



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: Beth Moore and Judy Chlebak

March 6, 2022 - Lent 1

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Forty Days and Forty Nights

Music: Leighton G. Hayne

Call to Worship

The news is bleak.

The power of faith is strong.

The love of Christ drives out all fear.

May it transform our living in this time of worship.

Hymn

Let Us Build a House

MV 1

Words and Music: Marty Haugen

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Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
 A place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
 Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace;
 here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
 All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
 where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
 Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace;
 here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
 All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
 to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
 Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face;
 let us bring an end to fear and danger:

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.



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

Today Jesus invites us into the wilderness with him. He invites us to know what it means to worship in spirit and in truth.

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

We light our Lenten candle today mindful that God's light shines through our wanderings, our search for truth. God is the light in our lives - may it ever be so.

Opening Prayer

Gentle Spirit, we have come through the growing excitement of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany. Now we turn ourselves inward . . .

Help us to shine the light of insight we've found, into our hearts to discover what is there. Bless this time of reflection and guide our steps as we journey the Lenten Road that leads to new life. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading

Luke 4:1–13

New Revised Standard Version

Jesus Is Tested in the Wilderness

⁴ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing during those days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”

⁵ The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ⁷ If you worship me, it will all be yours.”

⁸ Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”

⁹ The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. For it is written:

“He will command his angels concerning you

to guard you carefully;

¹¹ they will lift you up in their hands,

so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

¹² Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

¹³ When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.

Reflection

Heaven On Our Mind

Hymn

Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness
Words & Music © 1978 James K. Manley

VU 375

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
 blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
 Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
 stir me from placidness,
 Wind, Wind on the sea.

You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
 then you coaxed up the mountains from the valleys of sleep;
 and over the eons you called to each thing:
 wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
 blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
 Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
 stir me from placidness,
 Wind, Wind on the sea.

You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
 then you whispered in silence when the whole world was still;
 and down in the city you called once again,
 when you blew through your people on the rush of the wind.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
 blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
 Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
 stir me from placidness,
 Wind, Wind on the sea.

You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,
 from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,
 our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
 with bold new decisions your people arise.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
 blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
 Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
 stir me from placidness,
 Wind, Wind on the sea.

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

“We cannot find God in noise and agitation.
 Nature: trees, flowers, and grass grow in silence.
 The stars, the moon, and the sun move in silence.
 What is essential is not what we say
 but what God tells us and what He tells others through us.
 In silence He listens to us;
 in silence He speaks to our souls.
 In silence we are granted
 the privilege of listening to His voice.
 Silence of our eyes.
 Silence of our ears.
 Silence of our mouths.
 Silence of our minds.
 ...in the silence of the heart
 God will speak.” *(Mother Theresa)*



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

It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

MV 30

Words: Ruth Duck
 © 1992 GIA Publications

Music: © 1992 Ron Klusmeier

It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker,
The gray whale sings in the sea,

And by the Spirit, you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a call of life to the Giver
when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver
when high tides break on the shore,

And by the Spirit, you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's the chorus of all creation;
it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation;
a song the universe sings,

And by the Spirit, you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

Benediction & Commissioning

May Jesus who overcame temptation, lead you through the wilderness of your life. May God, creator and sustainer be with you always. Amen.

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Additional Lectionary Readings Year C – Lent 1 Sunday, March 6, 2022

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

New Revised Standard Version

26 When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.” ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Psalm 91

New Revised Standard Version

- ¹ You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
 who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,^[a]
² will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress;
 my God, in whom I trust.”
³ For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
 and from the deadly pestilence;
⁴ he will cover you with his pinions,
 and under his wings you will find refuge;
 his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
⁵ You will not fear the terror of the night,
 or the arrow that flies by day,
⁶ or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
 or the destruction that wastes at noonday.
⁷ A thousand may fall at your side,
 ten thousand at your right hand,
 but it will not come near you.
⁸ You will only look with your eyes
 and see the punishment of the wicked.
⁹ Because you have made the LORD your refuge,^[b]
 the Most High your dwelling place,

¹⁰ no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.

¹¹ For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.

¹² On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

¹³ You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

¹⁴ Those who love me, I will deliver;
I will protect those who know my name.

¹⁵ When they call to me, I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble,
I will rescue them and honor them.

¹⁶ With long life I will satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.

Romans 10:8-13

New Revised Standard Version

⁸ But what does it say?

“The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because^[a] if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”