



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Minister of Word & Sacrament: Katie Vardy

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

**February 15th , 2026
Transfiguration Sunday**

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

God Is Gone Up On High

Music by John Darwall, 1770

Welcome

Lighting the Christ Candle

At the heart of our faith is a light that does not flicker out. Our Christ Candle serves as a reminder that the light of Christ shines not behind us in the past, but ahead of us, guiding our every step. *Candle is lit.*

Lighting the Rainbow Candle

We also light the Rainbow Candle, a symbol of God’s covenant love. Our rainbow light reminds us that our diversity is not an obstacle to God, but a reflection of God’s creativity and joy. *Candle is lit.*

Land Acknowledgement

As we journey through this season of Epiphany, we acknowledge the land on which we worship. This land has long been home to Indigenous peoples, including the Anishinaabe, the Haudenosaunee, the Wendat, the Chippewa, and the Mississaugas of the Credit. We also acknowledge that this land remains home to many diverse Indigenous nations and communities, whose presence, resilience, and leadership continue to shape this place.

May the light of Epiphany guide us toward truth, right relationships, and shared care for this land and for one another.

Opening Hymn

Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies

VU 336

Christ whose glory fills the skies,
Christ the true, the only light,
sun of righteousness, arise,
triumph o'er the shades of night.

Dayspring from on high, be near;
daystar, in my heart appear.

Dark and cheerless is the morn
unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return,
till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart,
glad my eyes and warm my heart.

Visit then this soul of mine,
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine,
scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display,
shining to the perfect day.

Call to Worship

Come, you who are searching for God—not only in certainty, but in cloud and fire.

We come, drawn by a Presence we cannot fully name.

Come, you who long for clarity, and you who are learning to trust the mystery.

We come, ready to listen.

On the mountain, God spoke to Moses. On the mountain, Christ was transfigured before the disciples.

Here, across screens and distances, God still speaks.

Let us worship the Holy One who meets us in glory and in shadow.

Let us worship God.

Passing the Peace

Though we are not gathered in the same room, we are still one body, held together by the Spirit's breath. Wherever you are, we invite you to share the peace—by offering a smile to your screen, or by holding one another gently in prayer. May the peace of Christ—the peace that steadies us when fear rises—be with you all.

And also with you.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray:

**Holy and Living God,
you have always met your people on the mountain—
in cloud and flame, in awe and trembling,
in moments that leave us changed.
You spoke to Moses from the fire.
You revealed Christ in radiant glory.**

**And still, you meet us—not only in brightness,
but in the quiet spaces where faith feels unsure.
Gather us now, O God.
Still our anxious hearts. Open our listening.
Help us to trust that even here—across distance, across doubt—
your voice can still be heard.
Amen.**

Hymn

Jesus On the Mountain Peak

VU 102

Jesus on the mountain peak
stands alone in glory blazing;
let us, if we dare to speak,
join the saints and angels praising.
Hallelujah!

Trembling at his feet we saw
Moses and Elijah speaking.
All the prophets and the law
shout through them their joyful greeting:
Hallelujah!

Swift the cloud of glory came,
God proclaiming, in its thunder,
Jesus as the Son by name!
Nations, cry aloud in wonder:
Hallelujah!

This is God's beloved one!
Law and prophets sing before him,
first and last and only One.
All creation shall adore him!
Hallelujah!

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Exodus 24:12-18

¹² Then God said to Moses, "Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction." ¹³ So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. ¹⁴ To the elders he had said, "Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them."

¹⁵ Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. ¹⁶ The glory of God settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day, God called to Moses out of the cloud. ¹⁷ Now the appearance of the glory of God was like a devouring fire

on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. ¹⁸ Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Matthew 17:1-9

¹ Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ² And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. ³ Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴ Then Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” ⁵ While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” ⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” ⁸ And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone. ⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

How Good, God, To Be Here

VU 103

How good, God, to be here!
Your glory fills the night;
your face and garments, like the sun,
shine with unborrowed light.

How good, God, to be here,
your beauty to behold,
where Moses and Elijah stand,
your messengers of old.

Fulfiller of the past
and hope of things to be,
we hail your body glorified,
and our redemption see!

How good, God, to be here!
Yet we may not remain;
but, since you bid us leave the mount,
come with us to the plain.

Sermon

Listen to Him

RESPONDING TO GOD’S WORD

1 It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
and soon all those around can warm up in its glowing:
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you spread God's love to everyone,
you want to pass it on.

2 What a wondrous time is spring
when all the trees are budding,
the birds begin to sing, the flowers start their blooming;
that's how it is with God's love,
once you've experienced it:
you want to sing, it's fresh like spring,
you want to pass it on.

3 I wish for you, my friend, this happiness that I've found -
on God you can depend,
it matters not where you're bound;
I'll shout it from the mountain top;
I want my world to know:
the Lord of love has come to me,
I want to pass it on.

Offering

On the mountain, the disciples wanted to build shelters—to hold onto the holy moment, to make it last. But faith is not meant to stay on the mountaintop. It is meant to move—into generosity, compassion, and shared life. Our offerings are one way we carry what we have seen into the world God loves.

As we bless the offerings, let us sing:

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

God of glory and compassion,
you speak from the cloud and call us your own.

We pray for a world longing for clarity and courage—
for leaders entrusted with power,
for communities fractured by fear,
for all who struggle to see a way forward.
Transfigure our public life with justice, humility, and truth.

We pray for those who live in the valleys—
those carrying grief, illness, exhaustion, or uncertainty.
When the light feels distant,
remind them that your presence does not fade with the vision.

We pray for the church,
that we would not cling only to holy moments,
but listen for your call to rise, to go, to serve.
Give us courage to follow Christ
even when the path leads downward into complexity.

We pray for ourselves—
for the fears we carry,
for the hopes we hardly dare to name,
for the faith that flickers but does not go out.
Speak to us again, O God, and help us to listen.

All these prayers we gather into the words Jesus taught us, saying:

**Our Father and Mother, who art in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kin-dom come,
your 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 yours is the kin-dom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

I Want To Be A Christian In My Heart

African American Spiritual

Oh, I want to be a Christian
in my heart, in my heart.
Oh, I want to be a Christian in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Oh, I want to be a Christian in my heart.

Oh, I want to be more loving
in my heart, in my heart.
Oh, I want to be more loving in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Oh, I want to be more loving in my heart.

Oh, I want to be more holy
in my heart, in my heart.
Oh, I want to be more holy in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Oh, I want to be more holy in my heart.

Oh, I want to be like Jesus
in my heart, in my heart.
Oh, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.
In my heart, in my heart,
Oh, I want to be like Jesus in my heart.

Bread for the Journey

Where might you be invited to listen more closely this season—without rushing to fix or solve, but simply to be present?

Commissioning

You have seen the light of Christ.

We will carry that light with us.

You have heard the voice that says, “Listen.”

We will listen for God’s call.

Go from this place—not to stay on the mountain, but to walk the road of love.

We go, trusting that God goes with us.

Benediction

May the God who dwells in cloud and clarity walk with you in every season.

May Christ, revealed in glory, give you courage when the way feels uncertain.

And may the Spirit—moving between mountain and valley—

fill you with peace, purpose, and quiet strength.
Go in light. Go in love. Go in hope. Amen.

Choral Response

Take Up The Song

MV 213

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 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.

Postlude

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