



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Minister of Word & Sacrament: Katie Vardy

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Reader:

August 10th, 2025

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Welcome

Lighting the Christ & Rainbow Candle

We light these candles as a symbol of our intention to be open to God’s presence and action during this time of worship. As we welcome this flickering flame, we wait to be transformed by the divine Spirit! *The candle is lit.*

Land Acknowledgement

We begin by acknowledging that we gather on the traditional and unceded territory of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Wendat, Chippewa, and Mississaugas of the Credit, and that this land is home to many diverse Indigenous nations.

As we gather here at Birchcliff Bluffs United Church, we reflect on the responsibility we share in caring for this land, learning from its history, and working toward reconciliation. May we act with respect, humility, and a commitment to justice, as we strive to build a future where all peoples—Indigenous and non-Indigenous—can live together in harmony and respect.

We offer our thanks for this land, its history, and the teachings it offers, and we commit ourselves to listening, learning, and walking in solidarity with Indigenous peoples in the pursuit of healing and justice.

Opening Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

VU 686

1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn your Christ, assail your ways;

fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days.

3 Cure your children's warring madness,
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton selfish gladness,
rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

4 Set our feet on lofty places,
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces,
pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
that we fail not them nor thee.

Call to Worship

Come, gather in this sanctuary of worship.

We come to have the Spirit unify and strengthen our faith.

Come, sing and share in worship.

We come to worship God, who gifted us with melody and senses.

Come this day, which God has made, to worship and be renewed.

We come grateful for each day God has made, because in each of these days, we can worship and be renewed!

Passing the Peace

Even though we are separated by screens and space, the peace of Christ knows no boundaries. It reaches across city blocks and rural roads, through cables and airwaves, into every heart tuned in today. So, take a moment to wave, to type in the chat, to smile at the screen—however you can—let us pass the peace to one another.

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

BBUC Community Garden Video

Opening Prayer

God of raindrops and stormy clouds, we gather under the umbrella of your Spirit, willing and ready to soak in the love and wisdom you have provided. Be with us in this time of worship as we immerse ourselves in the words of scripture and the

message, songs, and prayers. We welcome the showers of love you share with all.
Amen.

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Luke 10: 38-42

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Take My Life, and Let It Be

VU 506

1 Take my life, and let it be
consecrated, all for thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.

2 Take my hands, and let them move
at the impulse of your love;
take my feet, and let them be
swift and purposeful for thee.

3 Take my lips, and let them be
filled with messages from thee;
take my intellect, and use
every power as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my love: and I will pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Sermon

Sitting at Jesus's Feet

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

VU 664

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.
- 2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful,
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Saviour is our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do our friends despise, forsake us?
Are we tempted to despair?
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,
and we'll find new courage there.

Offering

Holy and wondrous God, we honor you with gifts of time, resources, and abilities. Use all that we offer to bring hope and strength to our needy world.

May gifts both large and small become new life within this community and around the worlds. Amen.

Offering Hymn

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

VU 541

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures high and low;
give thanks to God in love made known:
Creator, Word and Spirit, One.

Prayers of the People

Let us gather our hearts in prayer.

Holy One,

You meet us in the stillness and in the storm.

You welcome us into your presence, whether we come rushing with tasks or sitting in silence.

Like Martha, we bring our busy minds and full hearts—

concerned for our communities, worried for the world.

And like Mary, we long to sit at your feet and listen.

We pray for all who carry burdens too heavy to bear alone—

for caregivers and those who are always "on,"

for those juggling responsibilities with no space for rest.

Grant them peace. Grant them help. Grant them moments of stillness.

We pray for those who dwell in silence too long—

the lonely, the isolated, the unheard.

May your Spirit stir up voices to speak, friends to reach out,

and companions to share the road.

We pray for a world in turmoil—

for leaders to lead with wisdom,

for justice to rise in places of oppression,

for peace where violence rages.

We pray for the Church—

that we may be both Martha and Mary,

serving with love and listening with care.

Teach us to discern what is needed—

not what is urgent, but what is sacred.

And in this moment of quiet, O God,

we lift to you the names, needs, and longings we hold in our hearts...[pause]

Bless us, God of presence and purpose,

that in all we do and all we are, we may follow the way of Christ—

attentive, generous, and grounded in your love.

We ask this all, using the ancient words you taught to us:

Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name

Thy Kindom 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.

**Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

I Can Feel You Near Me God

MV48

1 I can feel you near me God, I can feel you near
Yes I know you're with me God I feel you here
I can feel you near me God I can feel you near
Yes I know you're with me God Heaven is here.

And I'll jump for joy, I'm singing Alleluia
Jump for joy for you
I will jump for joy, I'm singing Alleluia
Jump for joy for you.

2 I can feel you loving me yes I know you care
God I know you're loving me always everywhere
I can feel you loving me yes I know you care
God I know you're loving me I know you're there.

And I'll jump for joy, I'm singing Alleluia
Jump for joy for you
I will jump for joy, I'm singing Alleluia
Jump for joy for you.

Commissioning

Go now into the world—
not rushing, not shrinking back,
but walking in the rhythm of grace.
Like Mary, make time to sit at the feet of Christ.
Like Martha, rise with purpose to serve in love.
And like both, let your life be a living testimony
to the One who calls you beloved.

Benediction

May the peace of Christ still your spirit,
May the wisdom of Christ guide your work,
And may the love of Christ hold you always.
Go in peace—
to rest and to rise,

to listen and to live,
to serve and to be served
by the One who is always near.
Amen.

Choral Response

Go Now In Peace

Go now in peace, never be afraid
God will go with you each hour of every day.
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true,
Know God will guide you in all you do.
Go now in love and show you believe
Reach out to others so all the world can see.
God will be there, watching from above
Go now in peace, in faith and in love.
Amen, amen, amen!

Postlude

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