



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: Janet Bawcutt

March 7, 2021 – Third Sunday of Lent

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 celebrate women's voices, proclaiming wisdom.
We honour women's lives, forging new paths.
We remember women's faith, strong amid challenge.
We anticipate women's vision, calling us into the future.

*Past, present, and future,
our lives join with women everywhere as we worship together*

Life & Work of the Church

Welcome to online worship



Land Acknowledgement



Candle Lighting

*Draw us together in your love, O God. May our restless hearts not resist you, but continue to search until they find their rest in you. We pray in Jesus' name.
Amen.*

Opening Hymn

There is Room for All

MV 62

Words: Bruce Harding, 2004
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*There is room for all in the shadow of God's wing;
there is room for all, sheltered in God's love.*

And I rejoice and sing:

"My refuge and my rock, in whom I trust."

There is room for all, there is room for all! (Repeat)

Prayer for Grace

Creating God, Mother of us all. We are your beloved, formed in your image and nurtured in the depth of your dark womb. You breathed life into our flesh and sent us to do your work in the world, to care for each other and for all of creation.

Wherever we are in your world there are survivors, victims, bystanders, and perpetrators of gender-based violence. This violence is destroying your sacred creation, crushing spirits, stealing dignity, abusing trust, and violating your beloved.

As long as violence exists among your people, anywhere, we will not be whole.

Creating God, as long as we have breath, may we work with perseverance toward restoring your creation. Amen.

WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

And Now For Something Completely Different



Hymn

Come In Come In and Sit Down

VU 395

*Come in, come in and sit down,
you are a part of the family.
We are lost and we are found,
and we are a part of the family.*

*You know the reason why you came,
yet no reason can explain;
so share in the laughter and cry in the pain,
for we are a part of the family. R*

*God is with us in this place,
like a mother's warm embrace.
We're all forgiven by God's grace,
for we are a part of the family. R*

*There's life to be shared in the bread and the wine;
we are the branches, Christ is the vine.
This is God's temple, it's not yours or mine,
but we are a part of the family. R*

*There's rest for the weary and health for us all;
there's a yoke that is easy, and a burden that's small.
So come in and worship and answer the call,
for we are a part of the family. R*

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 19

New Revised Standard Version

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.

² Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

³ There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

⁴ yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In the heaven God has set a tent for the sun,

⁵ which comes out like a bridegroom from the wedding canopy,
and like a strong person runs its course with joy.

⁶ Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and nothing is hid from its heat.

⁷ The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of God are sure, making wise the simple;

⁸ the precepts of God are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of God is clear, enlightening the eyes;

⁹ the fear of God is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of God are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold,

even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey,
and drippings of the honeycomb.

¹¹ Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

¹² But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.

¹³ Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.

Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.

¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you,
O GOD, my rock and my redeemer.

John 2: 13-22 **New Revised Standard Version**

The Passover was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴ In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵ Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶ He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making God's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷ His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸ Those watching said to Jesus, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹ Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰ The people then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹ But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²² After Jesus was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

This is the Gospel message for us to consider today.

Thanks be to God

Litany of Remembrance and Celebration found in voices of Wisdom

Sung response

"She Flies On"

VU 380

*She comes sailing on the wind,
her wings flashing in the sun;
on a journey just begun,
she flies on.
And in the passage of her flight,
her song rings out through the night,
full of laughter, full of light,
she flies on.*

*1. Silent waters rocking on the morning of our birth,
like an empty cradle waiting to be filled.
And from the heart of God the Spirit moved up on the earth,
like a mother breathing life into her child.*

*2. Many were the dreamers whose eyes were given sight
when the Spirit filled their dreams with life and form.
Deserts turned to gardens, broken hearts found new delight,
and then down the ages still she flew on.*

(Refrain)

*3. To a gentle girl in Galilee, a gentle breeze she came,
a whisper softly calling in the dark,
the promise of a child of peace whose reign would never end,
Mary sang the Spirit song within her heart.*

*4. Flying to the river, she waited circling high
above the child now grown so full of grace.
As he rose up from the water, she swept down from the sky,
and she carried him away in her embrace.*

(Refrain)

*5. Long after the deep darkness that fell upon the world,
after dawn returned in flame of rising sun,
the Spirit touched the earth again, again her wings unfurled,
bringing life in wind and fire as she flew on.*

(Refrain)

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Communion



Kingsfold Communion Set

Words: © 2005 William S. Kervin and Paul Stott
Music: traditional English/Irish melody

*O holy, holy, holy God,
O God of time and space.
All earth and sea and sky above*

*bear witness to your grace.
Hosanna in the highest heav'n,
creation sings your praise.
And blessed is the One who comes
and bears your name always!*

*Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!
Sing Christ has died and Christ is risen,
Christ will come again!*



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, amen, O Holy One!
Hosanna and Amen!
Amen, amen, O Holy One!
Hosanna and Amen!*

Sharing of the Bread and Cup

Communion is served...

Prayer after Communion

Sophia Christ, you have gathered us to this meal to be loved and fed. Nourished and refreshed.
Like Eve and Miriam, you now send us out to witness.
Like Sarah and Elizabeth, you now send us out to extend your love.
Like Rachel and Ruth, you now send us out to be god-bearers.
Like Hagar and Tamar, you now send us out to be builders. Amen

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

Put Peace into Each Other's Hands

MV 173

Words: Fred Kaan, 1989, rev. 2001
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*Put peace into each other's hands
and like a treasure hold it,
protect it like a candle flame,
with tenderness enfold it.*

Put peace into each other's hands

*with loving expectation;
be gentle in your words and ways,
in touch with God's creation.*

*Put Christ into each other's hands,
he is love's deepest measure;
in love make peace, give peace a chance,
and share it like a treasure.*

Benediction & Commissioning



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Other Resources for Today

The Very Reverend Jordan Cantwell
[Jordan Cantwell - Wikipedia](#)

Lydia Gruchy
[Lydia Emelie Gruchy - Wikipedia](#)

Nellie McClung
[Nellie McClung - Wikipedia](#)

The Very Reverend Lois Wilson
[Lois Miriam Wilson - Wikipedia](#)

Other Lectionary Readings

Exodus 20: 1-17 New Revised Standard Version

Then God spoke all these words: ² I am God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³ you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴ You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵ You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶ but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷ You shall not make wrongful use of the name of God, for YHWH will not acquit anyone who misuses God's name.

⁸ Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labour and do all your work. ¹⁰ But the seventh day is a sabbath to God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your servant, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹ For in six days God made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore God blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹² Honour your parents, so that your days may be long in the land that God is giving you.

¹³ You shall not murder.

¹⁴ You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵ You shall not steal.

¹⁶ You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷ You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's spouse, or servant, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

1 Corinthians 1: 18-25

New Revised Standard Version

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written,

*"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."*

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.