

**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

**Readers:** Betty McCulloch, Beth Moore, Malcolm Wallace

**March 20, 2022 - Lent 3**

 WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

**Prelude Loved With Everlasting Love**

**Call to Worship**

Wait for the Lord, be strong and let your heart take courage.

**Words of Welcome**

Today we come to open our senses, our minds, and our hearts, that we may perceive your light as we journey together. Come, bless us with the gift of your presence as we journey forward.

**Hymn Come and Seek The Ways of Wisdom MV 10**

Words: Ruth Duck

Music: Donna Kasbohm

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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.

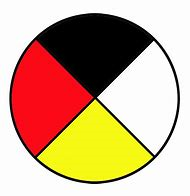
Free us to become your people,

holy friends of God and earth.



**Life & Work of the Church**

Welcome to online worship. We are very happy that you have decided to worship with us here today at Birchcliff Bluffs United Church. Information about our programs and services can be found on our website at [www.bbuc.ca](http://www.bbuc.ca)



**Land Acknowledgement**

As we prepare for worship we now take a moment to acknowledge this 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 (the ancestral name for these lands). 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**

The Christ candle is lit as a reminder of Christ’s light given to all, a symbol of God’s presence.

**Opening Prayer**

God, we like to think your ways are our ways and your thoughts are our thoughts. As we seek you now, may we find the grace to trust in the gift of love. Come, for we are ready to speak with you in this time and place. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD’S WORD

**Gospel Reading New Revised Standard Version**

**Luke 13:1-9 Repent or Perish**

1 Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.

2 Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way?

3 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.

4 Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem?

5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

6 Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any.

7 So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

8 “‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it.

9 If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’”

The Word of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God.

**Reflection YBH**

**Song Pilate’s Dream**

Words: Tim Rice / Music: Andrew Lloyd Webber

**Hymn Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah VU 651**

Words: 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.

WE RESPOND TO GOD’S WORD

**Offering**



Our gifts have the power to enable compassion, inspire justice, enlarge our living. We give as generously as we are able. Please visit our website at [www.bbuc.ca/donate](http://www.bbuc.ca/donate) to learn how you can support the work of this place in this community.

**Prayers of the People**

God, as our practices of Lent become deeper and more full of grace, we enter into this week reflecting upon the Scrutiny that makes up our intense prayer. May we continue to wake each morning, pausing to ask for the graces we desire for the day. Throughout this week, may our thoughts and feelings be more and more taken up with what this journey means for our personal change of heart and our growing desire to act in solidarity with the community. 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 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**  **God of Many Faces**

Words © 2019 Amy Cerniglia

Music: Slane (Irish traditional)

God of many faces, we offer our praise

singing your glory through all of our days

Hear ever growing voices, once fragile, now strong,

carrying melodies in expansive new songs.

God of many names, we invite you to show

us the new names that reflect our true souls.

Breathe with your holy spirit to give us the Word

that will indwell dry bones, granting new life once heard.

God of many bodies, abide within ours,

shifting more each day through time and through scars.

Come sanctify our bodies, all fashioned by you,

holier every day, still becoming more true.

**Benediction & Commissioning**

As we leave this church building may we feel God’s Spirit is with us. Go, in the name of God, Son and Spirit. Amen.

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**Additional Lectionary Readings**

**Year C – Lent 3**

**Sunday, March 20, 2022**

**Isaiah 55:1-9 New Revised Standard Version**

55 Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
    come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
    come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
    without money and without price.  
2Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
    and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
    and delight yourselves in rich food.  
3Incline your ear, and come to me;  
    listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
    my steadfast, sure love for David.  
4See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
    a leader and commander for the peoples.  
5See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
    and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
    for he has glorified you.

6Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
    call upon him while he is near;  
7let the wicked forsake their way,  
    and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
    and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
8For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
    nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
9For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
    so are my ways higher than your ways  
    and my thoughts than your thoughts.

**Psalm 63:1-8 New Revised Standard Version**

1O God, you are my God, I seek you,  
    my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you,  
    as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.  
2So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
    beholding your power and glory.  
3Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
    my lips will praise you.  
4So I will bless you as long as I live;  
    I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

5My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=psalm+63%3A1-8&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-14845a)]  
    and my mouth praises you with joyful lips  
6when I think of you on my bed,  
    and meditate on you in the watches of the night;  
7for you have been my help,  
    and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.  
8My soul clings to you;  
    your right hand upholds me.

**1 Corinthians 10:1-13 New Revised Standard Version**

10 I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters,[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+corinthians+10%3A1-13&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-28553a)] that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3and all ate the same spiritual food, 4and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. 5Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

6Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. 7Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” 8We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9We must not put Christ[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+corinthians+10%3A1-13&version=NRSV#fen-NRSV-28561b)] to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. 10And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. 13No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.