



Birchcliff Bluffs United Church

Ministers: All the People – wherever and however they gather

Minister of Word & Sacrament: Katie Vardy

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Reader:

November 17th, 2024

26th Sunday after Pentecost

WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candle

With thankful hearts we gather here where the doors are open to all.

We come with open hearts and open minds, thankful that we are children of the light of Christ.

The candle is lit.

Land Acknowledgement

We now take a moment to acknowledge the sacred land beside the water on which Birchcliff Bluffs United Church stands. It has been a site of human activity for many thousands of years. The land we are worshipping on today is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples, and is home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 signed with the Mississaugas of the Credit, and the Williams Treaties signed with multiple Mississaugas and Chippewa bands.

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

God of Grace and God of Glory

VU 686

1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your power;
now fulfil your church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
scorn your Christ, assail your ways;
fears and doubts too long have bound us;
free our hearts to work and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the living of these days.

3 Cure your children's warring madness,
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton selfish gladness,
rich in goods and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

4 Set our feet on lofty places,
gird our lives that they may be
armoured with all Christlike graces,
pledged to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
that we fail not them nor thee.

Call to Worship

Let our hearts rejoice in the God of hope and faithfulness.

Our strength is in the maker of heaven and earth.

Our foundation is the cornerstone that never fails.

The rock of ages is a foundation like no other.

Hope arises, as the tools of war are broken
and the weak are given strength.

**Hope lives when the hungry are fed
and the poor are lifted up.**

God comes bringing judgment to the ends of the earth,
calling us to hope and faithfulness.

Come, rock of ages, come quickly now.

Passing the Peace

We pass the peace (*with a bow, or a wave, or a nod to our neighbours*) to remind us of the light of Christ that is in each of us, and that we are called to reconciliation and community.

Let us greet those around you with the Peace of Christ, saying:
The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

Life and Work

Opening Prayer

God of possibilities,
fill us with your hope and faithfulness.
Listen to us
as we pour out our souls before you.
Grant us the grace to be your people
and to live your teachings.
Live in us,
that we may arise with hope
and walk in love.
In the name of Christ our rock,
we pray. Amen.

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Scripture Psalm 16

¹ Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

² I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord;
I have no good apart from you."

³ **As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble ones
in whom is all my delight.**

⁴ Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows;
their drink offerings of blood I will not pour out
or take their names upon my lips.

⁵ **The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.**

⁶ The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
I have a goodly heritage.

⁷ **I bless the Lord, who gives me counsel;
in the night also my heart instructs me.**

⁸ I keep the Lord always before me;
because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

⁹ **Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices;
my body also rests secure.**

¹⁰ For you do not give me up to Sheol
or let your faithful one see the Pit.

¹¹ **You show me the path of life.
In your presence there is fullness of joy;
in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**

Mark 13:1-8 The Destruction of the Temple Foretold

¹³As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” ² Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, ⁴ “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” ⁵ Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁶ Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁷ When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. ⁸ For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

The Word of God for the People of God.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

O Day of God, Draw Nigh

VU 688

1 O day of God, draw nigh
in beauty and in power,
come with your timeless judgement now
to match our present hour.

2 Bring to our troubled minds,
uncertain and afraid,
the quiet of a steadfast faith,
calm of a call obeyed.

3 Bring justice to our land,
that all may dwell secure,
and finely build for days to come
foundations that endure.

4 Bring to our world of strife
your sovereign word of peace,
that war may haunt the earth no more
and desolation cease.

5 O day of God, draw nigh
as at creation's birth;
let there be light again, and set
your judgements in the earth.

Sermon

Is it the End of the World as We Know It?

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

My Life Flows On

VU 716

1 My life flows on in endless song,
above earth's lamentation.

I hear the sweet, though far off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Through all the tumult and the strife,

I hear the music ringing:

It finds an echo in my soul -

how can I keep from singing?

2 What though my joys and comforts die?

My Saviour still is living.

What though the shadows gather 'round?

A new song Christ is giving.

No storm can shake my inmost calm,

while to that Rock I'm clinging:

since Love commands both heaven and earth,

how can I keep from singing?

3 When tyrants tremble, sick with fear,

and hear their death knells ringing:

when friends rejoice both far and near,

how can I keep from singing?

In prison cell and dungeon vile

our thoughts to them are winging:

when friends by shame are undefiled,

how can I keep from singing?

4 I lift my eyes; the cloud grows thin;

I see the blue above it;

and day by day this pathway smooths,

since first I learned to love it.

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,

a fountain ever springing:

all things are mine since I am Christ's -

how can I keep from singing?

Offering

Gracious Creator,
you call us to let go of the things we cling to
and step out in faith,
trusting in your love and provision.

**Give us courage to step out boldly,
to plant our small seeds generously, and without fear.
Use our gifts to accomplish more than we could possibly imagine,
so that, through us, your kingdom might come
and your will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Amen**

Prayers of the People

Trusting that God receives all our prayers and responds to each of them in love,
let us pray together saying: God of all hopefulness, **remember your people.**

And now, as a community of faith,
we pray all this, using the ancient words you taught us, saying:

**Our Creator, 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.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever.
Amen.**

BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

Closing Hymn

Soon and Very Soon

- 1 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we're goin' to see the King!
- 2 No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we're goin' to see the King!

3 No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we're goin' to see the King!

4 Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we're goin' to see the King!
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we're goin' to see the King!

Bread for the Journey

In times of uncertainty and fear, how can we stay alert and actively live out God's purpose of love and hope in our communities?

Commissioning and Benediction

**May we leave this house of worship reconciled,
redeemed, and renewed by our time
spent in the presence of God.**

**May we leave this house of worship
full of the hope our God provides.**

You have heard the words of healing and of peace.
You have been blessed by the Spirit of God.
Go now into God's world to be the spirit of hope,
peace and blessing for others,
knowing that God is always with you.
Go in peace. Amen.

Choral Response

Let There Be Peace on Earth

Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me
Let there be peace on earth
The peace that was meant to be
With God our Creator
Family all are we
Let us walk with each other
In perfect harmony

Let peace begin with me
Let this be the moment now
With every step I take
Let this be my solemn vow
To take each moment
And live each moment
In peace eternally
Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me

Postlude

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