



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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Reader: Betty McCulloch

January 21, 2024

Third after Epiphany

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

Together we have crossed into a new year. Let us carry the peace of Christ’s love in our hearts.

So that we may make peace possible in our time.

The candle is lit.

Let this candle light shine through our daily lives as we follow Christ’s ways.

May the light of peace shine through us and shine on all God’s children.

Land Acknowledgement

We now take a moment to acknowledge the sacred land beside the water on which Birchcliff Bluffs United Church stands. This land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit River.

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 Hymn

O Jesus, I Have Promised

VU 120

1 O Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
remain forever near me, my Saviour and my friend:
I shall not fear the journey if you are by my side,
nor wander from the pathway if you will be my guide.

2 O let me feel you near me: the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me, around me and within;
but, Jesus, then draw nearer and shield my soul from sin.

3 O let me hear you speaking in accents clear and still,
above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will;
O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control;
now speak, and make me listen, O guardian of my soul.

4 O Jesus, you have promised to all who follow you,
that where you are in glory your servant shall be too.
And Jesus, I have promised to serve you to the end;
O give me grace to follow, my Saviour and my friend.

Call to Worship

Our amazing Creator has great things in store for us.

But we must be patient, hopeful, and diligent.

Let us worship GOD who continues to bless us with enduring love.

Thanks be to God.

Life and Work

Opening Prayer

In our time together, let us keep alive in us the hope of the angel's song.

Push us to live out the love of the babe in the manger.

At this time of celebrating new beginnings...

We begin the new year with faith, and move into the unknown with hope.

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture **Psalm 62**

Yes, my soul, find rest in God; my hope comes through my faith.

⁶ Truly God is my rock and my salvation; my fortress, I will not be shaken.

⁷ My salvation and my honor depend on God; my mighty rock, my refuge.

⁸ Trust God at all times, you people; pour out your hearts for God is our refuge.

⁹ Surely the lowborn are but a breath, the highborn are but a lie. If weighed on a balance, they are nothing; together they are only a breath.

¹⁰ Do not trust in extortion or put vain hope in stolen goods; though your riches increase, do not set your heart on them.

¹¹ One thing God has spoken, two things I have heard: "Power belongs to you, God,

¹² and with you, Lord, is unfailing love"; and, "You reward everyone according to what they have done."

Mark 1:14-20

Jesus Announces the Good News: Calls His First Disciples

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

¹⁶ As Jesus walked beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ “Come, follow me,” Jesus said, “and I will send you out to fish for people.” ¹⁸ At once they left their nets and followed him.

¹⁹ When he had gone a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John in a boat, preparing their nets. ²⁰ Without delay he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men and followed him.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

VU 563

1 Jesus, you have come to the lakeshore
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones;
you only asked me to follow humbly.

O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

2 You know so well my possessions;
my boat carries no gold and no weapons;
- you will find there my nets and labour.

O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

3 You need my hands, full of caring
through my labours to give others rest,
and constant love that keeps on loving.

O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

4 You, who have fished other oceans,
ever longed for by souls who are waiting,
my loving friend, as thus you call me.

O Jesus, with your eyes you have searched me,
and while smiling, have spoken my name;
now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me;
by your side I will seek other seas.

Sermon

Something to Live For

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

O Jesus, Let Me Walk With Thee

VU 560

1 O Jesus, let me walk with thee
in lowly paths of service free;
teach me thy secret, help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.

2 Help me the slow of heart to move
with some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.

3 Teach me thy patience; still with thee,
in closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sure and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,

4 in hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broadening way,
in peace that only thou canst give,
with thee, O Jesus, let me live.

Offering

We meet Jesus in all our neighbours near and far.

May we reflect God's love and grace and through our gifts of time and money, do for others all we would do for Jesus. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Loving God, we come to you this day knowing we will experience your presence in this place.

You are in the stained glass windows, in the Bible we hold so dearly, you are in the songs we sing, the stories we share, the people we worship with. We meet you at the table, the font of water, in us and through us.

May your presence continue to guide us, your wisdom show us our way, that we may love our neighbour as we pray you love us...

Moment of silence

**Gracious God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,
For yours is the kingdom and the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever, Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

I Danced in the Morning (v. 1, 2, 4, 5)

VU 352

1 I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
and I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
and I came from heaven and I danced on the earth;
at Bethlehem I had my birth.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

2 I danced for the scribe and the pharisee,
but they would not dance and they would not follow me;
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
they came with me and the dance went on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

4 I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
it's hard to dance with the devil on your back;
they buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
but I am the dance and I still go on.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

5 They cut me down and I leap up high;
I am the life that will never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he.

Dance, then, wherever you may be;
I am the Lord of the dance, said he,
and I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

Commissioning and Benediction

Now may the peace and promises of God go with each of you.

May God strengthen and guide you.

Go in peace and love.

Amen.

Choral Benediction

Go Now In Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, amen, amen!

Postlude

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