



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

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

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November 27th, 2022

**ADVENT 1 CAROL SERVICE
HOPE SUNDAY**

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship

We come from a world of darkness

Into a world of light.

We come from a world of weariness

Into one of strength and hope.

We come from a slumbering world.

**Strengthened by the Spirit, we come to awaken our souls
and watch for the coming of the child.**

Introit

Once in Royal David’s City

VU 62

1 Once in royal David's city
stood a lowly cattleshed,
where a mother laid her baby
in a manger for his bed.
Mary was that mother mild,
Jesus Christ her little child.

2 He came down to earth from heaven
who, with God, is over all,
and his shelter was a stable,
and his cradle was a stall.

There among the poor and lowly
lived on earth our Saviour holy.

4 And our eyes at last shall see him,
through his own redeeming love;
for that child who seemed so helpless
is our Lord in heaven above;
and he leads his children on
to the place where he is gone.

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.



Candle Lighting The Candle of Hope



Light for the shadows:
may it show us the way.

A flame of hope:
may our hearts be warmed.

A beacon of possibility:
*may there be light and hope in our living
as we prepare to welcome Jesus.*

Come, bask in the light of Advent. May Hope light the world this Christmas.

Angels We Have Heard on High

VU 38

Carol

1 Angels we have heard on high
sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply,
echoing their joyous strains.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

2 Shepherds, why this jubilee?
Why your joyous strains prolong?

What the gladsome tidings be
which inspire your heavenly song?
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

3 Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee
Christ, the Lord, the newborn King.
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!
Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

Opening Prayer

**As days grow shorter and nights grow longer, we welcome your inner light.
Glow in our hearts, so that what we think, say and do is grounded in calm and compassion.
When the flashiness of the world distracts and disturbs, anchor us in your love.
Remind us that even as we live from day to day, you offer an everlasting home.
Bless our gathering, that we may be present and alert as we open our hearts to your grace.
Amen.**

Carol

O Come, O Come Emmanuel

VU 1

1 O come, O come, Emmanuel,
and ransom captive Israel
that mourns in lowly exile here
until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

3 O come, O come, great God of might,
who to your tribes on Sinai's height
in ancient times once gave the law
in cloud, and majesty, and awe.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

7 O come, Desire of nations, bind
all peoples in one heart and mind;
O bid our sad divisions cease,
and be for us the Prince of Peace.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
shall come to thee, O Israel.

Life and Work of the Church

Carol

The First Noel

VU 91

1 The first Nowell the angel did say
was to certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;
in fields where they lay akeeping their sheep
on a cold winter's night that was so deep.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

2 They looked up and saw a star,
shining in the east, beyond them far;
and to the earth it gave great light,
and so it continued both day and night.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

3 And by the light of that same star
three wise men came from country far;
to seek for a king was their intent,
and to follow the star wherever it went.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

6 Then let us all with one accord
sing praises to our heavenly Lord,
that hath made heaven and earth of nought,
and with his blood our life hath bought.
Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
born is the King of Israel.

Scripture Reading

Matthew 24:36–44 No one knows the hour

³⁶ “But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷ For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸ For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹ and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰ Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹ Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴² Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³ But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴ Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

Carol

I Heard The Bells on Christmas Day

I heard the bells on Christmas day
Their old familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet the words repeat
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along th'unbroken song
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:
"There is no peace on earth," I said,
"For hate is strong and mocks the song
Of peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
With peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Reflection

Hymn

God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen

1. God rest you merry, gentlemen,
Let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's power
when we were gone astray:

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

2. From God our heavenly Father
A blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds
Brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born
The Son of God by name:

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

5. Now to the Lord sing praises,
All you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood
Each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas
All other doth deface:

*O tidings of comfort and joy,
comfort and joy,
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

Carol

O Come, All Ye Faithful

VU 60

1 O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant,
O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem:
come and behold him, born the King of angels;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

3 Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation,
sing, all ye citizens of heaven above;
glory to God in the highest:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

4 See how the shepherds summoned to his cradle,
leaving their flocks, draw nigh with lowly fear;
we too will thither bend our joyful footsteps;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

5 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be glory given;
word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,
O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

Offering

It is the season of Advent, a season of gifts and giving. With love in our hearts, we share our offerings as we anticipate in wonder the birth of the Christ child. We receive these offerings to support the work and care of this community.

COMMUNION

As we come to this table,
we are reminded that this is a banquet prepared for everyone.
All who seek to be nourished and sustained,
all who seek wholeness and compassionate paths to peace and justice,
are welcome here.

God be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift our hearts in prayer.
Let us give thanks to God.
It is good to give God thanks and praise.

Let us pray:
Blessed are you, Breath of peace,
Source of love that knows no boundaries.
Your song of wisdom rang out before the world began.
You send prophets to awaken us
to your approaching Advent among us.

We thank you for those who, like Mary,
 have the strength and courage
 to give birth to your love in the world;
for those who, like the shepherds,
 dare to seek out the Child of Bethlehem;
for those who, like the wise ones,
 actively challenge violent and oppressive powers.

And, as we wait and watch for your coming among us,
 we also remember all with whom you would have us share your feast.
We pray for all who are in sorrow or in pain...
all who are ill or alone...
all who are close to our hearts...

At this time, we remember Jesus,
Who on the night before he died,
took a loaf of bread,
gave you thanks, broke it, and said,
“Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me.”

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup, saying,
“This is the new covenant; remember me.”

**Make us, while many, one.
Make us, though broken, whole.
Make us, despite death, alive.
And so we pray:
Come, Holy Spirit, come.**

And so we join with our siblings around the world in the prayer of Jesus:

**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.**

SHARING THE BREAD AND CUP

The bread of life,
The cup of blessing.
Let us eat and drink together.

Communion is served

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**We thank you, God,
for breaking into our world
and pouring into our lives and our experiences.
We thank you, God,
for this meal of thanksgiving
and the stories of love, grace, and hope that it tells. Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Carol:

Hark, The Herald Angels Sing

VU 48

1 Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconciled!'
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;

with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem!'
Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'

2 Christ, by highest heaven adored,
Christ, the everlasting Lord,
late in time behold him come,
offspring of a virgin's womb.
Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
hail, the incarnate deity,
pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
Jesus, our Emmanuel!
Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'

3 Hail, the heavenborn Prince of Peace!
Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all he brings,
risen with healing in his wings.
Mild he lays his glory by,
born that we no more may die,
born to raise us from the earth,
born to give us second birth.
Hark! the herald angels sing,
'Glory to the newborn King!'

Benediction & Commissioning

Let us go forth to spread hope, drawing strength from what we have received this day. May the light, love, and wisdom of this Advent season guide our way.

Postlude

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Birchcliff Bluffs United Church
ADVENT 1
Year C
Sunday Nov 27, 2022

Psalm 122

New Revised Standard Version

Song of Praise and Prayer for Jerusalem

- ¹ I was glad when they said to me,
“Let us go to the house of the LORD!”
- ² Our feet are standing
within your gates, O Jerusalem.
- ³ Jerusalem—built as a city
that is bound firmly together.
- ⁴ To it the tribes go up,
the tribes of the LORD,
as was decreed for Israel,
to give thanks to the name of the LORD.
- ⁵ For there the thrones for judgment were set up,
the thrones of the house of David.
- ⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.
- ⁷ Peace be within your walls
and security within your towers.”
- ⁸ For the sake of my relatives and friends
I will say, “Peace be within you.”
- ⁹ For the sake of the house of the LORD our God,
I will seek your good.

Isaiah 2:1–5 The Future House of God

² The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

- ² In days to come
the mountain of the LORD’s house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.
- ³ Many peoples shall come and say,

“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

⁴ He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation;
neither shall they learn war any more.

⁵ O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Romans 13:11-14

New Revised Standard Version

An Urgent Appeal

¹¹ Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹² the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off^[a] the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³ let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴ Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.