



## **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:** Shirley Scott

**August 22, 2021**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

### **Prelude**

#### **Walk In The Light**

Music: A.H. Brown

### **Call to Worship**

Hope is where love is found.

*We come seeking hope.*

*Hope for ourselves and for all humanity.*

Hope offers us possibilities.

*We come with anticipation and joy in our hearts.*

Let us live into that joy as we worship God through prayer and song.

### **Response**

#### **God Prepare Me**

**MV 18**

Words and Music: John W. Thompson and Randy Scruggs  
© 1982 Whole Armor & Full Armor Publishing Co.

*God, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
pure and holy tried and true; with thanksgiving,  
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

*God, prepare me to be a sanctuary,  
pure and holy tried and true; with thanksgiving,  
I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

### **Life & Work of the Church**



*Welcome to online worship.*

*Special Welcome to folks from Heritage  
they join us for online worship today. We are glad you are with us.*

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

*United Church in Markham as*



## Land Acknowledgement

### Candle Lighting



## Opening Hymn

## Come and Seek The Ways of Wisdom

## MV 10

Words: Ruth Duck / Music: Donna Kasbohm  
Words © 1996 and Music © 1997 The Pilgrim Press

*Come and seek the ways of Wisdom,  
she who danced when earth was new.  
Follow closely what she teaches,  
for her words are right and true.  
Wisdom clears the path to justice,  
Showing us what love must do.*

*Listen to the voice of Wisdom,  
crying in the market-place.  
Hear the Word made flesh among us,  
full of glory, truth, and grace.  
When the word takes root and ripens,  
peace and righteousness embrace.*

*Sister Wisdom, come, assist us;  
nurture all who seek rebirth.  
Spirit guide and close companion,  
bring to light our sacred worth.  
Free us to become your people,  
holy friends of God and earth.*

## Prayer of Approach

God of grace and mercy, be present with us in this space as we gather together.  
Help us to forge new ways to be family and community for each other, singing new songs and walking new paths together.  
In the ever-changing and uncertain world where we find ourselves, help us to know and be assured of your unending power, love, and mercy.  
We know that you hold us in our anxiety and distress, and celebrate with us in our joys. Calm our hearts and minds and give us hope in you, today and always. Amen



WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

**And Now for Something Completely Different**



**Prayer for the Loss in Kamloops, BC**

*Rev. Murray Pruden, Executive Minister, Indigenous Ministries & Justice, The United Church of Canada*

**Hymn**

**Take All The Lost Home**

Words and Music: Joe Wise  
© 1976, 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.

*Take all the lost home  
Remember their names all  
Their journey is yours, friend  
Their faces are grey 'til you call.*

*Walk close by the children  
and learn their refrains  
and leave your umbrellas  
while you learn to walk in the rain.*

*Remember the one cup you share in my name  
The wine and the water are one and the same, all the same.*

*Comfort the old ones  
Be tender and strong  
Rekindle the tired dreams  
and sing them your song, sing your song.*

*The bread that is broken won't be one again  
unless in your healing you gather each one and each grain*

*Take all the lost home  
Walk close by the children  
and comfort the old ones  
'til I come again, come again.*

*Take all the lost home.  
Walk close by the children.  
Take all the lost home.*

## 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*

### John 6: 56-69

New Revised Standard Version

<sup>56</sup> Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. <sup>57</sup> Just as ABBA father sent me, and I live because of this, so whoever eats me will live because of me. <sup>58</sup> This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” <sup>59</sup> Jesus said these things while teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

<sup>60</sup> When many of the disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” <sup>61</sup> But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? <sup>62</sup> Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? <sup>63</sup> It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. <sup>64</sup> But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. <sup>65</sup> And Jesus said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by ABBA father.”

<sup>66</sup> Because of this many of the disciples turned back and no longer went about with Jesus. <sup>67</sup> So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” <sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered, “Teacher, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. <sup>69</sup> We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

### Ephesians 6: 10-20

New Revised Standard Version

<sup>10</sup> Finally, be strong in the strength of God’s power. <sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. <sup>13</sup> Therefore take up the whole armour of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. <sup>14</sup> Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. <sup>15</sup> As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup> With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup> Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

<sup>18</sup> Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. <sup>19</sup> Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, <sup>20</sup> for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

The word of God for the people of God.  
*Thanks be to God*

**Sermon**

**A Photo Finish that's Hard to Swallow**



**Hymn**

**It's So Sweet To Walk With Jesus**

Words and Music: Albert Benjamin Simpson

*It's so sweet to walk with Jesus,  
Step by step and day by day;  
Stepping in the very footprints,  
Walking with you all the way.*

*Step by step, step by step,  
I would walk with Jesus,  
All the day, all the way,  
Keeping step with Jesus.*

*Step by step I'll walk with Jesus,  
Just a moment at a time;  
Heights I have not wings to soar to  
Step by step my feet can climb.*

*Step by step, step by step,  
I would walk with Jesus,  
All the day, all the way,  
Keeping step with Jesus.*

*Here awhile we walk with Jesus  
But the time will not be long  
'Til the night shall change to morning  
And the sorrow into song.*

*Step by step, step by step,  
I would walk with Jesus,  
All the day, all the way,  
Keeping step with Jesus.*

*Jesus keep me closer, closer,  
Step by step and day by day;  
Stepping in your very footprints  
Walking with you all the way.*

*Step by step, step by step,  
I would walk with Jesus,  
All the day, all the way,  
Keeping step with Jesus.*

#### 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

#### I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me

VU 575

African-American Spiritual

*I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, now, anytime!*

*I'm gonna live so God can use me  
anywhere, now, anytime!*

*I'm gonna work so God can use me  
anywhere, now, anytime!*

*I'm gonna work so God can use me  
anywhere, now, anytime!*

*I'm gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, now, anytime!*

*I'm gonna pray so God can use me  
anywhere, now, anytime!*

*I'm gonna sing so God can use me  
anywhere, now, anytime!  
I'm gonna sing so God can use me  
anywhere, now, anytime!*



**Benediction & Commissioning**

**Postlude**

**Perhaps It Sounds**  
(Glaubensstimme)

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## Other Lectionary Readings

**United Church of Canada Resources related to Residential School site discoveries:**  
[Resources to Bring the Children Home | The United Church of Canada \(united-church.ca\)](http://www.united-church.ca)

### 1 Kings 8: 1-43

### New Revised Standard Version

**8** Then Solomon assembled the elders of Israel and all the heads of the tribes, the leaders of the ancestral houses of the Israelites, before King Solomon in Jerusalem, to bring up the ark of the covenant of the LORD out of the city of David, which is Zion. **2** All the people of Israel assembled to King Solomon at the festival in the month Ethanim, which is the seventh month. **3** And all the elders of Israel came, and the priests carried the ark. **4** So they brought up the ark of the LORD, the tent of meeting, and all the holy vessels that were in the tent; the priests and the Levites brought them up. **5** King Solomon and all the congregation of Israel, who had assembled before him, were with him before the ark, sacrificing so many sheep and oxen that they could not be counted or numbered. **6** Then the priests brought the ark of the covenant of the LORD to its place, in the inner sanctuary of the house, in the most holy place, underneath the wings of the cherubim. **7** For the cherubim spread out their wings over the place of the ark, so that the cherubim made a covering above the ark and its poles. **8** The poles were so long that the ends of the poles were seen from the holy place in front of the inner sanctuary; but they could not be seen from outside; they are there to this day. **9** There was nothing in the ark except the two tablets of stone that Moses had placed there at Horeb, where the LORD made a covenant with the Israelites, when they came out of the land of Egypt. **10** And when the priests came out of the holy place, a cloud filled the house of the LORD, **11** so that the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud; for the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD.

**12** Then Solomon said,

“The LORD has said that he would dwell in thick darkness.

**13** I have built you an exalted house,  
a place for you to dwell in forever.”

**14** Then the king turned around and blessed all the assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel stood. **15** He said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who with his hand has fulfilled what he promised with his mouth to my father David, saying, **16** ‘Since the day that I brought my people Israel out of Egypt, I have not chosen a city from any of the tribes of Israel in which to build a house, that my name might be there; but I chose David to be over my people Israel.’ **17** My father David had it in mind to build a house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. **18** But the LORD said to my father David, ‘You did well to consider building a house for my name; **19** nevertheless you shall not build the house, but your son who shall be born to you shall build the house for my name.’ **20** Now the LORD has upheld the promise that he made; for I have risen in the place of my father David; I sit on the throne of Israel, as the LORD promised, and have built the house for the name of the LORD, the God of Israel. **21** There I have provided a place for the ark, in which is the covenant of the LORD that he made with our ancestors when he brought them out of the land of Egypt.”

**22** Then Solomon stood before the altar of the LORD in the presence of all the assembly of Israel, and spread out his hands to heaven. **23** He said, “O LORD, God of Israel, there is no God like you



in heaven above or on earth beneath, keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants who walk before you with all their heart, <sup>24</sup> the covenant that you kept for your servant my father David as you declared to him; you promised with your mouth and have this day fulfilled with your hand. <sup>25</sup> Therefore, O LORD, God of Israel, keep for your servant my father David that which you promised him, saying, ‘There shall never fail you a successor before me to sit on the throne of Israel, if only your children look to their way, to walk before me as you have walked before me.’ <sup>26</sup> Therefore, O God of Israel, let your word be confirmed, which you promised to your servant my father David.

<sup>27</sup> “But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Even heaven and the highest heaven cannot contain you, much less this house that I have built! <sup>28</sup> Regard your servant’s prayer and his plea, O LORD my God, heeding the cry and the prayer that your servant prays to you today; <sup>29</sup> that your eyes may be open night and day toward this house, the place of which you said, ‘My name shall be there,’ that you may heed the prayer that your servant prays toward this place. <sup>30</sup> Hear the plea of your servant and of your people Israel when they pray toward this place; O hear in heaven your dwelling place; heed and forgive.

<sup>31</sup> “If someone sins against a neighbor and is given an oath to swear, and comes and swears before your altar in this house, <sup>32</sup> then hear in heaven, and act, and judge your servants, condemning the guilty by bringing their conduct on their own head, and vindicating the righteous by rewarding them according to their righteousness.

<sup>33</sup> “When your people Israel, having sinned against you, are defeated before an enemy but turn again to you, confess your name, pray and plead with you in this house, <sup>34</sup> then hear in heaven, forgive the sin of your people Israel, and bring them again to the land that you gave to their ancestors.

<sup>35</sup> “When heaven is shut up and there is no rain because they have sinned against you, and then they pray toward this place, confess your name, and turn from their sin, because you punish<sup>[a]</sup> them, <sup>36</sup> then hear in heaven, and forgive the sin of your servants, your people Israel, when you teach them the good way in which they should walk; and grant rain on your land, which you have given to your people as an inheritance.

<sup>37</sup> “If there is famine in the land, if there is plague, blight, mildew, locust, or caterpillar; if their enemy besieges them in any<sup>[b]</sup> of their cities; whatever plague, whatever sickness there is; <sup>38</sup> whatever prayer, whatever plea there is from any individual or from all your people Israel, all knowing the afflictions of their own hearts so that they stretch out their hands toward this house; <sup>39</sup> then hear in heaven your dwelling place, forgive, act, and render to all whose hearts you know—according to all their ways, for only you know what is in every human heart— <sup>40</sup> so that they may fear you all the days that they live in the land that you gave to our ancestors.

<sup>41</sup> “Likewise when a foreigner, who is not of your people Israel, comes from a distant land because of your name <sup>42</sup>—for they shall hear of your great name, your mighty hand, and your outstretched arm—when a foreigner comes and prays toward this house, <sup>43</sup> then hear in heaven your dwelling place, and do according to all that the foreigner calls to you, so that all the peoples of the earth may know your name and fear you, as do your people Israel, and so that they may know that your name has been invoked on this house that I have built.

How lovely is your dwelling place,  
O LORD of hosts!

<sup>2</sup> My soul longs, indeed it faints  
for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh sing for joy  
to the living God.

<sup>3</sup> Even the sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for herself,  
where she may lay her young,  
at your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.

<sup>4</sup> Happy are those who live in your house,  
ever singing your praise.

*Selah*

<sup>5</sup> Happy are those whose strength is in you,  
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

<sup>6</sup> As they go through the valley of Baca  
they make it a place of springs;  
the early rain also covers it with pools.

<sup>7</sup> They go from strength to strength;  
the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

<sup>8</sup> O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
give ear, O God of Jacob!

*Selah*

<sup>9</sup> Behold our shield, O God;  
look on the face of your anointed.

<sup>10</sup> For a day in your courts is better  
than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God  
than live in the tents of wickedness.

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD God is a sun and shield;  
he bestows favor and honor.

No good thing does the LORD withhold  
from those who walk uprightly.

<sup>12</sup> O LORD of hosts,  
happy is everyone who trusts in you.