



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Minister of Word & Sacrament: Rev. Dr. Ellen Redcliffe

Music Director: Randy Vancourt

Reader: Iain Hamilton

February 11, 2024

Transfiguration Sunday

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

As we light this candle, we ask for the gift of understanding your Word.

The candle is lit.

May it become in us a trust that overwhelms all our doubts and fears. Amen.

Land Acknowledgement

We now take a moment to acknowledge the sacred land beside the water on which Birchcliff Bluffs United Church stands. This land is the traditional territory of the Huron-Wendat and Petun First Nations, the Seneca, and most recently the Mississaugas of the Credit River.

We are grateful for the opportunity to live and work on this territory and we seek to be mindful of broken covenants and the need to strive to make right with all our relations.

Opening Hymn

Joyful, Joyful We Adore You

VU 232

1 Joyful, joyful we adore you,
God of glory, life and love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you,
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

2 All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heav’n reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,

centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain,
sound their praise eternally.

3 You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean depth of happy rest!
Source of grace and fount of blessing,
let your light upon us shine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine.

4 Mortals join the mighty chorus
which the morning stars began;
God's own love is reigning o'er us,
joining people hand in hand.
Ever singing, march we onward,
victors in the midst of strife;
joyful music leads us sunward
in the triumph song of life.

Call to Worship

Let us go up into the mountains to meet with our God.

Let us worship and praise God's name. Thanks be to God.

Life and Work

Opening Prayer

Creator God, whose love is higher than the heavens, whose love extends from the mountains and seas to every living thing,

Take us under your wing where we find refuge. Give us hope and possibility for the journey, and transform our lives with your compassion. May your love flow in us and through us, for now and all eternity. Amen.

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Psalm 50:1-6

The Mighty One, God, the LORD, speaks and summons the earth from the rising of the sun to where it sets.

² From Zion, perfect in beauty, God shines forth.

³ Our God comes and will not be silent; a fire devours before him, and around him a tempest rages.

⁴ God summons the heavens above, and the earth, that God may judge the people:

⁵ “Gather to me this consecrated people, who made a covenant with me by sacrifice.”

⁶ And the heavens proclaim God’s righteousness, for God is a God of justice.

Mark 9:2-9

² After six days Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain, where they were all alone. There he was transfigured before them. ³ His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them. ⁴ And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

⁵ Peter said to Jesus, “Rabbi, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.” ⁶ (He did not know what to say, they were so frightened.)

⁷ Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a voice came from the cloud: “This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!”

⁸ Suddenly, when they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them except Jesus.

⁹ As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus gave them orders not to tell anyone what they had seen until the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding

VU 104

1 We have come at Christ's own bidding
to this high and holy place,
where we wait with hope and longing
for some token of God's grace.
Here we pray for new assurance
that our faith is not in vain,
searching like those first disciples
for a sign both clear and plain.

2 Light breaks in upon our darkness;
splendour bathes the flesh-joined Word;
Moses and Elijah marvel
as the heavenly voice is heard.
Eyes and hearts behold with wonder
how the Law and Prophets meet:
Christ, with garments drenched in brightness,
stands transfigured and complete.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

4 Then in fellowship sweet
we will sit at God's feet,
or we'll walk by God's side in the way;
what God says we will do,
where God sends we will go;
never fear, only trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Trust and obey, for there's no other way
to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.

Offering

Let us share a portion of our blessings that those who come to us may be blessed as well.

**Generous God, may our offerings this morning be used for your work in our world.
Inspire us to put our faith into action in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

We come now, loving God, ready to be transformed and transfigured.

**We are ready to experience how your love can change us. We are open to the power
of your love to infuse us with its fullness and fill us with potential. Draw us deeper into
your love and bring us to wholeness and new life...**

Moment of silence

**Gracious God, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
your Kingdom come, your will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive 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 kingdom and the power, and the glory,
For ever and ever, Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

When We All Get To Heaven (1, 2, 4)

1 Sing the wondrous love of Jesus,
Sing His mercy and His grace;

In the mansions bright and blessed
He'll prepare for us a place.

When we all get to heaven,
what a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
we'll sing and shout the victory!

2 While we walk the pilgrim pathway
Clouds will overspread the sky;
But when trav'ling days are over
Not a shadow, not a sigh.

When we all get to heaven,
what a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
we'll sing and shout the victory!

4 Onward to the prize before us!
Soon His beauty we'll behold;
Soon the pearly gates will open
We shall tread the streets of gold.

When we all get to heaven,
what a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
we'll sing and shout the victory!

When we all get to heaven,
what a day of rejoicing that will be!
When we all see Jesus,
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Commissioning and Benediction

Go from here renewed , restored and revitalized in your faith.

Let us meet the days ahead with transformed vigour and determination and the love of God planted deep in our hearts where it continues to grow.

Go with God's grace and make a difference, confident knowing you are not alone.

Amen.

Choral Benediction

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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