



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Rev. Gregory Daly: Minister of Word & Sacrament

Rev. Carmen Llanos: Minister of Community Development

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

Reader: Patricia Reid & Kayin Paul

June 20, 2021 – National Indigenous Day Service

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

For The Beauty of the Earth

Music: Conrad Kocher

Acknowledging Kinship

Creator, we come together today as diverse, united peoples to give thanks to you, Maker of Heaven and Earth.

We come to listen, to learn, to sing and pray, to consider our place in the order of things you have created and are creating.

It is right and good to give thanks for the land on which we stand, for this is wisdom we learn from Indigenous peoples of this land—that we are one with the earth, its waters, air, animals, and plants.

Such wisdom, our interdependence with all life, is something too easy to forget in our busy lives! It is a gift and a challenge to us to remember.

And so we take time to acknowledge the lands on which we now live.

Many of us have come from other places, arriving from distant shores, our families arriving years ago or some of us more recently. When settlers came, they were met by others who were already here, already knew these lands, and already lived rich full lives based on ancient and proud cultures.

Let us take time to name the peoples of this land now. The land is the territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and the Mississauga’s of the Credit and Scugog. What we now know as Scarborough is part of the Williams Treaty lands. God, as we acknowledge the peoples who have lived on and stewarded these lands since time immemorial, and their continued claims to the land, help us to become neighbours that we might live together in better ways.



For we are all kin in Christ, “All My Relations,” with each other and this earth, its waters, air, animals, and plants.

Call to Worship

Be still my soul and wait for God: from God comes my salvation.

God alone is my rock; I shall never be shaken.

On God rests our deliverance and our honour.

My mighty rock, my refuge, my strength is in God.

Trust in God at all times, O people.

In love, we pour out our hearts before God in worship.

Response

God Is Here

VU 389

Words: Fred Pratt Green © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.
Music: William P. Rowlands

*God is here! As we your people
meet to offer praise and prayer,
may we find in fuller measure
what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us,
all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit
into open minds and hearts.*

*God of all, of church and kingdom,
in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel;
help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day's dedication,
all we have to give, receive;
we, who cannot live without you,
we adore you! We believe!*

Life & Work of the Church

Welcome to online worship

*Whoever you are, however you identify, wherever you come from, you
are welcome here at Birchcliff Bluffs United Church*



Candle Lighting – Sacred Fire



Opening Hymn

Many and Great, O God, Are Your Works

VU 308

Words: © Dakota Conference, United Church of Christ
Cree Translation, Transliteration: © 1987 Stan McKay
Music: Dakota melody

*Many and great, O God, are your works,
Maker of earth and sky.
Your hands have set the heavens with stars,
your fingers spread the mountains and plains.
Lo, at your word the waters were formed;*

deep seas obey your voice.

*Grant unto us communion with you,
O star-abiding one.
Come unto us and dwell with us,
with you are found the gifts of life.
Bless us with life that has no end,
eternal life with you*

Prayer of Approach

*Holy One, you are our rock, a foundation upon which we stand.
Fill our hearts now with joy at your deep, abiding presence.
Encourage us by the teachings of Christ
to live with care and compassion for self, friend, and neighbour.
Bless us now as we reflect on our relations with Indigenous peoples
—our kin—as diverse yet united peoples. Amen.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

And Now For Something Completely Different



*O God, we are grieving.
O God, we are shocked.
O God, we are horrified.*

Hymn

Creating God, Your Fingers Trace

Words: Jeffery W. Rowthorn © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.
Music: Adapted from Franz Joseph Haydn

VU 265

*Creating God, your fingers trace
the bold designs of farthest space;
let sun and moon and stars and light
and what lies hidden praise your might.*

*Sustaining God, your hands uphold
earth's mysteries known or yet untold;
let waters fragile blend with air,
enabling life, proclaim your care.*

*Redeeming God, your arms embrace
all now despised for creed or race;
let peace, descending like a dove,
make known on earth your healing love.*

*Indwelling God, your gospel claims
one family with a billion names;*

*let every life be touched by grace
until we praise you face to face*

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*

Job 38:1-11

New Revised Standard Version

Then God answered Job out of the whirlwind:

²“Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

³Gird up your loins,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

⁴“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

⁵Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

⁶On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

⁷when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

⁸“Or who shut in the sea with doors
when it burst out from the womb?—

⁹when I made the clouds its garment,
and thick darkness its swaddling band,

¹⁰and prescribed bounds for it,
and set bars and doors,

¹¹and said, ‘Thus far shall you come, and no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stopped’?

Mark 4:35-41

New Revised Standard Version

³⁵ On that day, when evening had come, Jesus said to them, “Let us go across to the other side.”

³⁶ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷ A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸ But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?” ³⁹ He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace! Be still!” Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰ Jesus said to them, “Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?” ⁴¹ And they were

filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey?”

This is the Gospel message for us to consider today.

Thanks be to God

Sermon

Wake Up



Hymn

Eternal God, So Strong to Save

VU 659

Words: William Whiting
Music: John Bacchus Dykes

*Eternal God, so strong to save,
whose arm has bound the restless wave,
who bade the mighty ocean deep
its own appointed limits keep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.*

*O Christ, whose voice the waters heard,
and hushed their raging at thy word,
who walked upon the foaming deep,
and calm amid the storm did sleep:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.*

*O Holy Spirit, who didst brood
upon the chaos dark and rude,
and bade its angry tumult cease,
and gave for wild confusion, peace:
O hear us when we cry to thee
for those in peril on the sea.*

*O Trinity of love and power,
all travellers guard in danger's hour.
From rock and tempest, fire and foe,
protect them wheresoe'er they go:
thus evermore shall rise to thee
glad hymns of praise from land and sea.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering



Prayers of the People



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

Each Blade of Grass

MV 37

Words: © 2005 Keri K. Wehlander

Music: Anonymous - from The United States' Sacred Harmony, 1799

*Each blade of grass, ev'ry wing that soars,
the waves that sweep across a distant shore,
make full the circle of God.*

*Each laughing child, ev'ry gentle eye,
a forest lit beneath a moon-bright sky,
make full the circle of God.*

*Each silent paw, ev'ry rounded stone,
the buzz that echoes from a honey'd comb,
make full the circle of God.*

*Each fire-brimmed star, ev'ry out-stretched hand,
the wind that leaps and sails across the land,
make full the circle of God.*

*Each icy peak, ev'ry patterned shell,
the joyous chorus that the dawn foretells,
make full the circle of God.*

*Each cosmic hue, ev'ry creature's way,
all form the beauty of this vast array,
making full the circle of God.*

Benediction & Commissioning

Postlude

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Other Resources for Today

Prayer for the Students of Kamloops Residential School
(Moderator Richard Bott, United Church of Canada)

Prayers of the People
(Rev. Read Sherman Trinity United Church, Montreal and participant in right relations work in Conseil régional Nakonha:ka Regional Council)

Other Lectionary Readings

Psalm 133 New Revised Standard Version

¹ How very good and pleasant it is
 when kindred live together in unity!
² It is like the precious oil on the head,
 running down upon the beard,
on the beard of Aaron,
 running down over the collar of his robes.
³ It is like the dew of Hermon,
 which falls on the mountains of Zion.
For there God ordained a blessing,
 life forevermore.

2 Corinthians 6:1-13 New Revised Standard Version

As we work together, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ² For God says,

“At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³ We are putting no obstacle in anyone’s way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴ but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵ beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶ by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷ truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸ in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹ as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰ as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

¹¹ We have spoken frankly to you Corinthians; our heart is wide open to you. ¹² There is no restriction in our affections, but only in yours. ¹³ In return—I speak as to children—open wide your hearts also.