



**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:** Tricia Reid

**June 9, 2024**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**United Church of Canada Anniversary**

**WE GATHER AS GOD’S PEOPLE**

**Prelude**

**Lighting the Christ Candle**

When we call God’s name we feel the Spirit’s presence with us.

**Knowing we are not alone, let us worship our God!**

*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 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**

**The Church’s One Foundation**

**VU 331**

- 1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;  
we are his new creation by water and the Word;  
from heaven he came and sought us that we might ever be  
his living servant people, by his own death set free.
- 2 Called forth from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;  
one charter of salvation: one God, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name professing and at one table fed,  
to one hope always pressing, by Christ's own Spirit led.

4 Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,  
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;  
till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

5 We now on earth have union with God the Three in One,  
and share through faith communion with those whose rest is won.  
Oh, happy ones, and holy! God, give us grace that we  
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

### **Call to Worship**

To worship is to quicken the conscience by the holiness of God,

**To feed the mind with the truth of God,**

To open the heart to the love of God,

**To devote the will to the purpose of God.**

Come, let us begin our worship!

### **Life and Work**

### **Opening Prayer**

There is a moment in our lives when, if we stop to listen, the whole world begins to vibrate with hints of wonder.

**God speaks in that moment. To such a time we have come. Let us worship God!**

**Amen.**

## **RECEIVING GOD'S WORD**

### **Scripture Psalm 138**

<sup>1</sup> I give you thanks, O LORD, with my whole heart;  
before the gods I sing your praise;

**<sup>2</sup> I bow down toward your holy temple and  
give thanks to your name for your steadfast  
love and your faithfulness, for you have  
exalted your name and your word  
above everything.**

<sup>3</sup> On the day I called, you answered me;  
you increased my strength of soul.

**<sup>4</sup> All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O LORD,  
for they have heard the words of your mouth.**

<sup>5</sup> They shall sing of the ways of the LORD,  
for great is the glory of the LORD.

**Mark 3:23-27, 31-35**

<sup>23</sup> And he called them to him and spoke to them in parables, “How can Satan cast out Satan? <sup>24</sup> If a kingdom is divided against itself, that kingdom cannot stand. <sup>25</sup> And if a house is divided against itself, that house will not be able to stand. <sup>26</sup> And if Satan has risen up against himself and is divided, he cannot stand, but his end has come. <sup>27</sup> 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.

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

The Word of God for the People of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Hymn**

**All People That on Earth do Dwell**

**VU 822**

- 1 All people that on earth do dwell,  
sing out your faith with cheerful voice;  
delight in God whose praise you tell,  
whose presence calls you to rejoice.
- 2 Know that there is one God, indeed,  
who fashions us without our aid,  
who claims us, gives us all we need,  
whose tender care will never fade.
- 3 Enter the sacred gates with praise;  
with joy approach the temple walls.  
Extol and bless our God always  
as people whom the Spirit calls.
- 4 Proclaim again that God is good,  
whose mercy is forever sure,  
whose truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.

**Sermon**

**Mark 3:20-35**

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Hymn

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing

VU 326

- 1 O for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and King,  
the triumphs of God's grace.
- 2 Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
that bids our sorrows cease;  
'tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'tis life and health and peace.
- 3 He speaks, and listening to his voice,  
new life the dead receive,  
the mournful broken-hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.
- 4 Hear him, you deaf; you voiceless ones,  
your tongues again employ;  
you blind, behold your Saviour comes,  
and leap, you lame, for joy!
- 5 My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honours of your name.

### Offering

with all that we have and all that we are...

**we share a portion of our riches and celebrate that God is our all. Amen.**

### Prayers of the People

Lord, sometimes we wish you had not come when we call. Your presence bothers us and makes us uncomfortable.

**We prefer to see you as a baby and not as someone who gets angry or sad when we do not listen. We enjoy the stories more than accepting your presence in the here and now. Please shake us out of the grooves that become ruts and confront us as you truly are ...**

*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**

**O God of Bethel**

**VU 650**

- 1 O God of Bethel, by whose hand  
your people still are fed,  
who through this earthly pilgrimage  
have all your servants led:
- 2 our vows, our prayers, we now present  
before your throne of grace.  
God of past ages, be the God  
of each succeeding race.
- 3 Through each perplexing path of life  
our wandering footsteps guide;  
give us each day our daily bread,  
and shelter fit provide.
- 4 O spread your covering wings around,  
till all our wanderings cease,  
and at our God's beloved abode  
our souls arrive in peace.

### **Commissioning and Benediction**

We go out to fulfill our highest calling...

**To heal and to share words of wisdom, witnessing to the sacred in our midst.  
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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