



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

Lay Leadership: Mary Cannings

Reader: Joseph Dahonick

June 6, 2021 – Pride Sunday

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

Prelude

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

Music: William B. Bradbury

Call to Worship

We are the body of Christ!

The hand clapping, toe tapping, heart pumping, mouth tasting, arms embracing, justice seeking, hymn singing, love making, bread breaking, risk taking, body of Christ!

Baptized in one Spirit, we are members of one body.

Many and varied in gender, colour, sexuality, age, class, and ability, we are all members of Christ's beautiful body.

None of us can say to another, "I have no need of you".

For only together can we find wholeness.

None of us can say to another: "I will not care for you".

For we are all connected like muscle and bone.

If one suffers, we all suffer.

If one rejoices, we all rejoice!

Thanks be to God who, in Christ, has made us one.

Let us worship God together.

Response

There Is Room for All

MV 62

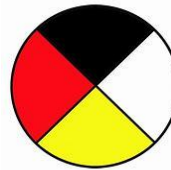
Words and Music: Bruce Harding, © 2004

*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!*

*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!*

Life & Work of the Church

*Welcome to online worship
Whoever you are, however you identify,
wherever you come from, you are welcome here
at Birchcliff Bluffs United Church*



Land Acknowledgement

Candle Lighting

Opening Hymn

Let Us Build a House

MV 1

Word & Music: Mary Haugen © 1994 GIA Publication

*Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face;
let us bring an end to fear and danger:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

*Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace;
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter:
All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.*

Dialogue on House Building

Prayer for Grace

*Imaginative and Vibrant God, creator of all things, you made this planet and all its variety.
We celebrate the diversity of the world through colour:
With red, yellow, and orange, we praise and give thanks:
for the warmth of your love shared between all your
children, for the energy of the Holy Spirit that powers us
forward in service to you, and for the joy of being
accepted by you, just as we are.
With green, blue, and violet, we worship and honour
you: for the softness of your caring and grace, for the
stillness of prayer when we draw close to you, and for
the peace of knowing you hold us in your loving embrace.
Imaginative and Vibrant God, creator of each of us, you make us as we are.
Together, our individual colour and vibrancy blends to create beautiful fabric.
Help us love and celebrate each other, woven together as your beloved creation.
Amen.*

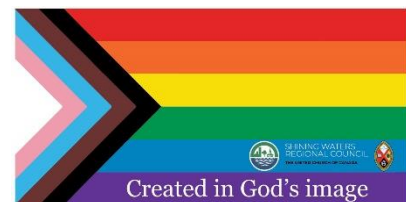


WE LISTEN FOR GOD'S WORD

And Now For Something Completely Different

Pride Video

Rainbow Christ Prayer



Red is for life, the root of spirit. Living and Self-Loving Christ, you are our Root. Free us from shame and grant us the grace of healthy pride so we can follow our own inner light. With the red stripe in the rainbow, we give thanks that God created us just the way we are.

Orange is for sexuality, the fire of spirit. Erotic Christ, you are our Fire, the Word made flesh. Free us from exploitation and grant us the grace of mutual relationships. With the orange stripe in the rainbow, kindle a fire of passion in us.

Yellow is for self-esteem, the core of spirit. Out Christ, you are our Core. Free us from closets of secrecy and give us the guts and grace to come out. With the yellow stripe in the rainbow, build our confidence.

Green is for love, the heart of spirit. Transgressive Outlaw Christ, you are our Heart, breaking rules out of love. In a world obsessed with purity, you touch the sick and eat with outcasts. Free us from conformity and grant us the grace of deviance. With the green stripe in the rainbow, fill our hearts with untamed compassion for all beings.

Blue is for self-expression, the voice of spirit. Liberator Christ, you are our Voice, speaking out against all forms of oppression. Free us from apathy and grant us the grace of activism. With the blue stripe in the rainbow, motivate us to call for justice.

Violet is for vision, the wisdom of spirit. Interconnected Christ, you are our Wisdom, creating and sustaining the universe. Free us from isolation and grant us the grace of interdependence. With the violet stripe in the rainbow, connect us with others and with the whole creation.

Hymn

Till All My People Are One

Words & Music by Ray Repp
© Otter Creek Music

*Stand together for what you believe
Work for what must be done
Love each other in all that you do
Till all my people are one*

*Spread the peace to others
Spread it everywhere
Make the world know right from wrong
Help the world to care*

*Open your heart to others
Lend a willing hand
Show the lonely and the poor
That God is in our land*

*Stand together for what you believe
Work for what must be done
Love each other in all that you do
Till all my people are one*

*Cry out the sound of freedom
Make every sound be heard
People crying painfully
Hear their every word*

*Know that God is with us
In everything you do
Though hard times may lie ahead
Peace will follow through*

*Stand together for what you believe
Work for what must be done
Love each other in all that you do
Till all my people are one*

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 130

*Up from the depths I cry to God: O listen, now, to me;
O hear my voice in this distress,
this mire of misery.*

*I wait for God with all my heart, my hope is in your word;
and more than watchers for the dawn
I'm longing for you, God.*

*If you, my God, should measure guilt who then could ever stand?
But those who fear your name will find
forgiveness from your hand.*

*I wait for God with all my heart, my hope is in your word;
and more than watchers for the dawn
I'm longing for you, God.*

*O Israel, set your hope on God whose mercy is supreme:
the nation mourning for its sin
God surely will redeem.*

*I wait for God with all my heart, my hope is in his word;
and more than watchers for the dawn
I'm longing for you, God.*

Mark 3:31-35

New Revised Standard Version

³¹ Then his mother and his siblings came; and standing outside, they sent to Jesus and called him.

³² A crowd was sitting around Jesus; and they said to him, "Your mother and your brothers and sisters are outside, asking for you." ³³ And Jesus replied, "Who are my mother and my siblings?"

³⁴ And looking at those who sat around him, he said, "Here are my mother and my siblings!"

³⁵ Whoever does the will of God is my sibling and mother."

This is the Gospel message for us to consider today.

Thanks be to God

Sermon

Reflections on Family - Jesus speaks Queerly



Hymn

Who Is My Mother

MV 178

Words: Shirley Erena Murray © 1992 Hope Publishing Co.
Music: Ron Klusmeier © 2002

*Who is my mother, who is my brother?
All those who gather round Jesus Christ:
Spirit blown people born from the Gospel
sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.*

*Differently abled, differently labeled,
widen the circle round Jesus Christ:
crutches and stigmas, culture's enigmas,
all come together round Jesus Christ.*

*Love will relate us colour or status
can't segregate us round Jesus Christ:
family failings, human derailings
all are accepted round Jesus Christ.*

*Bound by one vision, met for one mission
we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:
here is my mother, here is my brother,
kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ.*

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD



Invitation & Peace

Peace be with you all.
And also with you.

The Great Thanksgiving

Hallelujah! Christ is risen!
Christ is risen indeed!
In life, in death,
in life beyond death,
God is with us.
We are not alone.
Thanks be to God.

Kingsfold Communion Set

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

Sanctus and Benedictus

MV 203

*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!*

Remembering your boundless love for us in Jesus Christ,
from womb to tomb, and beyond the grave,
we offer you our praise in song as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation

MV 204

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

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and what we do here, O God.
Make of these gifts of creation a new creation.

May they bless our lives with your life-giving presence.
May they give us comfort and strength, peace and wisdom.
May they make us whole, and show us the first fruits of a new heaven and a new earth.

By this witness, through this promise, in this hope, we praise you singing:

Great Amen

MV 205

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

Communion is served...

Prayer after Communion

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

There's a Spirit in the Air

VU 582

Words: Brian Wren Music: John Wilson © 1979 Hope Publishing Co.

*There's a spirit in the air,
telling Christians everywhere:
"Praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working in our world."*

*Lose your shyness, find your tongue,
tell the world what God has done:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!*

*Still the Spirit gives us light,
seeing wrong and setting right:
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!*

*When a stranger's not alone,
where the homeless find a home,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world*

Benediction & Commissioning

Postlude

Just As I Am

Music: William B. Bradbury



Other Resources for Today

United Church of Canada Resources

[Gender, Sexuality, and Orientation | The United Church of Canada \(united-church.ca\)](http://www.united-church.ca)

Other Lectionary Readings

1 Samuel 8:4-20 & 11:14-15

New Revised Standard Version

⁴ Then all the elders of Israel gathered together and came to Samuel at Ramah, ⁵ and said to him, “You are old and your sons do not follow in your ways; appoint for us, then, a king to govern us, like other nations.” ⁶ But the thing displeased Samuel when they said, “Give us a king to govern us.” Samuel prayed to the LORD, ⁷ and the LORD said to Samuel, “Listen to the voice of the people in all that they say to you; for they have not rejected you, but they have rejected me from being king over them. ⁸ Just as they have done to me,^[a] from the day I brought them up out of Egypt to this day, forsaking me and serving other gods, so also they are doing to you. ⁹ Now then, listen to their voice; only—you shall solemnly warn them, and show them the ways of the king who shall reign over them.”

¹⁰ So Samuel reported all the words of the LORD to the people who were asking him for a king. ¹¹ He said, “These will be the ways of the king who will reign over you: he will take your sons and appoint them to his chariots and to be his horsemen, and to run before his chariots;

¹² and he will appoint for himself commanders of thousands and commanders of fifties, and some to plow his ground and to reap his harvest, and to make his implements of war and the equipment of his chariots. ¹³ He will take your daughters to be perfumers and cooks and bakers. ¹⁴ He will take the best of your fields and vineyards and olive orchards and give them to his courtiers. ¹⁵ He will take one-tenth of your grain and of your vineyards and give it to his officers and his courtiers.

¹⁶ He will take your male and female slaves, and the best of your cattle^[a] and donkeys, and put them to his work. ¹⁷ He will take one-tenth of your flocks, and you shall be his slaves. ¹⁸ And in that day you will cry out because of your king, whom you have chosen for yourselves; but the LORD will not answer you in that day.”

¹⁹ But the people refused to listen to the voice of Samuel; they said, “No! but we are determined to have a king over us, ²⁰ so that we also may be like other nations, and that our king may govern us and go out before us and fight our battles.”

¹⁴ Samuel said to the people, “Come, let us go to Gilgal and there renew the kingship.” ¹⁵ So all the people went to Gilgal, and there they made Saul king before the LORD in Gilgal. There they sacrificed offerings of well-being before the LORD, and there Saul and all the Israelites rejoiced greatly.

2 Corinthians 4:13-5:1

New Revised Standard Version

¹³ But just as we have the same spirit of faith that is in accordance with scripture—“I believed, and so I spoke”—we also believe, and so we speak, ¹⁴ because we know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus, and will bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵ Yes, everything is for your sake, so that grace, as it extends to more and more people, may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God.

¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, ¹⁸ because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

5 For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heaven

Mark 3:20-35

New Revised Standard Version

²⁰ and the crowd came together again, so that they could not even eat. ²¹ When his family heard it, they went out to restrain him, for people were saying, “He has gone out of his mind.” ²² And the scribes who came down from Jerusalem said, “He has Beelzebul, and by the ruler of the demons he casts out demons.” ²³ And he called them to him, and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? ²⁴ If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. ²⁵ And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. ²⁶ And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. ²⁷ But no one can enter a strong man’s house and plunder his property without first tying up the strong man; then indeed the house can be plundered.

²⁸ “Truly I tell you, people will be forgiven for their sins and whatever blasphemies they utter; ²⁹ but whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit can never have forgiveness, but is guilty of an eternal sin”—³⁰ for they had said, “He has an unclean spirit.”

³¹ Then his mother and his brothers came; and standing outside, they sent to him and called him. ³² A crowd was sitting around him; and they said to him, “Your mother and your brothers and sisters^[a] are outside, asking for you.” ³³ And he replied, “Who are my mother and my brothers?” ³⁴ And looking at those who sat around him, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! ³⁵ Whoever does the will of God is my brother and sister and mother.”