



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

May 19, 2024

Pentecost Sunday

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

Jesus is the light of the world. Where two or three gather, there will he be too!

The candle is lit.

We welcome Christ’s presence here today. May the Spirit come down like flames of fire that we might be warmed, inspired and ignited in this time of worship. Amen.

Land Acknowledgement

We now take a moment to acknowledge the sacred land beside the water on which we gather. 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 Mississaugas of the Credit and Scugog. The lands where Birchcliff Bluffs United Church sits are part of the Williams Treaty. Today, the meeting place around Toronto is still home to many indigenous people from across Turtle Island. 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

Like the Murmur of a Dove’s Song

VU 205

- 1 Like the murmur of the dove's song,
like the challenge of her flight,
like the vigour of the wind's rush,
like the new flame's eager might:
come, Holy Spirit, come.
- 2 To the members of Christ's body,
to the branches of the Vine,
to the church in faith assembled,
to our midst as gift and sign:

come, Holy Spirit, come.

3 With the healing of division,
with the ceaseless voice of prayer,
with the power of love and witness,
with the peace beyond compare:
come, Holy Spirit, come.

Call to Worship

The Spirit is at work in our faith community, bringing us together in joy, comforting us in our sorrow, helping us through our bereavement, listening to those of us who are troubled. The Spirit is our voice of hope, our unseen good deed. The Spirit inspires us! Come, let us worship knowing the presence of Christ is with us.

Opening Prayer

God of wind and fire, come and be with us. Energize us, loosen our spirits that we might share your message and receive your call to action. Fill us with hope, we pray. **Amen.**

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Psalm 104:24-34

How many are your works, LORD!

In wisdom you made them all;
the earth is full of your creatures.

**²⁵ There is the sea, vast and spacious,
teeming with creatures beyond number—
living things both large and small.**

²⁶ There the ships go to and fro,
and Leviathan, which you formed to frolic there.

**²⁷ All creatures look to you
to give them their food at the proper time.**

²⁸ When you give it to them, they gather it up;
when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things.

**²⁹ When you hide your face, they are terrified;
when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust.**

³⁰ When you send your Spirit, they are created,
and you renew the face of the ground.

**³¹ May the glory of the LORD endure forever;
may the LORD rejoice in his works—**

³² he who looks at the earth, and it trembles,
who touches the mountains, and they smoke.

**³³ I will sing to the LORD all my life;
I will sing praise to my God as long as I live.**

³⁴ May my meditation be pleasing to him,
as I rejoice in the LORD.

John 15:26-27, 16:4b-15 The Work of the Holy Spirit

²⁶“When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from God—the Spirit of truth who goes out from God— will testify about me. ²⁷ And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning.

⁴ I have told you this, so that when their time comes you will remember that I warned you about them. I did not tell you this from the beginning because I was with you, ⁵ but now I am going to the One who sent me. None of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶ Rather, you are filled with grief because I have said these things. ⁷ But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸ When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹ about sin, because people do not believe in me; ¹⁰ about righteousness, because I am going to God, where you can see me no longer; ¹¹ and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

¹²“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. ¹³ But when the Spirit of truth, comes, you will be guided into all the truth. The Spirit will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. ¹⁵ All that belongs to God is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you.”

¹⁶ Jesus went on to say, “In a little while you will see me no more, and then after a little while you will see me.”

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

O Holy Spirit, By Whose Breath

O Holy Spirit, by whose breath
life rises vibrant out of death:
come to create, renew, inspire;
come, kindle in our hearts your fire.

You are the seeker's sure resource,
of burning love the living source,
protector in the midst of strife,
source and sustainer of all life.

Flood our dull senses with your light;
in mutual love our hearts unite.
Your power the whole creation fills;
confirm our weak, uncertain wills.

From inner strife grant us release;
turn nations to the ways of peace.
To fuller life your people bring

that as one body we may sing:

Praise to God, to Christ the Word,
and to the Spirit: all adored.

Sermon Pentecost Is In My Blood

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

Spirit of Gentleness

VU 375

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.

1 You moved on the waters, you called to the deep,
then you coaxed up the mountains
from the valleys of sleep;
and over the eons you called to each thing:
wake from your slumbers and rise on your wings.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.

3 You sang in a stable, you cried from a hill,
then you whispered in silence
when the whole world was still;
and down in the city you called once again,
when you blew through your people
on the rush of the wind.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.

4 You call from tomorrow, you break ancient schemes,

from the bondage of sorrow the captives dream dreams,
our women see visions, our men clear their eyes,
with bold new decisions your people arise.

Spirit, Spirit of gentleness,
blow thro' the wilderness calling and free,
Spirit, Spirit of restlessness,
stir me from placidness,
Wind, Wind on the sea.

Offering

With open hearts and open spirits, we come to meet God and all people. With all that we have and all that we are we share your Spirit with actions. May those at home and those present give what we can to further your work with action. **Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Creating God, Spirit of gentleness, giver of life and love, on this day of Pentecost, open us to the gift of your Spirit rushing at us and filling us with the joy of your presence. Help us to understand the language of the heart that we may speak the language of faith to our small part of your world ...

May we become the sacred space where your word becomes the word of life. In the silence of our hearts we offer our fears and worries, our frustrations and doubts ... we are your people, a sacred space where we become one with you. Hear our prayer for we offer it in Jesus' name ...

**Creating Spirit, 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

The Lone, Wild Bird

VU 384

1 The lone, wild bird in lofty flight
is still with you, nor leaves your sight.
And I am yours! I rest in you,
Great Spirit, come, rest in me too.

2 The ends of earth are in your hand,

the sea's dark deep and far off land.
And I am yours! I rest in you,
Great Spirit, come, rest in me too.

3 Each secret thought is known to you,
the path I walk my whole life through;
my days, my deeds, my hopes, my fears,
my deepest joys, my silent tears.

5 O search me, God, my heart reveal,
renew my life, my spirit heal;
for I am yours, I rest in you,
Great Spirit, come, rest in me too.

Commissioning and Benediction

We go out into the world in the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill our calling as disciples, healing and sharing words of freedom. **Amen.**

Postlude

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