



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

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

Minister of Community Development: Rev. Carmen Llanos

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

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October 2nd, 2022 World Wide Communion Sunday

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Call to Worship

Who is welcome at Christ's table?

Everyone!

No matter their economic status, social status, society labels?

Yes, everyone!

You ... and me?

Yes! Christ welcomes everyone to the banquet table.

Ah ... but do we?

Introit

Holy Spirit, Hear Us

VU 377

Holy Spirit, hear us,
help us while we sing;
breathe into the music
of the praise we bring.

Holy Spirit, shine now
on the book we read;
light its holy pages
with the truth we need.

Holy Spirit, prompt us
when we bow to pray;
speak within and teach us
what we ought to say.

Holy Spirit, help us
daily by your might,
what is wrong to conquer,
and to choose the right.

Land Acknowledgement

We take a moment to acknowledge the sacred land beside the water on which we gather. 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 the Mississaugas of the Credit and Scugog. The lands where Birchcliff Bluffs United Church sits are 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 and we seek to be mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.



Candle Lighting

We light this candle inviting the Spirit of God to be with us.

Light candle here

We feel its presence and know we are not alone.

Opening Prayer

With water and light you created all things, O God.

Pour down on your creation the water that gives new life. Stream down on all places the light that gives growth. Let it be so. Amen

Hymn

Great is Thy Faithfulness

VU 288

1 Great is thy faithfulness, God our Creator;
there is no shadow of turning with thee;
thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not;
as thou hast been thou forever will be.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow -
wondrous the portion thy blessings provide.

Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
all I have needed thy hand hath provided -
great is thy faithfulness, ever to me!

Life and Work of the Church

Scripture Reading Lamentations 3:22-26

- ²² The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,^{*}
his mercies never come to an end;
²³ they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
²⁴ ‘The LORD is my portion,’ says my soul,
‘therefore I will hope in him.’
²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.
²⁶ It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

Gospel Luke 17:5-10

- ⁵ The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!”
⁶ The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you.
⁷ “Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’?
⁸ Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’?
⁹ Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded?
¹⁰ So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!

Sermon Don't Forget the Mustard!

Hymn

A Place At The Table

For everyone born, a place at the table,
for everyone born, clean water and bread,
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,
for everyone born, a star over head.

And God will delight
when we are creators of justice and joy,
Yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy.

For everyone born, a place at the table,
revising the roles, deciding to share,
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,
for everyone born, a system that's fair.

And God will delight
when we are creators of justice and joy,
Yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy.

For young and for old, a place at the table,
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,
for young and for old, the right to belong.

And God will delight
when we are creators of justice and joy,
Yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy.

For everyone born, a place at the table,
to live without fear, and simply to be,
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,
for everyone born, the right to be free.

And God will delight
when we are creators of justice and joy,
Yes, God will delight
when we are creators of justice,
justice and joy, justice and joy.

Offering

We come to you, our God, with praise and thanksgiving,

May our offerings help us to fulfil your promise of there is enough for all. Amen.

Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give God our thanks and praise.

From the moment of creation we have never been alone, thanks be to God!

Even when we don't know where to go or who to follow, God nourishes us where we are planted. We place our hopes and dreams in God's hands, and God assures us we will never be alone. We too continue to be showered by God's grace trusting in God's love within and among us.

Let us join together in calling up the Holy Spirit to join us at this table.

Bless us once more, loving Spirit, that as we gather around your table we may know and feel your presence. Bless these symbols we take in your name, may they strengthen our relationship with you and each other. Amen.

Sharing of the Bread and Cup.

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray once more, together:

Through communion with you, O Christ, we are made new. Through what we have said and done at this table, we have remembered your self-giving. Through your Spirit we have been empowered in your name to go into the world to share your story. Thank you for the gift of such abundance...

We now take a moment to remember those we keep in our prayers.

**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 them that 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,
Forever and ever, Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

It's a Song of Praise to the Maker

MV 30

It's a song of praise to the Maker,
the thrush sings high in the tree.
It's a song of praise to the Maker,
The gray whale sings in the sea,

And by the Spirit, you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a call of life to the Giver
when waves and waterfalls roar.
It's a call of life to the Giver
when high tides break on the shore,

And by the Spirit, you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's a hymn of love to the Lover;
the bumblebees hum along.
It's a hymn of love to the Lover,
the summer breeze joins the song,

And by the Spirit, you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

It's the chorus of all creation;
it's sung by all living things.
It's the chorus of all creation;
a song the universe sings,

And by the Spirit, you and I
can join our voice to the holy cry
and sing, sing, sing to the Maker too.

Benediction & Commissioning

We leave this place knowing God goes with us, showing us the way,
Ready to catch us when we fall, loving us as we walk together in God's light. Go now in peace.
Amen.

Postlude

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**Birchcliff Bluffs United Church
Additional Lectionary**

Lamentations 1:1-6 New Revised Standard Version

The Deserted City

1 How lonely sits the city
that once was full of people!
How like a widow she has become,
she that was great among the nations!
She that was a princess among the provinces
has become subject to forced labor.

² She weeps bitterly in the night,
with tears on her cheeks;
among all her lovers,
she has no one to comfort her;
all her friends have dealt treacherously with her;
they have become her enemies.

³ Judah has gone into exile with suffering
and hard servitude;
she lives now among the nations;
she finds no resting place;
her pursuers have all overtaken her
in the midst of her distress.

⁴ The roads to Zion mourn,
for no one comes to the festivals;
all her gates are desolate;
her priests groan;
her young girls grieve,^[a]
and her lot is bitter.

⁵ Her foes have become the masters;
her enemies prosper
because the LORD has made her suffer

for the multitude of her transgressions;
her children have gone away,
captives before the foe.

⁶ From daughter Zion has departed
all her majesty.
Her princes have become like stags
that find no pasture;
they fled without strength
before the pursuer.

Lamentations 3:19-26 New Revised Standard Version

¹⁹ The thought of my affliction and my homelessness
is wormwood and gall!

²⁰ My soul continually thinks of it
and is bowed down within me.

²¹ But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:

²² The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases,^[a]
his mercies never come to an end;

²³ they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.

²⁴ “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul,
“therefore I will hope in him.”

²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul that seeks him.

²⁶ It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

Psalms 137 New Revised Standard Version

Lament over the Destruction of Jerusalem

¹ By the rivers of Babylon—
there we sat down, and there we wept
when we remembered Zion.

² On the willows^[a] there
we hung up our harps.

³ For there our captors
asked us for songs,
and our tormentors asked for mirth, saying,
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”

- ⁴ How could we sing the LORD's song
in a foreign land?
⁵ If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand wither!
⁶ Let my tongue cling to the roof of my mouth,
if I do not remember you,
if I do not set Jerusalem
above my highest joy.
- ⁷ Remember, O LORD, against the Edomites
the day of Jerusalem's fall,
how they said, "Tear it down! Tear it down!
Down to its foundations!"
⁸ O daughter Babylon, you devastator!^[b]
Happy shall they be who pay you back
what you have done to us!
⁹ Happy shall they be who take your little ones
and dash them against the rock!

2 Timothy 1:1-14

New Revised Standard Version

Salutation

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,

² To Timothy, my beloved child:

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Thanksgiving and Encouragement

³ I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸ Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,^[a] ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ,^[b] who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a

teacher,^[c] ¹² and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard the deposit I have entrusted to him.^[d] ¹³ Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.