



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

Reader: Norma Grech

August 15, 2021

WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

Prelude

Jesus, Lover Of My Soul

Music: John Bacchus Dykes

Call to Worship (based on Psalm 111)

Come, and praise God!

In the company of the God's people, let us give thanks to God.

Great are the works of God, full of glory and majesty.

God is gracious and compassionate;

God is merciful and forgiving

God is faithful and trustworthy,

God is just and good.

So come, let's worship God together.

God's praise will last forever!

Response

God Says

MV 172

Words & Music: Mary Bittner © 2004 by Wayne Leupold Editions, Inc.

God says, "Be still so you may hear
the words I whisper in your ear.
If you will listen, you will know
I'm with you always where you go."

God says, "Come here! I need your voice,
Please teach my people to rejoice.
In who you are, in what you do,
your life will show my love for you."

God says, "Reach out! The world's in need
and wants a word, a song, a deed.
I send you forth to speak, to sing,
to act for Christ in everything."

Life & Work of the Church

Welcome to online worship

*Whoever you are, however you identify, wherever you come from,
you are welcome here at Birchcliff Bluffs United Church*



Land Acknowledgement

As we prepare for worship, we take a land on which Birchcliff Bluffs site of human activity for many territory of the Huron-Wendat 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



moment to acknowledge the sacred United Church stands. It has been a thousands of years. This land is the Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and



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

Opening Hymn

Come O Fount of Every Blessing

VU 559

Words: Robert Robinson

Music: John Wyeth

Come, O Fount of every blessing,
tune my heart to sing your grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing
call for songs of endless praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above.
Praise the mount; I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unfailing love.

Here I pause in my sojourning,
giving thanks for having come,
come to trust, at every turning,
God will guide me safely home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wandering from the fold of God,
came to rescue me from danger,
precious presence, precious blood.

O, to grace how great a debt
or daily I am drawn anew!

Let that grace now, like a fetter,
bind my wandering heart to you.
Prone to wander, I can feel it,
wander from the love I've known:
here's my heart, O, take and seal it,
seal it for your very own.

Prayer for Grace

*God of our hopes and dreams, we are empty, and long to be filled;
we are hungry, and long to be fed; we are lost, and long to be found.
Gather us into your love, and pick up the pieces of our lives,
just as Jesus gathered his followers together to embrace a new journey in life.
We come believing in our emptiness, believing that we will never have enough.
May we find enough in you.
We come fearful of sharing, fearful of touching and knowing the pain of others.
May we learn to live beyond our fear.
We come aching from the weight of the responsibility, aching from a growing knowledge of our
own abundance, and awareness of that we have much to share.
May we learn to share.
We come to you seeking ways to live our journey in love and with compassion. Bless us and may
we in turn be a blessing to all whom we meet along the way.
Amen*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

And Now For Something Completely Different



Hymn

There's a Spirit in the Air

Words: Brian Wren

Music: John Wilson

© 1979 Hope Publishing Company

VU 582

There's a spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere:
'Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world.'

Lose your shyness, find your tongue,
tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!

Still the Spirit gives us light,
seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!

When a stranger's not alone,
where the homeless find a home,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world

Prayer of Illumination



*Help us O God, to come to you with open lives to receive your words.
May we give them new life as we listen to what you have to say.
Open our hearts as we embark on this journey with each other and with
you. Amen*

John 6:51-58

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

⁵¹ I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

⁵² The community leadership then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” ⁵³ So Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; ⁵⁵ for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. ⁵⁶ Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. ⁵⁷ Just as the living God sent me, and I live because of God, so whoever eats me will live because of me. ⁵⁸ This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.”

Ephesians 5:15-20

New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)

¹⁵ Be careful then how you live, not as unwise people but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ So do not be foolish, but understand what the will of God is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ as you sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, singing and making melody to God in your hearts, ²⁰ giving thanks to God the creator at all times and for everything in the name of our saviour Jesus Christ.

The word of God for the people of God. *Thanks be to God*

Sermon

Use Your Head



Hymn

One More Step Along The World

VU 639

Words and Music: Sydney Carter
© 1971 Stainer & Bell Ltd.

One more step along the world I go,
one more step along the world I go,
from the old things to the new,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.

Round the corner of the world I turn,
more and more about the world I learn;
all the new things that I see
you'll be looking at along with me:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.

Give me courage when the world is rough,
keep me loving though the world is tough,

leap and sing in all I do,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.

You are older than the world can be,
you are younger than the life in me,
ever old and ever new,
keep me travelling along with you:
And it's from the old I travel to the new;
keep me travelling along with you.

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering

As we offer gifts to God: gifts of time and talent, the work of our hands,
may we be wise stewards, sharing our resources; sharing our gifts for the
work of justice and peace.



Prayers of the People



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

Take Up The Song

MV 213

Words and Music: © 2005 Laura A. Herman

Take up the song of peace
and go into the world,
Take up the song of peace
in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey,
we're laying down our lives,
lay them down, in peace,
lay them down, and take up the song.

Take up the song of hope
and go into the world,
Take up the song of hope
in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey,

we're laying down our lives,
lay them down, in hope,
lay them down, and take up the song.

Take up the song of faith
and go into the world,
Take up the song of faith
in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey,
we're laying down our lives,
lay them down, in faith,
lay them down, and take up the song.

Take up the song of love
and go into the world,
Take up the song of love
in ev'ry moment.
In ev'ry moment of the journey,
we're laying down our lives,
lay them down, in love,
lay them down, and take up the song.

Benediction & Commissioning



Postlude

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Other Resources for Today

And Now for Something Completely Different

Reflection on John 6 found at [Untitled Document \(bruceprewer.com\)](#)

Thanks to Marion Whittam, Patricia Reid, Joseph Dahonick, Vicky Kennedy for the homemade bread and bun pictures

Other Lectionary Readings

Psalm 111 New Revised Standard Version

Praise God!

I will give thanks to God with my whole heart,
in the company of the upright, in the congregation.

² Great are God's works,
studied by all who delight in them.

³ Full of honor and majesty is God's work,
where righteousness endures forever.

⁴ God has gained renown by wonderful deeds;
God is gracious and merciful.

⁵ God provides food, ever mindful of covenant.

⁶ God has shown the people the power of God's works,
in giving them the heritage of the nations.

⁷ The works of God's hands are faithful and just;
all God's precepts are trustworthy.

⁸ They are established forever and ever,
to be performed with faithfulness and uprightness.

⁹ God sent redemption to the people;
and commanded a covenant forever.
Holy and awesome is God's name.

¹⁰ The fear of God is the beginning of wisdom;
all those who practice it have a good understanding.
God's praise endures forever.

Proverbs 9: 1-6 New Revised Standard Version

Wisdom has built her house,
she has hewn her seven pillars.

² She has slaughtered her animals, she has mixed her wine,
she has also set her table.

³ She has sent out her servant-girls, she calls
from the highest places in the town,

⁴ "You that are simple, turn in here!"
To those without sense she says,

⁵ "Come, eat of my bread
and drink of the wine I have mixed.

⁶ Lay aside immaturity, and live,
and walk in the way of insight."