



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Rev. Gregory Daly: Minister of Word & Sacrament

Karen Chandler: Guest Preacher

Randy Vancourt: Music Director

Reign of Christ Sunday

November 21, 2021

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

High in the Heavens, Eternal God

Music: Greenwood's Psalmody, 1838

Call to Worship (*Richard Bott. Gathering, Pentecost 2 2018, page 49. Used with permission*)

God’s reign is coming!
God’s reign is here!
We live God’s reign-guided by Christ,
the king of hearts,
the king of our souls,
the king of our lives.
We live by God’s reign--filled by the Spirit,
serving in love,
celebrating life,
Let’s worship God together!



Response

Come, O Fount of Every Blessing

VU 559

Words: Robert Robinson 1758

Music: John Wyeth

*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.*

*Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.*

*Jesus taught me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
precious presence, precious blood.*

*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.*

Life & Work of the Church



Land Acknowledgement



As we prepare for worship, we 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 Mississauga's of the Credit and Scugog, part of the Williams Treaty. Today, the meeting place around Toronto is still the home to many Indigenous people from across Turtle Island. We are grateful for the opportunity to live and work on this territory. We seek to be mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

Candle Lighting

Opening Hymn

Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

VU 651

Words: Welsh, William Williams English: Peter Williams and William Williams
Music: John Hughes

*Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but thou art mighty,
hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me till I want no more,
feed me till I want no more.*

*Open now the crystal fountain,
whence the healing stream doth flow;
let the fire and cloudy pillar
lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,*

*be thou still my strength and shield,
be thou still my strength and shield.*

*When I tread the verge of Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death, and hell's destruction,
land me safe on Canaan's side:
songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to thee,
I will ever give to thee.*

Prayer for Grace

*Everlasting God,
some days it feels like we are being
pushed and pulled from all sides,
and the only thing that feels grounded
is our relationship with you.
We only need to say 'yes' to you in all facets of our lives
and you can open our eyes to wonders and wisdom
we could never have imagined before.
Help us listen for the truths that spill over from scripture
and the way and life of Jesus, your Son,
that we may follow and be free. Amen.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Prayer of Illumination



*Help us O God, to come to you with open lives to receive your words.
May we give them new life as we listen to what you have to say.
Open our hearts as we embark on this journey with each other and with you. Amen*

2 Samuel 23:1-7

New Revised Standard Version

Now these are the last words of David:

The oracle of David, son of Jesse,
the oracle of the man whom God exalted,
the anointed of the God of Jacob,
the favorite of the Strong One of Israel:

²The spirit of the LORD speaks through me,
his word is upon my tongue.

³The God of Israel has spoken,
the Rock of Israel has said to me:
One who rules over people justly,

ruling in the fear of God,
is like the light of morning,
like the sun rising on a cloudless morning,
gleaming from the rain on the grassy land.

Is not my house like this with God?
For he has made with me an everlasting covenant,
ordered in all things and secure.

Will he not cause to prosper
all my help and my desire?

But the godless are all like thorns that are thrown away;
for they cannot be picked up with the hand;

to touch them one uses an iron bar
or the shaft of a spear.

And they are entirely consumed in fire on the spot.

Hymn

You, God, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd

VU 210

Words: Sylvia Dunstan © 1991 G.I.A. Publications, Inc.
Music: Henry Purcell

*1 You, God, are both lamb and shepherd.
You, God, are both prince and slave.
You, peacemaker and sword-bringer
of the way you took and gave.
You, the everlasting instant;
you, whom we both scorn and crave.*

*2 Clothed in light upon the mountain,
stripped of might upon the cross,
shining in eternal glory,
beggared by a soldier's toss.
You, the everlasting instant;
you who are both gift and cost.*

*3 You, who walk each day beside us,
sit in power at God's side.
You, who preach a way that's narrow,
have a love that reaches wide.
You, the everlasting instant;
you, who are our pilgrim guide.*

*4 Worthy is our earthly Jesus!
Worthy is our cosmic Christ!
Worthy your defeat and victory.
Worthy still your peace and strife.
You, the everlasting instant;
you, who are our death and life.*

John 18:33-37

New Revised Standard Version

³³ Then Pilate entered the headquarters again, summoned Jesus, and asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” ³⁴ Jesus answered, “Do you ask this on your own, or did others tell you about me?” ³⁵ Pilate replied, “I am not a Jew, am I? Your own nation and the chief priests have handed you over to me. What have you done?” ³⁶ Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not from this world. If my kingdom were from this world, my followers would be fighting to keep me from being handed over to the Jews. But as it is, my kingdom is not from here.” ³⁷ Pilate asked him, “So you are a king?” Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God

Sermon**Thy Kingdom Come****Hymn****I Have Called You By Your Name****MV 161**

Words and Music: Daniel Charles Damon © 1995 Hope Publishing Co.

*I have called you by your name, you are mine;
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.
I will not abandon you;
all my promises are true.
You are gifted, called, and chosen; you are mine.*

*I will help you learn my name as you go;
read it written in my people, help them grow.
Pour the water in my name,
speak the word your soul can claim,
offer Jesus' body given long ago.*

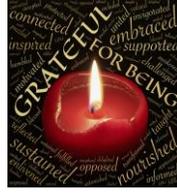
*I have given you a name, it is mine;
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.
With my wonder in your soul,
make my wounded children whole;
go and tell my precious people they are mine.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering our Gifts to God

Prayers of the People

we pray to you, our God.



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

Sometimes a Light Surprises

Words: William Cowper Music: Franz Josef Haydn

*Sometimes a light surprises the child of God who sings:
the light of one who rises with gentle, healing wings.
When comforts are declining, God grants the soul again
a season of clear shining, to cheer it after rain.*

*In holy contemplation with joy we shall pursue
the theme of God's salvation, and find it ever new.
Set free from present sorrow we cheerfully can say,
let the unknown tomorrow bring with it what it may.*

*It can bring with it nothing but God will bear us through.
Who gives the lilies clothing will clothe the people, too.
Beneath the spreading heavens no creature but is fed:
the one who feeds the ravens will give the children bread.*

*Though vine and fig tree neither their yearly fruit should bear,
though all the fields should wither, nor flocks nor herds be there,
yet God, the same abiding, through praise shall tune my voice,
for while in love confiding I cannot but rejoice.*

Benediction & Commissioning

Postlude

King of Glory, King of Peace

Music: J.D. Jones

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Other Lectionary Readings

Psalm 132:1-12

New Revised Standard Version

¹ O LORD, remember in David's favor
all the hardships he endured;
² how he swore to the LORD
and vowed to the Mighty One of Jacob,
³ "I will not enter my house
or get into my bed;
⁴ I will not give sleep to my eyes
or slumber to my eyelids,
⁵ until I find a place for the LORD,
a dwelling place for the Mighty One of Jacob."

⁶ We heard of it in Ephrathah;
we found it in the fields of Jaar.

⁷ "Let us go to his dwelling place;
let us worship at his footstool."

⁸ Rise up, O LORD, and go to your resting place,
you and the ark of your might.

⁹ Let your priests be clothed with righteousness,
and let your faithful shout for joy.

¹⁰ For your servant David's sake
do not turn away the face of your anointed one.

¹¹ The LORD swore to David a sure oath
from which he will not turn back:

"One of the sons of your body
I will set on your throne.

¹² If your sons keep my covenant
and my decrees that I shall teach them,
their sons also, forevermore,
shall sit on your throne."

Revelation 1:4b-8

New Revised Standard Version

⁴ Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the sovereigns of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

⁷ Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him, even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

⁸ "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.