



**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

**Readers:** Amanda Hynes-Bower, Betty McCulloch, Shirley Scott



**April 4, 2021 – Easter**

*\*NOTE – we are sharing communion today and so you may wish to have drink and food to engage the sacrament. Whatever you have in your home will work just fine\**

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Call to Worship**

We enter a virtual gathering space once again this season.

*We worship together in spirit and in truth,  
though not in person.*

We pray, sing, and listen to God's Word  
despite the fear that pervades our community.

*We trust Christ's peace,  
a peace given freely, despite our doubts and fears.*

We know the Holy Spirit is among us,  
blowing with a hopeful wind of change.

*We feel the presence of Christ,  
the one who died and rose again, and brings us eternal life.*

We submit to God's leading in this time of transformation.

*We experience the joy of Easter morning  
when we celebrate all God has in store for us.*

## Response

### Now The Green Blade Rises

VU 186

Words: John M. C. Crum © 1928 Oxford University Press  
Music: medieval French carol

*Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
love lives again, that with the dead has been:  
love is come again, like wheat arising green.*

*Forth he came at Easter, like the rising grain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
raised from the dead, my living God is seen;  
love is come again, like wheat arising green.*

## Life & Work of the Church



*Welcome to online worship*

## Land Acknowledgement

As we prepare for worship, we take a moment to acknowledge the sacred land 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 the Mississauga's of the Credit and Scugog. What we now know as Scarborough is part of the Williams Treaty lands. 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. It is now our time to share in the care and maintenance of the land. Part of that discussion is the work of reconciliation and we seek to be mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.



## Candle Lighting

*Alleluia, Christ is risen; Christ is risen indeed!*

## Opening Hymn

### Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

VU 155

Words & Music: Lyra Davidica

*Jesus Christ is risen today, hallelujah!  
our triumphant holy day, hallelujah!  
who did once, upon the cross, hallelujah!  
suffer to redeem our loss. Hallelujah!*

*Hymns of praise then let us sing, hallelujah!  
unto Christ, our heavenly King, hallelujah!  
who endured the cross and grave, hallelujah!  
sinners to redeem and save. Hallelujah!*

*But the pains which he endured, hallelujah!  
our salvation have procured; hallelujah!  
now above the sky he's King, hallelujah!  
where the angels ever sing. Hallelujah!*

*Sing we to our God above, hallelujah!  
praise eternal as God's love; hallelujah!  
praise our God, ye heavenly host, hallelujah!  
praise the Son and Holy Ghost, hallelujah!*

### **Prayer of Confession**

*God of resurrection grace,  
Help us in our pain, despair and fear  
so that we are not prone to follow  
the path of hopelessness.  
Help us, to instead, be like the Risen Christ,  
and rise up, as a brave and holy people,  
living beyond our pain, despair and fear  
by remaining hopeful in your steadfast love.  
Help us, we pray. Amen*

### **Assurance of Pardon**

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

### **And Now For Something Completely Different**



### **Hymn**

### **Morning Has Broken**

**VU 409**

Words: © Eleanor Farjeon  
Children's Bells, Oxford University Press  
Music: Gaelic melody

*Morning has broken like the first morning,  
blackbird has spoken like the first bird.  
Praise for the singing! Praise for the morning!  
Praise for them, springing fresh from the Word!*

*Sweet the rain's new fall sunlit from heaven,  
like the first dewfall on the first grass.  
Praise for the sweetness of the wet garden,  
sprung in completeness where his feet pass.*

*Ours is the sunlight! Ours is the morning  
born of the one light Eden saw play!  
Praise with elation, praise every morning,  
God's recreation of the new day!*

### **Prayer of Illumination**

The light of Christ has entered this space.  
Now let the light enter your heart as you receive the words of scripture.

*Send your light, O God, like the first morning;  
Send your Spirit, like the first bird. Amen*



- John 21:1-14** Peter's Story  
**Acts 9:1-21** Saul/Paul's Story  
**John 20: 1-18** Mary Magdalene's Story

This is the Gospel message for us on this day of Jesus resurrection. Hallelujah.  
*Hallelujah, Christ is risen today*

### **Conversation**

#### **What is Your Resurrection Experience?**



### **Hymn**

#### **Thine Is the Glory**

**VU 173**

Words: Edmond Louis Budry Translation: Richard Birch Hoyle  
© 1925 World Student Christian Federation Music: Harmonia Sacra

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering One:  
endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.*

*Angels in bright raiment rolled the stone away,  
kept the folded grave-clothes where the body lay.*

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering One:  
endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.*

*Lo, Jesus meets us, risen from the tomb!  
Lovingly he greets us, scatters fear and gloom.  
Let the church with gladness hymns of triumph sing,  
for our God now liveth: death has lost its sting.*

*Thine is the glory, risen, conquering One:  
endless is the victory thou o'er death has won.*

#### WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD



Christ is Risen!

*Christ is risen indeed!*

Lift up your hearts.

*We lift them up to God.*

Let us give thanks to God.

*It is right to give our thanks and praise.*

#### Sanctus

*Holy is Jesus, God Incarnate, the Risen Christ,  
whose mercy gathers us together in community,  
whose grace meets us in our brokenness,  
and whose loving faithfulness gives us renewed hope.*

#### Breaking the Bread and Pouring the Cup

The body of Christ,

*the bread of life.*

The lifeblood of Christ,

*the cup of blessing.*

The gifts of God for the people of God.

*Thanks be to God.*

*Communion is served...*

#### Prayer after Communion

Christ is Risen!

*Christ is Risen Indeed!*

And hear us as we pray together . . .



*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

### Christ Is Alive

VU 158

Words: Brian Wren  
Music: Thomas Williams

*Christ is alive! Let Christians sing.  
The cross stands empty to the sky.  
Let streets and homes with praises ring.  
Love, drowned in death, shall never die.*

*Christ is alive! No longer bound  
to distant years in Palestine,  
but saving, healing, here and now,  
and touching every place and time.*

*In every insult, rift, and war,  
where colour, scorn, or wealth divide,  
Christ suffers still, yet loves the more,  
and lives, where even hope has died.*

*Christ is alive, and comes to bring  
good news to this and every age,  
till earth and sky and ocean ring  
with joy, with justice, love and praise.*

### Benediction & Commissioning



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## Other Lectionary Readings

### Isaiah 25: 6-9

New Revised Standard Version

On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup> And he will destroy on this mountain  
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

<sup>8</sup> he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,  
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,  
for the LORD has spoken.

<sup>9</sup> It will be said on that day,  
Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;  
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

### Acts 10: 34-43

New Revised Standard Version

Then Peter began to speak to them: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, <sup>35</sup> but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. <sup>36</sup> You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. <sup>37</sup> That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: <sup>38</sup> how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. <sup>39</sup> We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; <sup>40</sup> but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. <sup>42</sup> He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”