



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: Mal Wallace

September 19, 2021

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Jesu, My Truth, My Way

Music by Johann Sebastian Bach



Call to Worship *(photo credit Vicky Kennedy)*

In deep gratitude we come to worship God.

We recognize God as the source of all goodness.

All good gifts come from the Spirit of God:

peace, joy, patience, kindness, gentleness are of God.

We come with grateful hearts, not for things, but for who God is.

We gather to show our gratitude in song and prayer.

Response

I Am a Child of God

MV 157

Words and Music: © 2002 Cheryl and Bruce Harding

*I am a child of God,
I am a glimpse of God’s new creation.
I am a child of God,
I am a child of God.*

*I am an endless prayer,
I am a yearning for contemplation,
I am an endless prayer,
I am an endless prayer.*

*I am a cry for peace,
I am commitment and dedication,
I am a cry for peace,
I am a cry for peace.*

*I am a song of joy,
I am the moment of jubilation,
I am a song of joy,
I am a song of joy.*

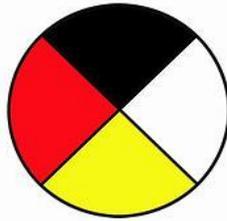
Life & Work of the Church

Welcome to online worship



Land Acknowledgement

Candle Lighting



Opening Hymn

Come and Bless Us, God

VU 596

Words and Music: Dieter Trautwein
© Burckhardthaus-Laetare, Verlag GmbH, Offenbach
Translation © 1995 Len Lythgoe

*Come and bless us, God, save us from dissension,
that we may as one further your intention.
Never on our own, yours for ever after,
both our tears and laughter blessed by you alone.*

*Not for us to keep do you give your blessing,
talents richly given not for our possessing.
As we share our all, blessing grows and flowers,
loving grace empowers, bursting evil's thrall.*

*Peace you granted once, peace again must flourish;
as you promised us, as the earth we nourish.
Help us stand the test! Those who sow with weeping,
when it's time for reaping, will find peace and rest.*

*Come and bless us, God, save us from dissension,
that we may as one further your intention.
Never on our own, yours for ever after,
both our tears and laughter blessed by you alone.*

Prayer for Grace

God, I am but one of your creatures, yet you have given me responsibility to care for creation. I have not always remembered my place in the patchwork and have acted as if creation is mine, not yours. Help me to use my knowledge wisely and to act kindly so that all creation can sing praise to you. Amen



WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

And Now For Something Completely Different



Hymn

When Hands Reach Out

MV 136

Words © 2001 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette
Music © 2006 Blair Odney

*When hands reach out and fingers trace
the beauty of a loved one's face,
we thank you, God, that love relies
on gifts of grace not seen with eyes.*

*When fingers spell and signs express
our prayer of praise and thankfulness.
we thank you, God, that hands can sing;
you bless the silent songs we bring.*

*And when the ways we learn and grow
are not the ways that others know,
we thank you, God, that we have learned
your love's a gift, and never earned.*

*Your Spirit gives us differing ways
to serve you well and offer praise.
When all are joined as one, we'll be
your able, strong community.*

James 3:13-4:3, 7-8 New Revised Standard Version

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. ¹⁵ Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. ¹⁶ For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. ¹⁷ But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. ¹⁸ And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace.

⁴ Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? ² You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you cover something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³ You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures.

⁷ Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist evil, and it will flee from you. ⁸ Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

Mark 9:30-37

The Message

³⁰⁻³² Leaving there, they went through Galilee. He didn't want anyone to know their whereabouts, for he wanted to teach his disciples. He told them, "The Son of Man is about to be betrayed to some people who want nothing to do with God. They will murder him. Three days after his murder, he will rise, alive." They didn't know what he was talking about, but were afraid to ask him about it.

³³ They came to Capernaum. When he was safe at home, he asked them, "What were you discussing on the road?"

³⁴ The silence was deafening—they had been arguing with one another over who among them was greatest.

³⁵ He sat down and summoned the Twelve. "So you want first place? Then take the last place. Be the servant of all."

³⁶⁻³⁷ He put a child in the middle of the room. Then, cradling the little one in his arms, he said, "Whoever embraces one of these children as I do embraces me, and far more than me—God who sent me."

These are Jesus' words for us to focus on today.

Thanks be to God

Sermon

Focus People Focus



Words and Music: Richard Gillard © 1977 Scripture in Song

*We are pilgrims on a journey,
fellow travellers on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.*

*Sister, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.*

*I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.*

*I will weep when you are weeping,
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.*

*Brother, let me be your servant,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Offering our Gifts to God

On my own what I have to give doesn't amount to much in the light of all that I have been given and in the face of so much need. But put together as a community of faith, what we offer here in love becomes more, not simply added together, but somehow multiplied in its usefulness. Bless these gifts, there is enough for all.



Prayer 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. Amen.

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

God, Take My Hand and Lead Me

VU 638

Words: Julie van Hausmann,
Translated by (v 1) Herman Bruckner, (v 2 and 3) Rudolph A. John
Music: Friedrich Silcher

*God, take my hand and lead me upon life's way;
direct, protect and feed me from day to day.
Without your grace and favour I go astray;
so take my hand, O Saviour, and lead the way.*

*God, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;
for you, the Rock of Ages, are always near.
Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe,
for when your hand is guiding, in peace I go.*

*God, when the shadows lengthen and night has come,
I know that you will strengthen my steps toward home,
and nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!
So, take my hand and lead me unto the end.*

Benediction & Commissioning



Postlude

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Other Lectionary Readings

Proverbs 31:10-31

New Revised Standard Version

- ¹⁰ A capable spouse who can find? They are far more precious than jewels.
¹¹ The heart of their spouse trusts in them, and they will have no lack of gain.
¹² They do good, and not harm, all the days of their life.
¹³ They seek wool and flax, and work with willing hands.
¹⁴ They are like the ships of the merchant, bringing food from far away.
¹⁵ They rise while it is still night and provide food for their household and tasks for their helpers.
¹⁶ They consider a field and buy it; with the fruit of their hands they plant a vineyard.
¹⁷ They gird themselves with strength, and make their arms strong.
¹⁸ They perceive that their merchandise is profitable. Their lamp does not go out at night.
¹⁹ They put their hands to the distaff, and their hands hold the spindle.
²⁰ They open their hand to the poor, and reach out their hands to the needy.
²¹ They are not afraid for their household when it snows, for the household is clothed in crimson.
²² They make coverings; their clothing is fine linen and purple.
²³ Their spouse is known in the city gates, taking a seat among the elders of the land.
²⁴ They make linen garments and sell them; they supply the merchant with sashes.
²⁵ Strength and dignity are their clothing, and they laugh at the time to come.
²⁶ They open their mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on their tongue.
²⁷ They look well to the ways of their household, and do not eat the bread of idleness.
²⁸ Their children rise up and call them happy; their spouse too, praises them:
²⁹ "Many have done excellently, but you surpass them all."
³⁰ Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but one who fears God is to be praised.
³¹ Give them a share in the fruit of their hands, and let their works praise them in the city gates.

Psalm 1

New Revised Standard Version

- ¹ Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked,
or take the path that sinners tread,
or sit in the seat of scoffers;
² but their delight is in the law of God,
and on this law they meditate day and night.
³ They are like trees planted by streams of water,
which yield their fruit in its season,
and their leaves do not wither.
In all that they do, they prosper.

⁴ The wicked are not so,
but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous;
⁶ for God watches over the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked will perish.