



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, Bethan Wallace

Vocalist: Kayin Paul, Loralie Vancourt

April 3, 2022 - Lent 5

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Jesus, Priceless Treasure

Music: Johann Cruger, 1653

Call to Worship

I gave my most precious possession to Jesus.

He was a good friend and teacher.

I wanted to show he was everything to me.

Your gift makes that clear.

I will always remember his unfailing support.

The value of your friend was beyond price.

Let us worship our generous God.

Opening Hymn

Let Us with a Gladsome Mind

VU 234

Words: John Milton, 1623

Music: attrib to John Antes

Let us with a gladsome mind
praise our God, forever kind;
whose great mercies still endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

God, with all-commanding might,
filled the newmade world with light;
for God's mercies still endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

God has with a gracious eye
looked upon our misery
for God's mercies still endure
ever faithful, ever sure.

All things living God does feed,
with full measure meets their need;
for God's mercies still endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.

Let us then with gladsome mind,
praise our God, forever kind;
whose great mercies still endure,
ever faithful, ever sure.



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

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

Christ, the Light and Life of the world.

Lead us from ignorance to enlightenment, from shadow to light, from fasting to feasting, from death to eternal life.

Opening Prayer

Holy One, who is always there for us,

We are here to worship you, help us receive your word. We are here to praise and pray, so we offer ourselves and all that we have and are. We are here to grow in faith, through this worship, make us truer disciples. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

Gospel Reading

John 12:1-8

¹ Six days before Passover Jesus went back to Bethany, where he had raised Lazarus from the dead.

² A meal had been prepared for Jesus. Martha was doing the serving and Lazarus himself was there.

³ Mary took a very expensive bottle of perfume and poured it on Jesus' feet. She wiped them with her hair, and the sweet smell of the perfume filled the house.

⁴ A disciple named Judas Iscariot was there. He was the one who was going to betray Jesus, and he asked,

⁵ "Why wasn't this perfume sold for three hundred silver coins and the money given to the poor?"

⁶ Judas did not really care about the poor. He asked because he carried the moneybag and sometimes would steal from it.

⁷ Jesus replied, "Leave her alone. She has kept this perfume for the day of my burial.

⁸ You will always have the poor with you, but you won't always have me."

Reflection

...and then he smelled it...

Song

I Don't Know How To Love Him

Words: Tim Rice / Music: Andrew Lloyd Webber

Hymn

Since We Belong to Christ

Words © 2016 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette

Music: Charles Lockhart, 1769

Since we belong to Christ
 We're freed from death and sin;
 In gratitude for this new life,
 We seek to follow him.

As Jesus sat to eat,
 A woman took perfume;
 As she anointed Jesus' feet,
 The fragrance filled the room.

Since she belonged to Christ,
 He honored her that day.
 He knew her gift came at a price;
 She gave her best away.

When Judas' anger grew,
 And Christ said, "Let her be!
 The poor will always be with you —
 But you will not have me."

Since we are yours, O Lord,
 We want to share your love.
 May gifts we give to help the poor
 Rise up to you above.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering



Offering our gifts - how shall we respond? All that we have and all that we are, may the scent of Mary's perfumed oil fill us with love and be a blessing that travels far and wide in your name we pray.

Please visit our website at www.bbuc.ca/donate to learn how you can support the work of this place in this community.

Prayers of the People

Lord, continue to lead us through all temptations in our wilderness, that we may follow you faithfully into new life ... you were at our beginning, and will be there at our ending, help us to pay attention to your presence here and now.

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

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray saying...



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 away from temptation; and 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

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

VU 333

Words: Charles Wesley

Music: Rowland Huw Prichard

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heaven to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter every trembling heart.

Come, almighty to deliver;
let us all thy grace receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee, without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee,
changed from glory into glory,
till in heaven we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise.

Benediction & Commissioning

As we go out into the world, we go with hope to share the promise of God's love with all whom we meet. Go in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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Additional Lectionary Readings
Year C – Lent 5
Sunday April 3, 2022

Isaiah 43:16-21**New Revised Standard Version**

¹⁶ Thus says the LORD,
 who makes a way in the sea,
 a path in the mighty waters,
¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse,
 army and warrior;
 they lie down, they cannot rise,
 they are extinguished, quenched like a wick:
¹⁸ Do not remember the former things,
 or consider the things of old.
¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing;
 now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
 I will make a way in the wilderness
 and rivers in the desert.
²⁰ The wild animals will honor me,
 the jackals and the ostriches;
 for I give water in the wilderness,
 rivers in the desert,
 to give drink to my chosen people,
²¹ the people whom I formed for myself
 so that they might declare my praise.

Psalms 126**New Revised Standard Version**

¹ When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,
 we were like those who dream.
² Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
 and our tongue with shouts of joy;
 then it was said among the nations,
 “The LORD has done great things for them.”
³ The LORD has done great things for us,
 and we rejoiced.
⁴ Restore our fortunes, O LORD,
 like the watercourses in the Negeb.
⁵ May those who sow in tears
 reap with shouts of joy.
⁶ Those who go out weeping,
 bearing the seed for sowing,

shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.