



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

Reader: Shirley Scott

November 20th, 2022

REIGN OF CHRIST SUNDAY

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Call to Worship

Come Christ, it’s time! Let your reign begin!

Time to be faithful visionaries, to consider the environment and combat climate change.

It’s time for us to listen, to work for respect, equality and justice.

A full year has passed and we find you are in the midst of our daily lives.

Help us to open ourselves to the presence of the Holy Spirit that together we might begin again a new year in your reign.

Introit

Praise, my Soul, the God of Heaven

VU 240

1 Praise, my soul, the God of heaven,
glad of heart your carols raise;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
who, like me, should sing God's praise.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise the Maker all your days!

2 Praise God for the grace and favour
shown our forebears in distress;
God is still the same forever,
slow to chide and swift to bless.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

5 Angels, teach us adoration,
you behold God face to face;
sun and moon and all creation,

dwellers all in time and space.
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!
Praise with us the God of grace!

Land Acknowledgement

We now take a moment to acknowledge the sacred land beside the water on which Birchcliff Bluffs United Church stands. 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 most recently, the Mississauga's of the Credit and Scugog, part of the Williams Treaty. 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

In this place we welcome each other into a time of worship.

Light candle here

Here we raise our voice in song and action – we bring all that we long for.

Let us worship God!

Opening Prayer

God of tender mercy, we thank you.

We live in difficult times. There are moments when you seem to be far away. Many of us face struggles in our lives and need you. Yet in times of prayer, you are close to us. Your presence touches us and we have hope, hope grounded in the wonder of being loved by you. Amen.

Hymn

All the Way My Saviour Leads Me

VU 635

- 1 All the way my Saviour leads me;
what have I to ask beside?
Can I doubt his tender mercy
who through life has been my guide?
Heavenly peace, divinest comfort,
here by faith in him to dwell,
for I know, whate'er befall me,
Jesus doeth all things well.
- 2 All the way my Saviour leads me,
cheers each winding path I tread,
gives me grace for every trial,
feeds me with the living bread.
Though my weary steps may falter,

and my soul a thirst may be,
gushing from the rock before me,
lo, a spring of joy I see!

3 All the way my Saviour leads me;
O the fullness of his love!
Perfect rest to me is promised
in my Father's house above.
When my spirit, clothed, immortal,
wings its flight to realms of day,
this my song through endless ages,
'Jesus led me all the way!'

Life and Work of the Church

Scripture Psalm 22:1-11

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?
² O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer;
and by night but find no rest.
³ Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.
⁴ In you our ancestors trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.
⁵ To you they cried and were saved;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.
⁸ “Commit your cause to the LORD; let him deliver—
let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”
⁹ Yet it was you who took me from the womb;
you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.
¹⁰ On you I was cast from my birth,
and since my mother bore me you have been my God.
¹¹ Do not be far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is no one to help.

Gospel

Luke 23:33-43

³³ When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left.
³⁴ Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” And they cast lots to divide his clothing.

³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!”

³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine

³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!”

³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!”

⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?”

⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.”

⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in^[g] your kingdom.”

⁴³ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

Hymn

What Wondrous Love Is This

VU 147

1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul.

2 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul,
what wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this,
that caused the Lord of life
to lay aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
to lay aside his crown for my soul.

3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing,
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I Am,
while millions join the theme I will sing, I will sing;
while millions join the theme I will sing.

4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing and joyful be,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on,
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Sermon Am I A Failure?

Hymn Leaning On the Everlasting Arms

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
 leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

 Leaning, leaning,
 safe and secure from all alarms;
 leaning, leaning,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
 leaning on the everlasting arms;
O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

 Leaning, leaning,
 safe and secure from all alarms;
 leaning, leaning,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
 leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my God so near,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

 Leaning, leaning,
 safe and secure from all alarms;
 leaning, leaning,
 leaning on the everlasting arms.

Offering

We were born to proclaim the glory of God, in all that we are and all that we do.

We glorify God now through offering our gifts and ourselves in grateful devotion.

Amen.

Prayers of the People

Loving God, we pray that all that we have and are will witness to the world that we are a people of faith.

We have faith in your love that one day there will be an abundance of your peace, justice, and mercy so that all of creation may share in your blessings. You are with us every

day in every way. When life is easy going and smooth you smile with us. When peace is shattered and conflict rules, you are our rock. You are with us when we are troubled and afraid. In the hat of crisis you calm us. You never leave us and we say thank you ...

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 and the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever, Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

Christ Has No Body Now But Yours

MV 171

Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.

1 No hands but yours to heal the wounded world,
no hands but yours to soothe all its suffering,
no touch but yours to bind the broken hope
of the people of God.

Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.

2 No eyes but yours to see as Christ would see,
to find the lost, to gaze with compassion;
no eyes but yours to glimpse the holy joy
of the city of God.

Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.

4 Through ev'ry gift, give back to those in need;
as Christ has blessed, so now be his blessing,
with ev'ry gift a benediction, be
to the people of God.

Christ has no body now but yours,
no hands but yours.
Here on this earth, yours is the work,
to serve with the joy of compassion.

Benediction & Commissioning

Go into this week sustained by your faith in Christ, a faith that makes you strong.

May we witness God's love for and in each other every moment of our days.

Go with the grace of God, the love of Christ and the blessing of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Postlude

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**Birchcliff Bluffs United Church
Year C Reign of Christ
Sunday Nov 20, 2022
Additional Lectionary**

Jeremiah 23:1-6

New Revised Standard Version

Restoration after Exile

23 Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD.

²Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. ³Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. ⁴I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear longer or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD.

⁵The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.

⁶ In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: “The LORD is our righteousness.”

Luke 1:68-79

New Revised Standard Version

⁶⁸ “Blessed be the Lord God of Israel,
for he has looked favorably on^[a] his people and redeemed them.
⁶⁹ He has raised up a mighty savior^[b] for us
in the house of his child David,
⁷⁰ as he spoke through the mouth of his holy prophets from of old,
⁷¹ that we would be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.
⁷² Thus he has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors
and has remembered his holy covenant,
⁷³ the oath that he swore to our ancestor Abraham,
to grant us⁷⁴ that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies,
might serve him without fear,⁷⁵ in holiness and righteousness
in his presence all our days.
⁷⁶ And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High,
for you will go before the Lord to prepare his ways,
⁷⁷ to give his people knowledge of salvation
by the forgiveness of their sins.
⁷⁸ Because of the tender mercy of our God,
the dawn from on high will break^[c] upon^[d] us,
⁷⁹ to shine upon those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
to guide our feet into the way of peace.”

Colossians 1:11-20

New Revised Standard Version

¹¹ May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully¹² giving thanks to the Father,^[a] who has enabled^[b] you^[c] to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. ¹³ He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, ¹⁴ in whom we have redemption,^[d] the forgiveness of sins.

The Supremacy of Christ

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, ¹⁶ for in^[e] him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷ He himself is before all things, and in^[f] him all things hold together. ¹⁸ He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God^[g] was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.