



**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:** Norma Grech

**June 2, 2024**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE**

**Prelude**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

It has been 99 years of mission, of witness, of worship, of study, of service,

**A blessed anniversary to all of us in this United Church family. Amen.**

*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. 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**

**I Have Called You By Your Name**

**MV 161**

1 I have called you by your name, you are mine;  
I have gifted you and ask you now to shine.

I will not abandon you;  
all my promises are true.

You are gifted, called, and chosen;  
you are mine.

2 I will help you learn my name as you go;  
read it written in my people, help them grow.

Pour the water in my name,  
speak the word your soul can claim,

offer Jesus' body given long ago.

3 I know you will need my touch as you go;  
feel it pulsing in creation's ebb and flow.

Like the woman reaching out,  
choosing faith in spite of doubt,  
hold the hem of Jesus' robe,  
then let it go.

4 I have given you a name, it is mine;  
I have given you my Spirit as a sign.

With my wonder in your soul,  
make my wounded children whole;  
go and tell my precious people  
they are mine.

### **Call to Worship**

It has been 99 years of being welcomed in baptism, in sharing the table, laughing, singing, praying and weeping together.

**We worship together so that we can go and make a difference, go tell the good news, go and heal hurts, go be with the wounded, go live the way of Jesus. May it ever be so. Amen.**

### **Life and Work**

### **Opening Prayer**

Creating Spirit, we come to breathe deeply of the Spirit's breath, to find our identity as disciples because we are sent out into the world...

**For 99 years Birchcliff Bluffs has been your hands and feet, your voice and your ear, as we seek to do your will in this time and place. Continue to work with us as we go forward in your name. Amen**

## **RECEIVING GOD'S WORD**

**Scripture Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18**

O LORD, you have searched me and known me.

**<sup>2</sup> You know when I sit down and when I rise up;  
you discern my thoughts from far away.**

**<sup>3</sup> You search out my path and my lying down  
and are acquainted with all my ways.**

**<sup>4</sup> Even before a word is on my tongue,  
O LORD, you know it completely.**

**<sup>5</sup> You hem me in, behind and before,**

and lay your hand upon me.

**<sup>6</sup>Such knowledge is too wonderful for me;  
it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

<sup>13</sup>For it was you who formed my inward parts;  
you knit me together in my mother's womb.

**<sup>14</sup>I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.**

<sup>15</sup>My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made  
in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth.

**<sup>16</sup>Your eyes beheld my unformed substance. In your book were written  
all the days that were formed for me, when none of them as yet existed.**

<sup>17</sup>How weighty to me are your thoughts, O God!  
How vast is the sum of them!

**<sup>18</sup>I try to count them - they are more than the sand;  
I come to the end - I am still with you.**

### **Mark 2:23-3:6**

<sup>23</sup>One Sabbath he was going through the grain fields, and as they made their way his disciples began to pluck heads of grain. <sup>24</sup>The Pharisees said to him, "Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?" <sup>25</sup>And he said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he and his companions were hungry and in need of food, <sup>26</sup>how he entered the house of God when Abiathar was high priest and ate the bread of the Presence, which it is not lawful for any but the priests to eat, and he gave some to his companions?" <sup>27</sup>Then he said to them, "The Sabbath was made for humankind and not humankind for the Sabbath, <sup>28</sup>so the Son of Man is lord even of the Sabbath."

<sup>3</sup>Again he entered the synagogue, and a man was there who had a withered hand. <sup>2</sup>They were watching him to see whether he would cure him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse him. <sup>3</sup>And he said to the man who had the withered hand, "Come forward." <sup>4</sup>Then he said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save life or to kill?" But they were silent. <sup>5</sup>He looked around at them with anger; he was grieved at their hardness of heart and said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was restored. <sup>6</sup>The Pharisees went out and immediately conspired with the Herodians against him, how to destroy him.

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

**Like a Healing Stream**

**MV 144**

1 Like a healing stream in a barren desert,  
Spirit water bringing life to dusty earth,  
God is trickling through our lives  
as in a dream unfolding,  
promising revival and rebirth  
like a healing stream

2 Like a gentle rain on a thirsty garden,  
Spirit water come to nourish tiny seed,  
God is bubbling through the soil  
to coax a new creation  
yearning for an end to want and need  
like a gentle rain.

3 Like a river strong with a restless current,  
Spirit water rushing on to distant shore,  
God is carving out a channel  
in a new direction,  
calling for an end to hate and war  
like a river strong.

4 Like a mighty sea reaching far horizons,  
Spirit water with a love both deep and wide,  
God is working in our hearts  
to shape a new tomorrow:  
God will always challenge and provide!  
Like a mighty sea, like a river strong,  
like a gentle rain, like a healing stream.

**Sermon**

**Blinded we Miss so Much**

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Hymn**

**A Place at the Table**

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing,  
for everyone born, a star over head.

And God will delight  
when we are creators of justice and joy,  
Yes, God will delight  
when we are creators of justice,  
justice and joy.

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
revising the roles, deciding to share,

with wisdom and grace, dividing the power,  
for everyone here, a system that's fair.

And God will delight  
when we are creators of justice and joy,  
Yes, God will delight  
when we are creators of justice,  
justice and joy.

For young and for old, a place at the table,  
a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled,  
for young and for old, the right to belong.

And God will delight  
when we are creators of justice and joy,  
Yes, God will delight  
when we are creators of justice,  
justice and joy.

For everyone born, a place at the table,  
to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work, to speak out, to witness and worship,  
for everyone born, the right to be free.

And God will delight  
when we are creators of justice and joy,  
Yes, God will delight  
when we are creators of justice,  
justice and joy,  
Justice and joy.

### **Offering**

We are thankful for those who lead this faith community... our gifts support their planning, their skills, their listening, as well as sustaining the financial health of this congregation.

**Bless these gifts, loving God, and bless those who continue to do your work. Amen.**

### **Communion**

God is with us! **We are not alone!**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy Mystery that is Wholly Love,  
**you are beyond complete knowledge,  
above perfect description.  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit;  
Source of Life, Living Word, and Bond of Love,  
you are creative and self-giving,  
generously moving.  
In all the near and distant corners of the universe.  
nothing exists that does not find its source in you.**

Even when we turn away from you, you are with us;  
your presence never fails us, your gifts of hope and new life transform us.

**We praise you for Jesus Christ,  
eternal as your love, our bond to one another.  
We rejoice with all your people of every time and place,  
and with angels and archangels,  
to proclaim the glory of your name:**

In this meal we remember Jesus, his promises,  
and the price he paid for who he was, what he said, and what he did.

On the night before Jesus died, he took a loaf of bread,  
gave thanks, broke it, and said,  
“Take and eat; whenever you do this, remember me.”  
After supper, Jesus took the cup, and poured, saying,  
“This is the new covenant, remember me.

**We do remember.  
We remember his life of love, his friendship, his teaching, his dying, and his rising to life  
again.**

**In sharing this meal, we live out the mystery of our faith:  
The body of Christ, the bread of life.  
The lifeblood of Christ, the cup of blessing  
The gifts of God for the people of God. Thanks be to God!**

### **Sharing the Meal**

### **Prayers of the People**

Loving God, for 99 years we have celebrated your presence in this community. Our building shows signs of decay.

**While your people show signs of new life and new beginnings. We know at times we have failed but your Spirit renews us and gives us new hope as we move forward. We try hard to be as you desire but at times our humanness overtakes our humbleness and we fail. When we fall on our knees you are there, helping us to stand again and encouraging us to try again. Renew us again that we may be what you would have us be in this your world...**

*Moment of silence*

**Creator, 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**

**I, the Lord of Sea and Sky**

**VU 509**

1 I, the Lord of sea and sky,  
I have heard my people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin  
my hand will save.  
I who made the stars of night,  
I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear my light to them?  
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

2 I, the Lord of snow and rain,  
I have borne my people's pain,  
I have wept for love of them;  
they turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone,  
give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak my word to them.  
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?

I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

3 I, the Lord of wind and flame,  
I will tend the poor and lame,  
I will set a feast for them;  
my hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide  
till their hearts be satisfied.  
I will give my life to them.  
Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

Let us go out to join the Holy Spirit ...

**Knowing we may be the only one who smiles and says hello on behalf of our maker.  
Go, knowing we are Christ's presence in the here and now. 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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