow to be all we can be:
 a circle wide will call us home,
 when wrapped in love, we're not alone.

These gifts we bring, this light we hold,
 our songs of grace, our stories told,
 remain un-done, told just in part,
 till shared in love, and known by heart.

When life is shared, together bound,
 God's richest gifts, together found;
 together walk the Spirit's Way
 when love's the guide,
 we shall not stray.

This life we share, a blessing deep;
 a promised gift, now ours to keep.
 God grant our words were spoken true,
 now clothed in life, each day anew.

Benediction & Commissioning

Go. Pray. Serve. With the blessings of Father, Son and Spirit. Amen.

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Additional Lectionary Readings
Year C – Lent 2
Sunday, March 13, 2022

New Revised Standard Version

Genesis 15:1–7, 17–18

God seals the covenant with Abram and Sarai.

15 After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.”² But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”^[a]³ And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.”⁴ But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.”⁵ He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”⁶ And he believed the LORD; and the LORD^[b] reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.”

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

Psalms 27 (VU pp. 753-755) God is my light and my salvation.

The 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?

² When evildoers assail me
 to devour my flesh—
 my adversaries and foes—
 they shall stumble and fall.

³ Though an army encamp against me,
 my heart shall not fear;
 though war rise up against me,
 yet I will be confident.

⁴ One thing I asked of the LORD,
 that will I seek after:
 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.
⁵ For 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.
⁶ Now 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.
⁷ Hear, 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.
⁹ Do 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!
¹⁰ If my father and mother forsake me,
 the LORD will take me up.
¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD,
 and lead me on a level path
 because of my enemies.
¹² Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
 for false witnesses have risen against me,
 and they are breathing out violence.
¹³ I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD
 in the land of the living.
¹⁴ Wait for the LORD;
 be strong, and let your heart take courage;
 wait for the LORD!

Philippians 3:17–4:1

My dear friends, my joy, my crown, hold firm in God.

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters,^[a] join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship^[b] is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation^[c] that it may be conformed to the body of his glory,^[d] by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. 4 ¹ Therefore, my brothers and sisters,^[e] whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

