



**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:** Robin Pyatt Bellamy

**March 21, 2021 – Fifth Sunday of Lent**



WE GATHER AS GOD'S PEOPLE

**Prelude**

**Loved With Everlasting Love**

Music: G.W. Briggs

**Call to Worship (based on Jeremiah 31)**

Holy One, dwell within us.

*Whisper in our ears;*

Glimmer in our vision;

*Write upon our hearts.*

We wait

*with open ears, open eyes, open hearts.*

We welcome each other to this space

*as we worship together.*

**Response**

**O Love That Will Not Let Me Go**

Words: George Matheson

Music: Albert Lister Peace

**VU 658**

*O Love that will not let me go,  
I rest my weary soul in thee;  
I give you back the life I owe,  
that in your ocean depths its flow  
may richer, fuller be.*

*O Light that follows all my way,  
I yield my flickering torch to thee;  
my heart restores its borrowed ray,  
that in thy sunshine's blaze its day  
may brighter, fairer be.*

## 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

*Loving God, we open our hearts to you. We invite you into our inmost being, only to find you already there. Strengthen us in our quiet places and then lead us into the work of justice and peace. Amen.*

## Opening Hymn

### Spirit, Open My Heart

MV 79

Words: Ruth Duck Music: traditional melody, Ireland  
Words © 1996 The Pilgrim Press

*Spirit, open my heart  
to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love,  
in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.*

*God, replace my stony heart  
with a heart that's kind and tender.  
All my coldness and fear  
to your grace I now surrender.*

*Spirit, open my heart  
to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love,  
in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.*

*Write your love upon my heart  
as my law, my goal, my story.  
In each thought, word, and deed,  
may my living bring you glory.*

*Spirit, open my heart  
to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love,  
in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.*

*May I weep with those who weep,  
share the joy of sister, brother.  
In the welcome of Christ,  
may we welcome one another.*

*Spirit, open my heart  
to the joy and pain of living.  
As you love may I love,  
in receiving and in giving,  
Spirit, open my heart.*

### **Prayer for Grace**

*God, who makes all things new,  
new stars, new dust, new life;  
take our hearts,  
every hardened edge and measured beat,  
and create something new.*

*We need your newness, God,  
the rough parts of us made smooth;  
the stagnant, stirred;  
the stuck, freed;  
the unkind, forgiven.*

*And then, by the power of your Spirit,  
Turn us toward love again. Amen.*

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

**And Now For Something Completely Different**

**David Vance – take on Psalm 27**

**Hymn**

**When Pain of the World**

Words & Music: Jim Strathdee  
© 1978 Desert Flower Music

*When pain of the world surrounds us  
with darkness and despair,  
when searching just confounds us  
with false hopes everywhere,  
when lives are starved for meaning  
and destiny is bare,  
we are called to follow Jesus  
and let God's healing flow through us.*

*We see with fear and trembling  
our aching world in need,  
confessing to each other  
our wastefulness and greed.  
May we with steadfast caring  
the hungry children feed.  
We are called to follow Jesus  
and let God's justice flow through us.*

*We praise you for our journey  
and your abundant grace,  
your saving word that guided  
a struggling human race.  
O God, with all creation,  
your future we embrace.  
We are called to follow Jesus  
and let God's changes flow through us.*

**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*



**Psalm 27**

**The Message**

Light, space, zest—  
that's God!

So, with him on my side I'm fearless,  
afraid of no one and nothing.

When vandal hordes ride down  
ready to eat me alive,  
Those bullies and toughs  
fall flat on their faces.

When besieged,  
I'm calm as a baby.  
When all hell breaks loose,  
I'm collected and cool.

I'm asking God for one thing,  
only one thing:  
To live with him in his house  
my whole life long.  
I'll contemplate his beauty;  
I'll study at his feet.

That's the only quiet, secure place  
in a noisy world,  
The perfect getaway,  
far from the buzz of traffic.

God holds me head and shoulders  
above all who try to pull me down.  
I'm headed for his place to offer anthems  
that will raise the roof!  
Already I'm singing God-songs;  
I'm making music to God.

Listen, God, I'm calling at the top of my lungs:  
"Be good to me! Answer me!"  
When my heart whispered, "Seek God,"  
my whole being replied,  
"I'm seeking him!"  
Don't hide from me now!

You've always been right there for me;  
don't turn your back on me now.  
Don't throw me out, don't abandon me;  
you've always kept the door open.  
My father and mother walked out and left me,  
but God took me in.

Point me down your highway, God;  
direct me along a well-lighted street;  
show my enemies whose side you're on.  
Don't throw me to the dogs,  
those liars who are out to get me,  
filling the air with their threats.

I'm sure now I'll see God's goodness  
in the exuberant earth.  
Stay with God!  
Take heart. Don't quit.  
I'll say it again:  
Stay with God.

### **John 12: 20-33**

New Revised Standard Version

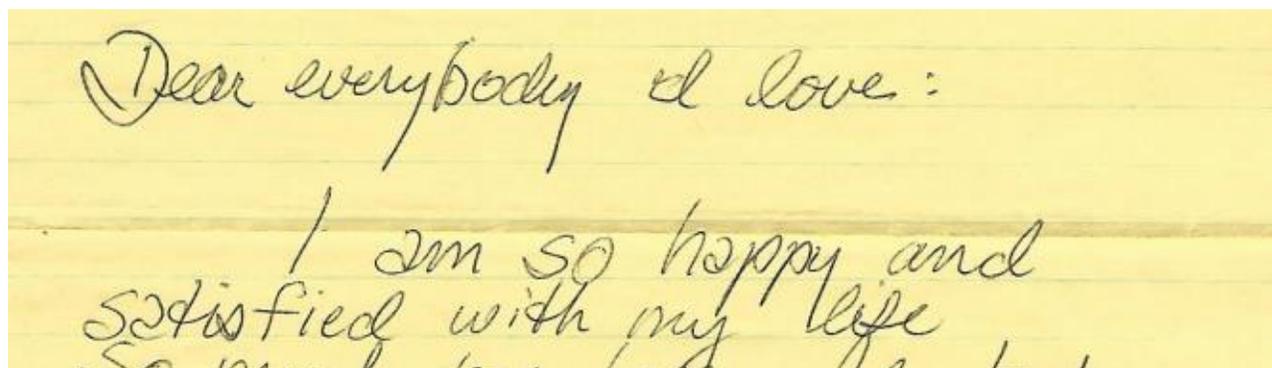
Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup> Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. <sup>27</sup> "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup> The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

This is the Gospel message for us to consider today.

*Thanks be to God*

**Sermon**

**My Soul is Troubled**



## Hymn

## God of Grace and God of Glory

VU 686

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick  
Music: Henry T. Smart

*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

*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.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

## Offering

## 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.*

## BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

### Closing Hymn

### Sweet Hour of Prayer

*Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!  
that calls me from a world of care,  
and bids me at my Saviour's throne  
make all my wants and wishes known.  
In seasons of distress and grief,  
my soul has often found relief,  
and oft escaped the tempter's snare  
by your return, sweet hour of prayer!*

*Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!  
the joys I feel, the bliss I share  
of those whose anxious spirits burn  
with strong desires for your return!  
With such I hasten to the place  
where God my Saviour shows your face,  
and gladly take my station there,  
and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!*

*Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!  
Your wings shall my petition bear  
to you whose truth and faithfulness  
engage the waiting soul to bless.  
And since you bid me seek your face,  
believe your word, and trust your grace,  
I'll cast on God my every care,  
and wait for you, sweet hour of prayer!*

### Benediction & Commissioning

May God with whom we dwell;  
Christ who shows us how to lean into life; and  
The Spirit who comforts us when we are troubled;  
Be with you now and for the rest of your life.

Permission to reproduce lyrics and podcast/stream the music in this service obtained  
from ONE LICENSE, with license #A-737645.  
All Rights Reserved.

## Other Lectionary Readings

### Jeremiah 31: 31-34

NRSV

The days are surely coming, says God, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their spouse, says God. <sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says God: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know God,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says God; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

### Hebrews 5: 5-10

NRSV

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”;  
<sup>6</sup> as who says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

<sup>7</sup> In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup> Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup> and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup> having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.